



MINNESOTA PRAIRIE CHICKEN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 52 No. 1 Winter 2026

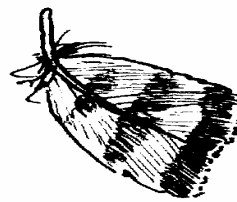


Announcing the 53rd Annual MPCS Meeting

Please read through the Newsletter to get more information on the upcoming 53rd Annual MPCS Meeting ... this year to be held at the Twin Valley Community Center. Tympie Nuchus and friends cannot wait to see you once again as you join the flock to celebrate and support grasslands and all the flora and fauna they provide ... including our beloved prairie chickens!

Editor's Note:

The Winter Newsletter comes to you as Old Man Winter's grip on western Minnesota is loosening but still hanging on. Glorious times ahead with bird migration and the melancholy yet hopeful sounds of displaying Greater Prairie chickens drift across grasslands and farm fields. Enjoy every minute of it! **RHH**



FEATHER FEATURES

53rd Annual Meeting Information.....	Pg 2/3
Boomer's Bash in Rothsay	Pg 4/5
Pheasant Fest - Grouse Camp	Pg 4-10
The Adventures of Tympie Nuchus	Pg 10

**53rd Annual MPCS Meeting
Saturday, April 18, 2026
Twin Valley Community Center
107 2nd St SW, Twin Valley, MN 56584**



Saturday April 18 – Meeting Agenda

Optional: Prairie Chicken Viewing Blinds

Viewing blinds may be available at the TNC Bluestem Office or at Hamden Slough NWR, visit our website [How to View | Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society](#) to make reservations.

Optional: Birding/Wildlife Viewing

Over 6,000 acres of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) are located immediately south of Twin Valley, MN, including Cupido, Dalby, Neal, Rockwell, Syre, and Twin Valley WMAs. Attendees are encouraged to visit MNDNR's Recreational Compass, [Recreation Compass | Minnesota DNR](#), if interested in wildlife viewing opportunities at the WMAs.

Back at the Lek

9:00 Registration and coffee/breakfast snacks

9:30 Announcements and Call to Order

Welcome – Matt Mecklenburg

Blinds and Viewing Notes/Sightings - All

10:00 *PF/MPCS Land Acquisition Update* – John Voz/Rob Baden

10:30 *Meandering through Meadows: Results from One Year of Prairie Reconstruction Monitoring* — Phil Doll, MNDNR Grassland Restoration Specialist

11:00 Break

11:15 *Overview of the Red River Watershed Management Board: Our Work on Flood Mitigation, Water Quality and Habitat* — Rob Sip, Executive Director Red River Watershed Management Board

11:45 Lydell Scholarship Award Presentation

11:55 Friend of the Prairie Chicken Award Presentation

12:05 Socialize, Merchandise, and Silent Auction updates

Foraging & Loafing - 12:15 Lunch on-site (*Catered by Erickson's Smokehouse, Fertile, MN*)

More Cackling

1:00 *Square and Sharp: A Tale of Two Tails* — Greg Hoch, MNDNR Prairie Habitat Supervisor

1:20 *Prairie Chicken Research Update* – Charlotte Roy, Research Scientist/ MNDNR

1:50 Break

Our Business in Booming

2:00 MPCS Annual Business Meeting – MPCS Board

3:00 Raffle Prizes – MEMBERS ENCOURAGED to bring/solicit items (original art, hunting/fishing items, preserves, maple syrup, books, prints, etc.)

Dispersal

3:30 Adjourn *Thanks to all attendees and to all those supporting MPCS!!*

**MN Prairie Chicken Society
53rd Annual Meeting
April 18, 2026
Twin Valley Community Center
107 2nd St SW, Twin Valley, MN 56584**



Pre-registration encouraged by mail or online.

Registration costs include lunch, snacks, MPCS Annual Membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Register ASAP!

Pre-registration = \$ 45.00

Send registration to:

