



Wildlife and Habitat Restorations
2018 Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Summer Workshop
St. Michael City Hall, Chamber Room
11800 Town Center Dr. NE, St. Michael, MN
Thursday, August 16th

8:00 AM: Late registration, coffee, rolls and storytelling

8:30 AM: Welcome

8:40 AM: *The North Shore Forest Collaborative.* Nancy Hansen, Two Harbors Area Wildlife Manager, Minnesota DNR and Myra Theimer, Silviculturist, Gunflint Ranger District, Superior National Forest. The North Shore Forest Collaborative is a coordinated effort between local, state, and federal land management agencies as well as public and private organizations and individuals who want to work together to assure a healthy forest environment. The mission of the Collaborative is to revitalize and maintain a healthy and functioning ecosystem along the North Shore of Lake Superior with emphasis on restoring and maintaining native trees and associated forest communities.

9:10 AM: *Wisconsin elk restoration.* Travis Bartnick, Wildlife Biologist, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Travis will explore the history, challenges, successes and opportunities with elk restoration in Wisconsin.

9:40 AM: *An otterly successful restoration: The return of North American river otters.* John Erb, Wildlife Research Scientist, Minnesota DNR. Severely impacted by a number of issues following European settlement, the North American river otter was reduced to less than 75% of its range by the early to mid-1900s. But as a result of societal efforts to improve water quality along with actions by natural resource agencies to improve and protect habitat and implement harvest regulations, today the wildlife profession can claim one of its most successful wildlife recovery efforts.

10:10 AM: Break

10:30 AM: *The challenges of restoration on private lands.* Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist, Pheasants Forever Inc. and Quail Forever Inc. In Minnesota, around 76% of land is privately owned. It is important to find ways to work with private landowners to establish conservation practices on their land. There are a number of programs such as RIM, WRP and CRP available for private lands and successes and challenges with each one.

11:00 AM: *Prairie restorations: beyond the grasses and wildflowers.* John Moriarty, Senior Manager of Wildlife, Three Rivers Park District. John Moriarty will talk about reintroduction of terrestrial wildlife (snakes) and butterflies into restored prairies, the decision process for selecting those species, and adjustment of management plans to accommodate the additional species. He will also cover species that Three Rivers decided not to reintroduce. Bumble bee habitat and site use monitoring will be included.

11:30 AM: Collect lunches, self-drive to field trip locations, eat lunch

1:00 – 3:30 PM: *Field trips.* You are encouraged to preregister with your choice of field trip. There is a capacity limit of 75 for either trip.

Field Trip Option #1: *Pelican Lake Enhancement Project* *Fred Bengtson, Area Wildlife Manager, Minnesota DNR and Scott Glup, Project Leader, Litchfield Wetland Management District, US Fish and Wildlife Service.*

Pelican Lake is one of 58 designated wildlife lakes in Minnesota. That designation gives the Minnesota DNR authority to manage water levels in a way that primarily benefits wildlife habitat. Over the past 30 years, water levels in Pelican have risen by close to five feet, drowning out the aquatic vegetation that ducks need during their seasonal migrations. The DNR is working with Ducks Unlimited and other partners to improve water quality, enhance waterfowl habitat and provide public hunting opportunities in and around Pelican Lake.

Fifteen minute drive from St. Michael City Hall.

Field Trip Option #2: *Crow-Hassan Restored Prairie Highlights and Insights* *John Moriarty, Senior Manager of Wildlife and Angela Grill, Wildlife Biologist, Three Rivers Park District.*

John Moriarty and the Three Rivers Wildlife staff will lead a hike through the 1200 prairie complex during peak bloom, which includes 850 acres of restored grassland. The 2.5 mile hike will be on turf and dirt trails through relatively flat terrain. The hike will cover the Park District's work with supplement seeding and enhancement, burn rotations, woodland/savanna burns, wildlife reintroductions, butterfly and bee monitoring, and inspection of restorations ranging from 50 to 3 years post planting.

Five minute drive from St. Michael City Hall.

Women of Wildlife: Feel free to stay after and wait out the traffic. Women of Wildlife (WoW) will be hosting a talk and activities at Riverbend Group Camp in the Crow-Hassan Park Reserve after the field trips. All are welcome. Contact Angela Grill at 763-694-7851 or Angela.Grill@threeriversparks.org for more information.

Thank you for coming, safe travels.