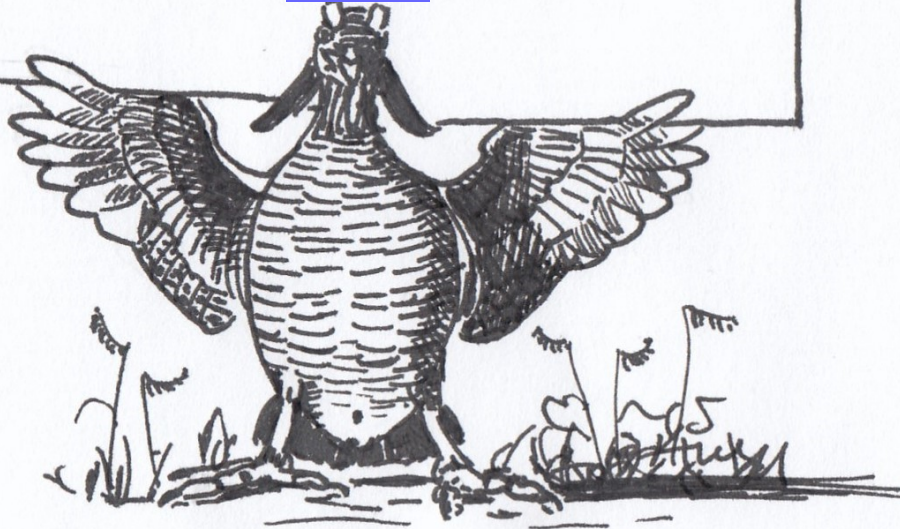




MINNESOTA PRAIRIE CHICKEN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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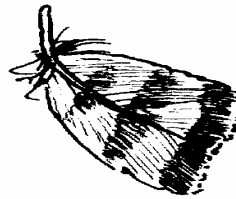
Announcing the 52nd Annual
MPCS Meeting! To be held in
Detroit Lakes on 4-26-
2025.



Editor's Note:

The Fall Issue for 2024 is tardy but
we'll soon be back in synch. Thanks
for your patience, MPCS members!

RHH



FEATHER FEATURES

52nd Annual MPCS Meeting	Pg 2
Adopt a WMA	Pg 2
Remembering Great Friends of MPCS	Pgs 3-6
Pheasant Fest/Luncheon Announcement	Pg 7
The Adventures of Tympie Nuchus	Pg 8

Upcoming 52nd Annual Meeting



We hope to see the flock at our next annual meeting! It will be held at the Minnesota State Community and Technical College (M State). It is located at 900 Minnesota State Hwy 34. We'll be meeting on Saturday, the 26th of April. Should be a fun time. Cackle ... cacccklle!! More information to come.

Adopt A WMA: Action taken by MPCS Board

By Ross H. Hier

At the MPCS Board's last meeting (1-10-2025), there was discussion regarding the adoption of the Cupido Wildlife Management Area near Syre (the WMA is located just west of State Hwy 32 at the Syre intersection). MNDNR Wildlife Manager Rob Baden explained to the Board what "adopting an specific WMA" entails. MPCS members could help with periodic parking lot clean-up, boundary sign checks with results noted to the wildlife personnel, boundary checks for possible encroachment issues, etc. Rob noted he already has some "adoption agreements" on other WMAs in his work area with various PF Chapters. The working relationship is helpful in an era when Area Wildlife Offices are spread thin in work force. Several Board members who have witnessed adoption efforts by some PF Chapter members spoke favorably of the process. Any member of MPCS and friends could partake in activities. Members could make a "day of it" and this could increase member participation in our organization. In the end, your Board moved that MPCS will "adopt" Cupido WMA and hopefully be of help in keeping this beautiful and prairie chicken friendly unit in fine habitat standing.



The Passing of Two MPCS Advocates

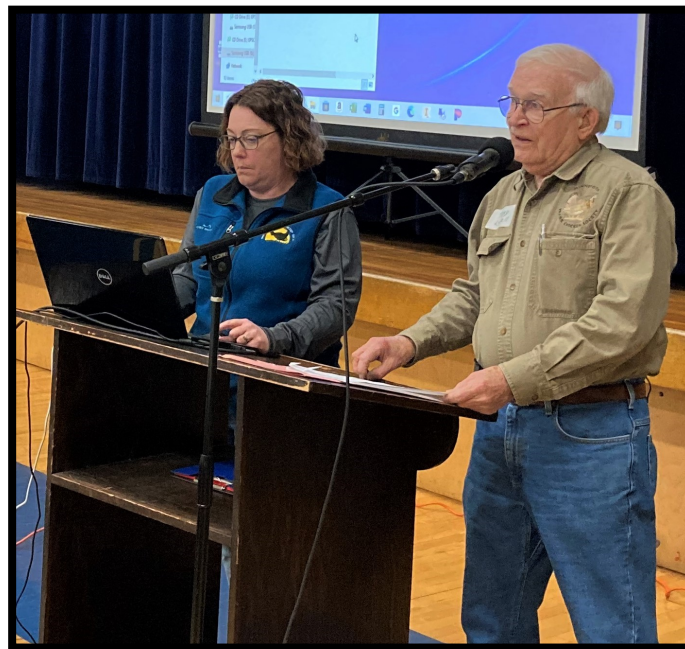
By Ross H. Hier

MPCS is saddened to report to members the passing of 2 tremendous friends and supporters of prairie chickens and Minnesota prairie habitats. These 2 gentlemen were not only advocates for all things Nature in Minnesota and beyond, they were both compassionate and ever helpful to their fellow citizens.