OR Pay @ the Door = \$50.00

MPCS

Additional Donation = \$ _____

25564 Dahl Rd

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

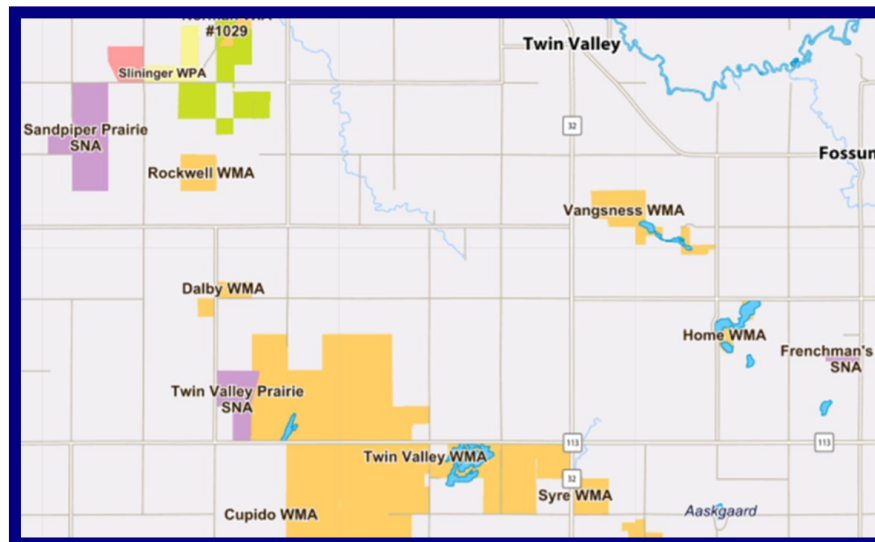
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

OR

Register online with PayPal at

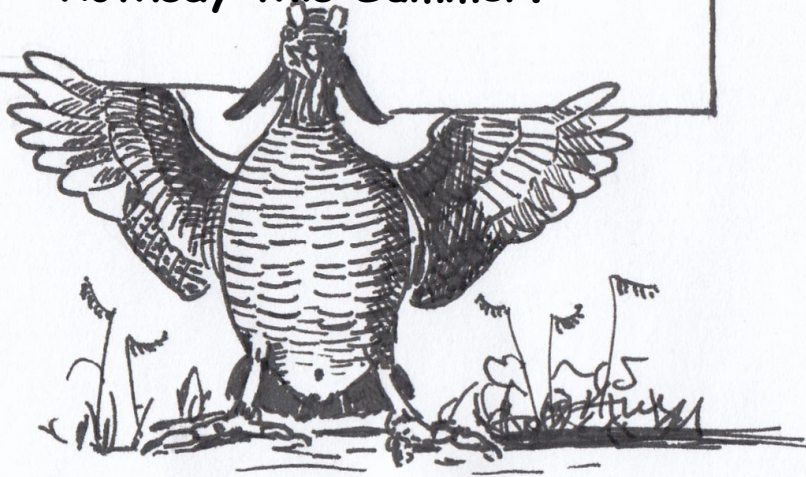
Checks payable to MPCS

www.prairiechickens.org

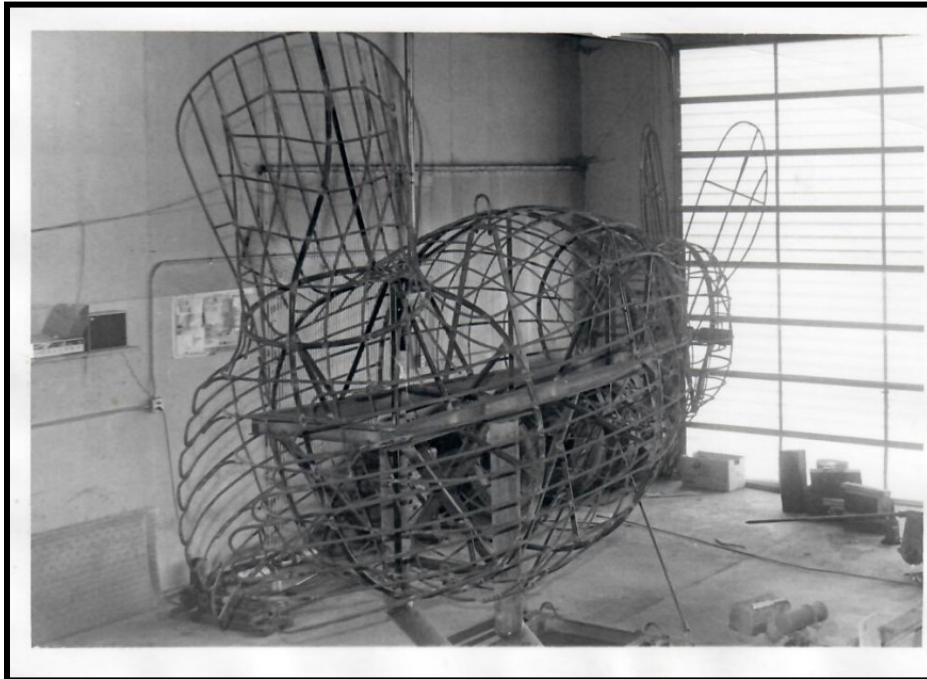


Announcing “Boomer’s Bash”!!

Big Boomer turns 50 this year!!
Look to the Spring Newsletter
for more information on Big
Boomer's birthday celebration in
Rothsay this Summer.



