



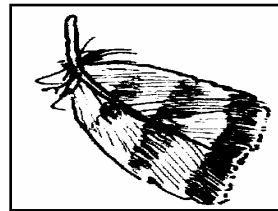
# MINNESOTA PRAIRIE CHICKEN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 48 No. 4 Fall 2022



"Winter Chickens"

**Editor's Note:** This is the final edition for 2022, although it is coming-out in early 2023. The winter of 2022-23 is starting like an "Old School Winter". There is abundant snow across much of the northern prairies and big winds have filled-in much standing cover. Likely a difficult winter for some wildlife but prairie grouse will use their capabilities of "snow roosting" and strong flight to their advantage. All the Best in 2023 to our faithful flock! RHH



## FEATHER FEATURES

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## Looking and Listening!

For what you might ask? Not for a mouse under 16" of snow but for the date and location of our upcoming **50th Annual Meeting!**

That's right ... 50th! Jumping June grass! Mark your calendars as you do not want to miss this historic conservation event. Here's what Big Boomer knows at this time:

**DATE: 22 April 2023 (Earth Day)**

**LOCATION: Rothsay Community Center**

(Yep ... right in Big Boomer's Backyard!!)



## New Life Members

The Society welcomes some new MPCS Life Members; thank-you for your tremendous support of prairie habitats and prairie chickens.

Jud Komrosky of Lake Park, MN

Bill Berg of Knife River, MN

Jeff Borchert and Ilga Polleitis of Sauk Center, MN

Richard Dirnberger

Suzanne Schrunk

## **The “Grouse Trail” at Upcoming Pheasant Fest**

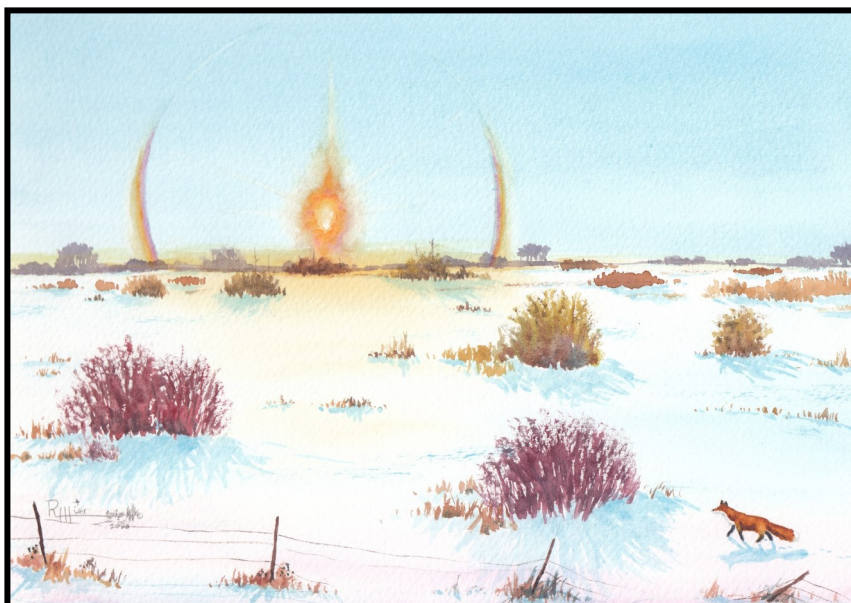
MPCS will be involved in this novel idea to bring various groups together who champion native grouse and their habitats in one location at the upcoming Pheasant Fest to be held at the Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota from the 17th through the 19th of this coming February. Along the “Grouse Trail” you'll find enthusiastic representatives from the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society, Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, North American Grouse Partnership, Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society and the Ruffed Grouse Society. Pheasant Fest attendees will be able to directly interact with many grouse supporters and learn more about each group's mission. No doubt it will lead to more support grouse habitats across the USA and Canada. It will also exemplify the tremendous leadership and collaborative nature which PF has been displaying while working with various groups to spread the word about various upland bird habitats and help permanently secure more of those habitats.



## MPCS Member News

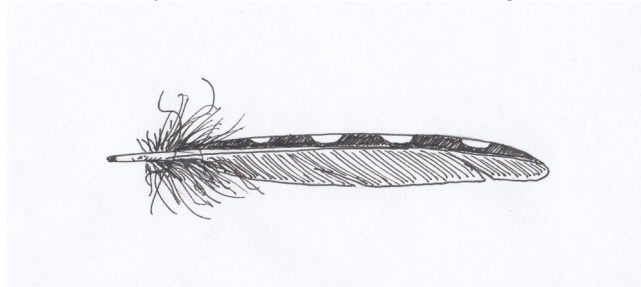


Pheasants Forever’s Eran Sandquist was promoted this past Fall to PF’s Midwest Director of Conservation Delivery. His new position will see him working with staff in 9 states to promote and protect upland bird habitats across the Midwest. Congratulations, Eran! Eran started with PF in 2002 as a Habitat Specialist and has continued to work his way into different PF positions. Since 2014, he has been PF’s Minnesota’s State Coordinator. Much of what MPCS has done regarding prairie habitat acquisition can be directly linked to our relationship with Eran and PF.





Jodie Provost was awarded the 2022 Hamerstrom Award in Lewiston, Montana at the biennial meeting of the Prairie Grouse Technical Council this past Fall. She is pictured above with MPCS charter member and Director-at-Large, Dr. W. Dan Svedarsky. Dan was honored to present Jodie with this historic award. Dan, in a letter to the MPCS Board declared, “Often, those who deserve praise the most seek it the least!”. That pretty much sums-up Jodie’s persistent and gentle approach to prairie grouse conservation in North America. A great coup for you and another grouse feather in your hat, Jodie! Congratulations!



## The Adventures of Tympie Nuchus

By Ross H. Hier



## MPCS Loses A Longtime Member

Longtime member and conservation-minded Allen T. Torpet of Fertile, Minnesota passed away on November 1, 2022 at the age of 88. He was born in the same house his father was born in outside of Fertile in Garfield Township. An avid fisherman and hunter, Allen met his wife, Elaine, while on a duck hunting trip in Saskatchewan. He carried rural mail for nearly 3 decades in the Fertile area and always had an idea of what was going on in the natural world in the region. He knew much history of the area. He loved prairie chickens and their habitats; often watching from local viewing blinds in his younger years. He had hunted deer for over 70 years. His distinctive brogue and wry humor were a welcome trademark to any that met him. He often joked that his family had come 15,000 miles from Torpet, Norway only to miss settling on the good land by 15 miles (referring to the then inhospitable Red River Valley). He always had black Labradors and raised beef cattle for many years. A close friend of the Editor's and many others on the Board, he will be missed.



## Pieces of the Prairie



**Deathcamas:** Sometimes called Showy Deathcamas, (*Zigadenus elegans*) hails from the Lily family. It is a striking cool season (Spring) perennial growing anywhere from 10-30 inches in height when flowering. Above ground vegetation comes from a deeply buried “onion-like” bulb. DO NOT consume any parts of this early season beauty as all members of the genus contain toxic alkaloids. It is particularly toxic to domestic sheep. It is a common plant on the prairies of the upper Midwest; typically growing in moist prairies. As is the case with so many plants in the Lily family, the dried seed pods are just as beautiful and identifiable as a plant with fresh flowers.



## 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)