Terrance (Terry) L. Lydell

Terry was born on 3-16-1945 in St. Paul. His twin brother, Tim, arrived 6 minutes later. He graduated from Benilde High School in 1963. He spent much of his youth outside; engaged with his large extended family, Boy Scouts and in service to his church and neighborhood friends. Despite being born completely deaf in his left ear, Terry was drafted into the U. S. Army and was trained as a reconnaissance scout to be deployed to Vietnam. Scouts were known as the “eyes and ears of any combat battalion” but Terry reminded his superior that in his case, “that’s the eyes and *ear* of the battalion, sir”. He survived the Tet Offensive and numerous horrors of that war. His experience in Vietnam fueled his being in working to live and teach peace. Upon his return from Vietnam, he married his wife Barb. They would have 2 daughters, Jennifer and Jillian. Terry eventually graduated from St. Thomas College in 1971 with a B.A. degree in History and Education. He taught at Wilson Junior High School in St. Paul until 1981. He delved into electronics and computer sales for awhile but his love of teaching led him to the University of Minnesota where he earned a Master’s degree in Education. He really never quit teaching after that; teaching in Robbinsdale and Mounds View and later with the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs. He became a loving grandfather to 4 grandchildren and spent much time with them. After retiring from teaching in 2007, he also spent time gardening, hunting, reading and volunteering for numerous conservation groups. Terry became a really valued MPCS Board member around 2012. He was an ideal “new person” to our Board; attentive and curious with numerous different perspectives from many of our Board members. His “dryish” sense of humor fit-in perfectly with our eclectic group. Although he generally travelled the furthest to attend in-person Board meetings, he was often first to arrive. Many times he would come a day early if tough weather conditions were forecast for the day of the meeting ... on his own dime of course, and with zero fanfare. At meetings, one could see his mind was busy at all times. Education still remained his focus and he started many discussions with, “if we are going to get young people more involved with our natural world”. This eventually led to Terry’s push for an MPCS Scholarship.

Make no mistake, this was his “baby” and with help from fellow Board member, Sara Vacek, the “baby was born” and has helped provide numerous collegiate students majoring in natural resources a financial boost (the scholarship provides \$1,000.00 to the chosen applicant). The scholarship has continued to build momentum in recent years. After we lost Terry to AML Leukemia on 3-14-2024, the Board named the scholarship, “The Barb and Terry Lydell Scholarship” through MPCS. Terry proudly served on our board nearly to the end of his life. He often told me MPCS was by far his favorite conservation group to be involved in. We were lucky to have him. We all dearly miss him. *(Editor’s Note: I really miss my chats with Terry; he knew so much about so many things in our crazy world. In 2012, a now rather epic book, *Save the Last Dance—A Story of North American Grassland Grouse*” written by Missouri’s Department of Conservation Joel Vance and chocked -full of amazing photos of our grassland (and sageland) grouse species taken by the same wildlife department’s Staff Photographer, Noppadol Paothong, was published. I secretly coveted this book and hoped to purchase it at some point not too far into the future. In 2013, when Noppadol Paothang attended a meeting in Crookston, I certainly intended to get an autographed copy. Before that happened, Terry took me aside and handed me a copy. I was overwhelmed by his kind gesture. He had already had Noppodal sign it with a little note to me. That was good but what was great and emotional for me was another written inscription above the one from Noppadol; “Ross, Thanks for the warm welcome to MPCS, Terry Lydell”).)