Art Fosse (Middle) with Randy Weise and Alan Haugrud –1976



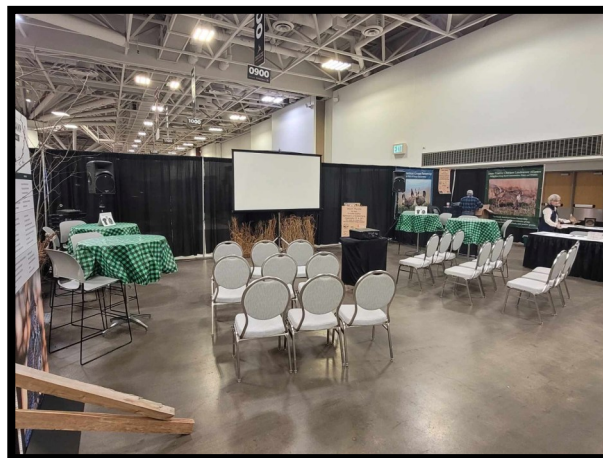
Big Boomer “developing in his egg” in Rothsay. Big Boomer was destined to be the biggest Boomer ever as he weighed around 2,000 lbs even before his feathers formed!

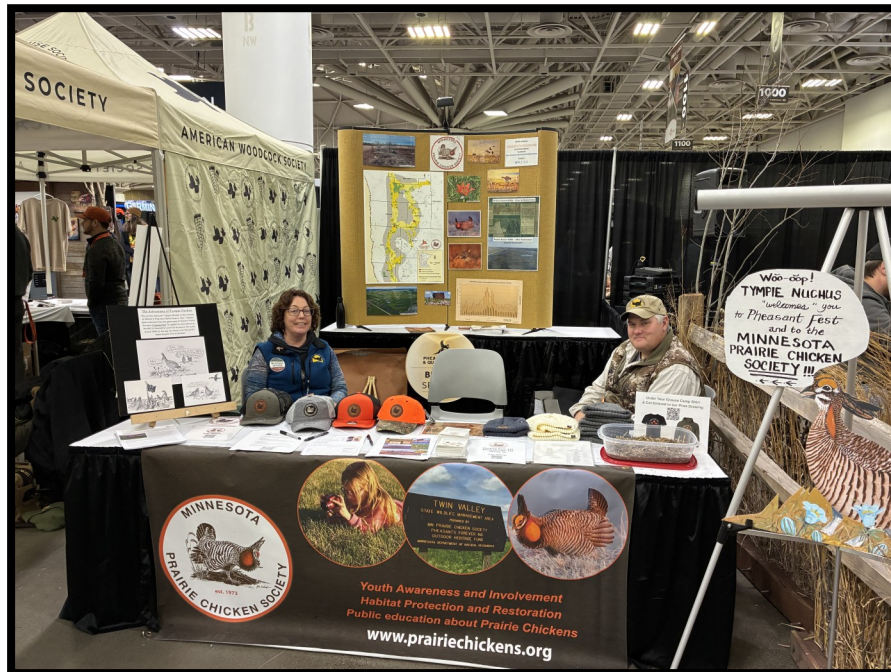
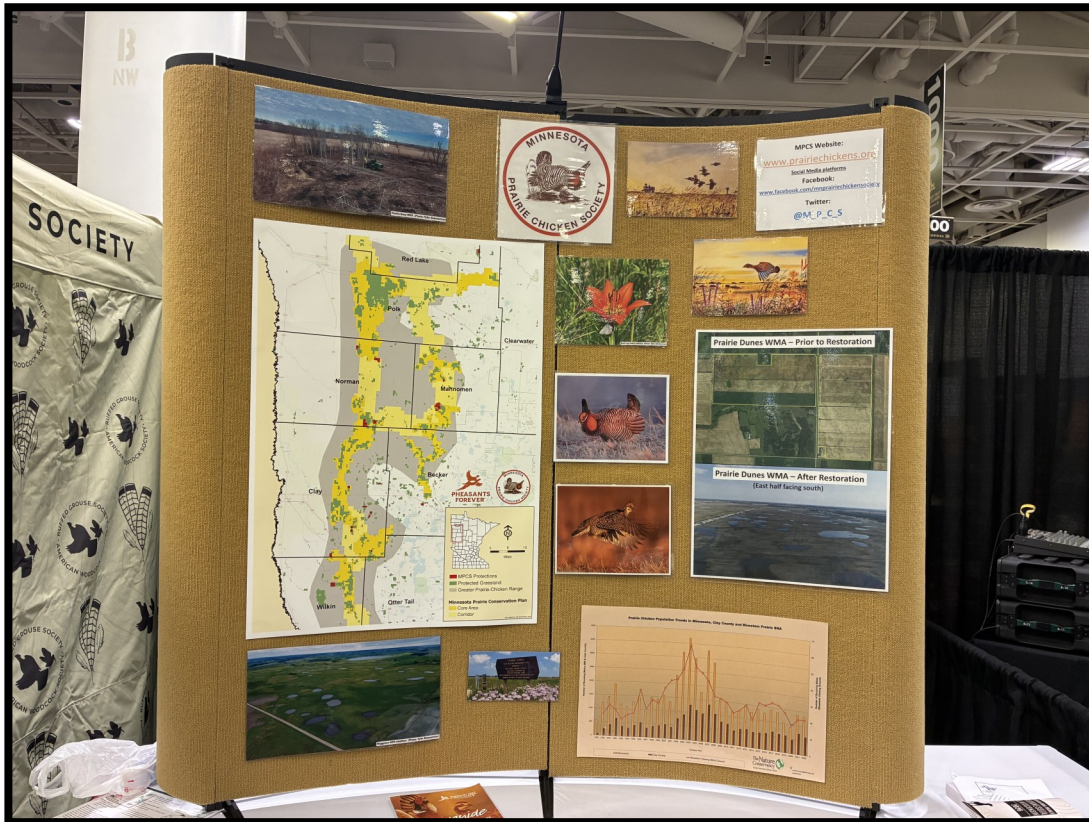


