

13th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference

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Prairie Conservation Award Nomination for Janet R. Moore

Janet R. Moore is a deserving nominee for the Prairie Conservation Award for her extensive work to conserve prairie habitat in Manitoba. Following her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Manitoba, the majority of Janet's time has been with the Critical Wildlife Habitat Program (CWHP). Her initial focus was to help assess the quality of mixed grass prairie then work with private landowners interested in learning about ways to maintain and enhance what they owned. She hiked across many pastures in southwestern Manitoba and worked closely with many landowners who were interested in setting up twice-over rotational grazing systems on their land.

In the early 1990s there was interest in conserving tall grass prairie in the southeastern region of Manitoba and Janet helped train staff on how to identify prairie grasses and forbs and spending time with them in the field as they learned how to do quadrat and pin-frame sampling.

As with many biologically trained staff, there was the transition from field work to office work and Janet became the habitat stewardship coordinator. In this role, Janet was instrumental in ensuring CWHP projects were completed and funds properly dispersed in both mixed grass and tall grass regions of Manitoba. This also meant Janet became more involved with the quarterly and annual reporting processes for the federal Habitat Stewardship Program from the Canadian Wildlife Service and coordinated these single and later multi-year grants with program partners such as Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Province of Manitoba Wildlife Branch, Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, and Nature Conservancy of Canada – Manitoba Region.

Throughout her career, Janet has worked with and on many committees; one stand out is the PCESC steering committee and sub-committees when Manitoba hosted the conference. She also helped set up small events like Prairie Day at the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve where the general public can experience the wonders of an endangered ecosystem or grazing tours for landowners to share their successes with others interested in getting involved with rotational grazing on native prairie pastures. Janet is a great organizer, sending out timely reminders to co-workers and committee members to ensure they knew of follow up meetings or approaching deadlines.

Janet wrote an excellent resource book for landowners and prairie managers entitled "Common Native Pasture Plants of Southern Manitoba: A Landowner's Guide". This 2003 book is a great introduction to native prairie plants and is provided to anyone interested in these species, from landowners to tour groups and even school classes learning about prairie habitat. Her editorial skills were put use for the "Naturescape Manitoba" book published in 2006 as well as reviewing annual reports and newsletter articles prepared by co-workers and informational handouts for the public.

Janet is not one to seek the spotlight, rather she carried out the all important behind the scenes work to ensure seasonal summer staff were hired, trained and paid; funding agreements were signed and activities completed on time; and, she could be counted on to help out whenever help was needed. Janet was the go-to person for many things and this is even more evident since her recent departure from the CWHP. Our loss is certain a gain for the young students she is now working with in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

Over Janet's approximate 30-year career and she certainly has made a lasting impact. Her passion for prairie, mixed grass prairie in particular, started on the family farm near Wawanesa, Manitoba. Thousands of hectares of native mixed grass and tall grass prairie across the province have benefitted from Janet's dedication and commitment to working on conservation programs and projects. For her life long interest in native prairie and decades of work to help conserve it, Janet R. Moore would be a deserving recipient of the Prairie Conservation Award for Manitoba.