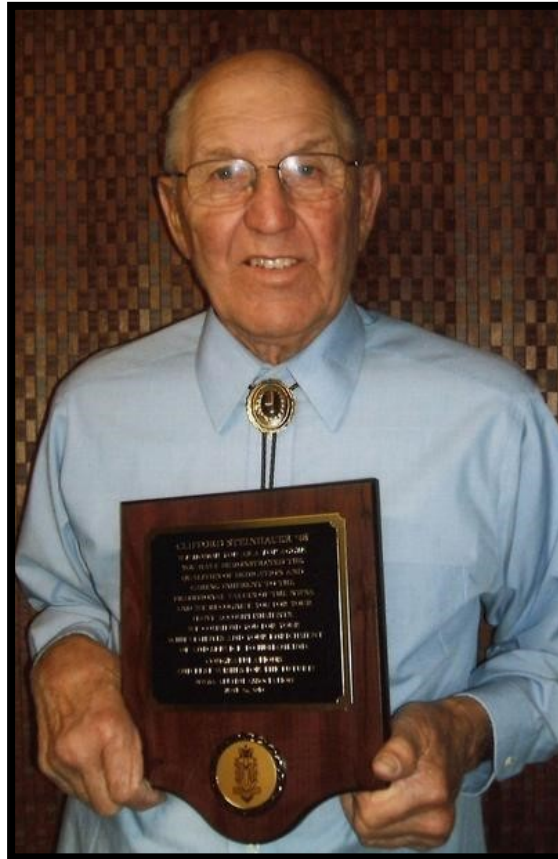


Terry Lydell with MPCS Board member Stacy Salvevold about to announce the winner of the Annual MPCS Scholarship at the 50th Annual Meeting in Rothsay in April 2023.

Clifford W. Steinhauer

Former long-time MPCS Board member Clifford “Cliff” Steinhauer passed away on 10-25-2024 after a long and fulfilling life. He was 98 years old. Born on 12-15-1925 in Pennington County’s Excel Township, like so many babies born in that era, he came into the world in his parent’s home. He grew-up in the township of his birth and went on to graduate from then Crookston Agricultural College (now the University of Minnesota-Crookston). He joined the U. S. Air Force in 1952 where he worked on fuel tank and airplane repairs. With his innate knowledge of “how things were put together (and taken apart AND put together again), he learned how to repair sewing machines and sew. It was reported that Cliff was the individual on the base that you wanted to pack parachutes and drag chutes. He’s been quoted as saying, “you don’t want just anyone packing your chute”. During his military career, Cliff bought a fixed-wing airplane, learned to fly and flew back home on several occasions. That’s remarkable. After the service, he attended the University of Minnesota-St. Paul campus. In June of 1956 he married Marjorie “Marjie” Landin. They purchased a farm near Holt (and fairly close to Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge). They raised 2 sons; Neil and Owen and by the end he was grandfather to 10 grandchildren. One could easily strike-up a conversation with him by mentioning the word “dancing”. He and Marjie danced numerous times every week throughout their married lives. One has to wonder how many miles they Fox Trotted, Waltzed or did the Polka in their lives on the dance floor. Cliff was an important cog in local townboard activities and with various conservation/nature groups. He served on the MPCS Board for numerous years. He was active in MSGS for some time. He served on the Agassiz Audubon Board for many years and was instrumental in things getting done on that board and at the Wetland Pine and Prairie Sanctuary near Warren. He was always keen on educating school children in ways of nature and the environment around us in northwestern Minnesota. He was a terrific gardener, farmed, hunted and played cards (along with the dancing). For 45 years he raised game birds; mostly grouse species (Lesser and Greater prairie chickens, Sharp-tailed grouse, Spruce grouse, Ruffed grouse and even ptarmigan). He raised several species of pheasants too. It was the former group of birds that drew the attention of various individuals in the wildlife conservation world. As numerous species and subspecies of grouse species have greatly declined in parts of their home ranges (e.g., Lesser prairie chickens and the Attwater’s prairie chicken) various entities in wildlife conservation have started breeding programs to release and add genetic diversity to dwindling populations. It is well known that grouse and particularly open landscape species are notoriously difficult to breed in captivity. The professionals found this out and some eventually reached out to Cliff and had him come to their breeding facilities to “trouble shoot”. Cliff was able to help. Cliff kept bees also for many years. He was active in his church his entire life. *(Editor’s Note: Cliff was one of the kindest and most humble men I have ever met. When I first shook hands with him; his massive hand made mine disappear during our handshake. I will miss his

thoughtfulness and distinctive brogue. I recall the time he told me he had seen a Snow owl on the way to a MPCS Board meeting. My brain, of course translated that to Snowy owl but it also told me that is a more accurate name ... in this part of the world we only get to see them during the time of year there is snow on the landscape. Cliff occasionally brought live prairie grouse to MPCS annual meetings; what a joy they brought to folks who had never seen a prairie chicken or Sharp-tailed grouse or, at least that close. A simple gesture by a man of the outdoors who loved “passing Nature onto others”).



Cliff Steinhauer



Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic 2025

Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic 2025 will be held in Kansas City, Missouri in March from the 7th-9th. Note on the 9th, there will be an inspirational luncheon starting at 11:30 in Room 2215B in the Kansas City Convention Center. You are invited to attend by The North American Grouse Partnership. A program with several guest speakers will be held during the luncheon. The main emphasis is “keeping ranching in a good place” in our country. Securing the future of ranching secures grasslands and that keeps open landscape grouse species in a good place. The cost is \$65.00.



The Adventures of Tympie Nuchus

By
Ross H. Hier





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(Updated 10 September 2023)

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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