MPCS at Pheasant Fest—2026

By
Ross H. Hier

Our proud organization was well represented at the annual Pheasant Fest hosted by Pheasants Forever in February 2026. This year's event was held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. As "an out-of-towner", even I found it rather easy to get to the site, park in a ramp and walk a short distance through a skyway directly to the event. This was my first time attending Pheasant Fest and I readily admit that when one steps into the massive room where all the vendors are set-up, it IS overwhelming! There was "avenue" upon "avenue" of vendors. Our MPCS booth was part of the larger "Grouse Camp" which also included Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Project (new group), Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society, and North American Grouse Partnership. While many, many hands were involved in the well-received Grouse Camp, North American Grouse Partnership's Jodie Provost and her husband, Tom, deserve accolades for their efforts in organizing much of the camp. There were numerous talks presented at the Grouse Camp by many folks throughout the 3-day event. Our society garnered numerous new members and brought-in proceeds from the event's T-shirt sales along with donations. Those that volunteered at the booth include Travis Issendorf, Rob Baden, John Voz, Stacy Salvevold, Sara Vacek, William Pettit, Doug Hedtke and myself. On a personal note, I had a fun time at Grouse Camp. I saw numerous acquaintances I had not seen in years and met many people concerned about upland birds and the habitats they require to build strong populations. Marilyn Vetter, CEO of Pheasants Forever stopped-by our booth to say "hello"; that was nice of her. "Gun Dog Alley" was interesting as there were several breeds of hunting dogs I had never observed up-close before. There were several artists there and I enjoyed visiting with them. At one moment on the last day, a "roar" went through the crowd ... the USA Men's Hockey Team had just defeated Team Canada ... a bonus to a wonderful day. Pheasant Fest 2027 will be held in Omaha, Nebraska.





MPCS members Stacy Salvevold and Rob Baden volunteering at our booth at the Grouse Camp within Pheasant Fest—February 2026.



Young outdoors ladies enjoying adding color to some prairie grouse images.



Of course, Tympie Nuchus was at the booth to welcome those who stopped-by to chat about and support Minnesota's prairie chickens and their habitats.



Volunteer (and Master Salesman) Bill Pettit



Rob Baden telling the audience about habitat acquisition.



Jodie Provost introducing Grouse Camp society speakers.



The Adventures of Tympie Nuchus

By Ross H. Hier





MPCS Board Members

(Updated 3 April 2026)

Officers:

Board Members:

	<u>Terms Expiring in 2026</u>	<u>Terms Expiring in 2027</u>	<u>Terms Expiring in 2028</u>
President:	Rob Baden	William E. "Bill" Faber	Luke Anderson
Brian M. Winter Mpcs.web@gmail.com	John Voz	Matt Mecklenburg	Phil Doll
V-P/Secr/ Archivist:	Sara Vacek	Stacy Salvevold	Chris Merkord
Ross H. Hier	Brian Winter	Doug Hedtke	Nicholas Snavely
Treasurer:	Travis Issendorf	Ross H. Hier	Neal Feeken
Stacy Salvevold Mpcs.web@gmail.com			

Director-At-Large: Terry Wolfe and Dan Svedarsky

Newsletter Editor: Ross H. Hier

Website Coordinator: Sonia Winter; Mpcs.web@gmail.com

Twitter Coordinator: 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 e-Newsletters

Take a look.

www.prairiechickens.org

