

*****2009 RECIPIENT*****

GREGG SHEPPARD

Nominator: Tony & Mary Shumilak – Battlefords Chapter Dinner and Auction Committee for Ducks Unlimited Canada

Recognized for: Outstanding volunteer effort / Improving conservation awareness

Gregg Sheppard has been a volunteer with Ducks Unlimited since 1974. He has been instrumental in building effective committees and volunteer networks in Northwest Saskatchewan.

His leadership on the Battlefords Ducks Unlimited Dinner Committee has resulted in a fundraising event that is among the top 25 across Canada.

Mr. Sheppard was successful in securing the services of hockey great Bobby Orr in promoting the goals of Ducks Unlimited through an educational video and the sale of specially autographed hockey memorabilia. The Orr promotion realized over \$2.5 million in funds raised and led to the subsequent “The Original Six” program which continues to attract new supporters to the DUC cause. Together, these two initiatives represent the most successful fundraising effort in the history of Ducks Unlimited Canada.

From the nomination form:

“Gregg Sheppard represents the values of Ducks Unlimited through both his words and actions. His tireless efforts to promote the goals of Ducks Unlimited Canada have resulted in projects being funded across the country, and ultimately, in increased awareness of wetland conservation and its impact at a local level.”

DALE & CINDY GARLING

Nominator: Ms. Marilyn Zimmerman – Principal, Lampman School, Lampman

Recognized for: Community service / Wetland Education through Project Webfoot

For the past three years, Dale and Cindy Garling have worked to introduce Project Webfoot, Ducks Unlimited Canada's (DUC) youth wetland education program, to the Lampman area.

Their efforts have raised funds for the education resource kit, for interpreted field trips and to cover busing costs. More than 100 students have received this wetland education experience as a result of their efforts.

The Garlings have organized and worked tirelessly at numerous events and seminars in their area. They brought Ducks Unlimited to the community of Lampman, and because of their support, many more residents are now members of the organization.

Their nomination form reads:

"We are a community where people are so involved in their work and personal lives, that they are often too busy to even attend school activities. But Cindy and Dale made time and invested so much energy to bring this wonderful program to our school. Cindy and Dale Garling are community members in the true sense of the phrase. They believe in family, the community and the world around them. And they support what they believe."

For more information on Project Webfoot, visit: www.education.ducks.ca

BLAIN HJERTAAS

Nominator: Ms. Vicki East - Ducks Unlimited Canada, Estevan

Recognized for: Wetland restoration & conservation / Developing the first 4-H grazing club in Saskatchewan

Blain Hjertaas has restored more than 30 wetlands on the Hjertaas farm and is a participant of Ducks Unlimited Canada's rangeland stewardship program and wetland restoration programs.

He is a member of the Redvers Grazing Club, which helps producers improve both the sustainability and economic return from their grazing operations.

In 2008, Blain Hjertaas became a volunteer leader of the first 4-H Grazing Club in Saskatchewan, in which youth members learned about sustainable grazing systems, and about protecting wetlands, forage resources and riparian areas. The 4-H members not only educated themselves, but have successfully interested many other community members in the benefits of rotational grazing. Through his efforts, the Saskatchewan 4-H Council is now considering developing a grazing project based on Blain's club that can be delivered throughout the province and beyond.

From the nomination form:

"Blain's efforts as Club Leader of the first 4-H Grazing Club in Saskatchewan and his work with the producer grazing club in his area has made an outstanding contribution to the public's awareness of wetlands and sustainable agriculture."

For more information on Saskatchewan 4-H projects, see www.sask4-h.sk.ca.

SASKATCHEWAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION (SFA)

Nominator: Mr. Carmen Dodge, President of Nature Prince Albert

Recognized for: Creation and continued improvement of Kristi Lake Nature Trail

The SFA offers outdoor education through its Focus on Forest program, which is used by teachers across the province. The Kristi Lake Nature Trail provides an outdoor learning experience for students that shows the diversity of different ecosystems. Much of the 1.8-km trail tells a story about the wetland inhabitants and the benefits of wetland conservation.

When the trail was developed, SFA had only 2 paid employees, and volunteer members spent countless hours walking through the forest area and developing the interpretive plan. Volunteers built the boardwalk through the wetland bog and developed an interpretive brochure. Since the opening of the trail in May 2008, hundreds of school students and other visitors to Prince Albert have enjoyed the trail.

Additional amenities are still in the planning stages, such as a bench overlooking the lake and a dock platform for observing aquatic life in the lake.

The nomination form reports:

“The Saskatchewan Forestry Association is the foremost non-government agency in the province offering outdoor education to stimulate interest forests and all that they encompass. The SFA saw the need for an outdoor learning environment and created the Kristi Lake Nature Trail to assist users to fully understand this natural ecosystem.”

For information on the Kristi Lake Nature Trail, visit
www.whitebirch.ca/education/trails.shtml

JOHN SAWKEY

Nominator: Mr. Marcel Pelletier – Regina

Recognized for: Creation and maintenance of the Sawkey Bird and Nature Trail

John Sawkey has developed the Sawkey Bird and Nature Trail through Slough View Park on his family farm, a trail that creates and preserves safe habitat for birds, ducks and other wildlife.

Since 1994, Mr. Sawkey has restored this property to a more natural state, by seeding grass cover and planting approximately 20,000 trees and on land that had once been cultivated. He created a 1.8 km-long trail that is open to the public and provides food and shelter to a variety of birds, ducks and other plant life. At the trail head is a honour garden in which members of the public may plant a tree to honour special people in their lives.

John is a volunteer with the Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association and manages their newsletter and website.

The nomination form reads:

“Over years of hard work, John Sawkey has created Slough View Park and the Sawkey Bird & Nature Trail. This special place has become a habitat for the birds, ducks, a preserve for wildlife, and a refuge of hope for future generations.”

For more information about Slough View Park and the Sawkey Bird and Nature Trail, see <http://sloughview.com/>.

DERRIK & JUNE TOOVEY

**Nominator: Mr. James E. Couch / Ms. Candace Franke / Mr. Ronald J. Hicks –
Directors, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Saskatoon**

Recognized for: Outstanding volunteer effort / Improving conservation awareness

For more than 21 years, Derrik and June Toovey have been strong supporters of Ducks Unlimited Canada, including Derrik's time as the former Provincial Chair for Saskatchewan and as a current member of the Provincial Council.

The Tooveys have played key roles at Greenwing Days in both Wadena and Saskatoon, donating their time and resources toward educating hundreds of youth about wetlands and waterfowl.

Derrik was part of a successful promotion to encourage American Ducks Unlimited volunteers to visit Saskatchewan and attend our conferences. He even dressed in period costume for a feature in the national Ducks Unlimited *Conservator* magazine to demonstrate his knowledge and skill with muzzle loading guns.

In the words of James Couch, one of three nominators for the Tooveys:

“Derrik and June Toovey have been fundraisers for Ducks Unlimited and have contributed greatly to the Saskatchewan success story. Saskatchewan has one of the highest dollars raised per resident on an annual basis in all of Canada, and this is only achievable through the efforts of volunteers like the Tooveys.”

LORI WILSON

Nominator: Mr. Clem Millar - Chaplin Tourism Committee, Chaplin

Recognized for: Outstanding volunteer effort / Delivering Wetland Education / Working with Wildlife & Habitat Monitoring Programs

Ms. Wilson works with Chaplin Tourism Committee to deliver shorebird educational programs to local museums, schoolchildren in the area and the Chaplin Nature Centre. Ms. Wilson's shorebird education program impacts hundreds of visitors and children each year and has provided students with hands-on opportunities to understand shorebird species and habitats.

Ms. Wilson has been the inspiration in the development of signage and a viewing tower on Reed Lake when it became part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve. For several years, she has also volunteered to keep track of nest locations of raptors in the area, and works with local staff to make a significant impact on this project.

She is presently working with Linking Communities, an international organization on an educational program that will bring a conservation message to children in Nayarit, Mexico, Salt Lake City and Saskatchewan.

The nomination form explains:

“For several years, Lori Wilson has been a leader for conservation in Southwest Saskatchewan. She has a huge passion for conserving wildlife and its habitat, and those of us with the good fortune to work with her appreciate her enthusiasm and devotion to each and every project.”

For more information on Reed Lake and the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve, visit <http://www.swa.ca>.