

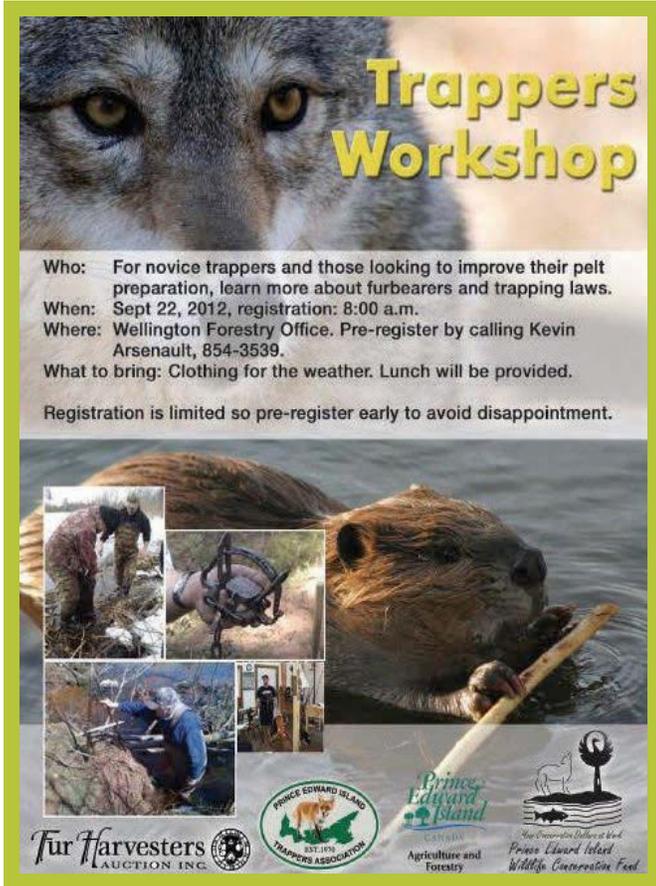
Souris & Area Wildlife and the PEI Wildlife Federation to host Firearms Safety Course on September 28 & 29

The Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation, in conjunction with the Prince Edward Island Wildlife Federation, will be hosting a Firearms Safety Course on **Friday, September 28th and Saturday, September 29th**. The course will take place from 6:00 - 9:00 pm on Friday and 9:00 am – 5:00 pm on Saturday at the Souris Striders Ski Club.

There are three components to becoming certified; an online course, a practical course and a written test. The online course can be completed at www.huntercourse.com. The cost is \$30 per participant. All participants are required to complete this course prior to September 28th. A certificate will be issued upon successful completion of the online course and all participants are asked to bring a printed copy to the practical course. There is a test which can be written online for a charge following the online course but the PEI Wildlife Federation will offer the test free of charge to participants during the practical course.

The Firearms Safety Course will be offered at a cost of \$60 per participant (over 17) plus \$10 for the manual. The course will be offered for youth between ages 12-17 for \$10 plus the cost of the manual. There may be some manuals available for loan on Friday evening and for review on Saturday so buying a manual may not be necessary.

There are limited seats so registration is on a first come first serve basis. To reserve your seat please call our office at (902) 687-4115.



Trappers Workshop

Who: For novice trappers and those looking to improve their pelt preparation, learn more about furbearers and trapping laws.

When: Sept 22, 2012, registration: 8:00 a.m.

Where: Wellington Forestry Office. Pre-register by calling Kevin Arsenault, 854-3539.

What to bring: Clothing for the weather. Lunch will be provided.

Registration is limited so pre-register early to avoid disappointment.

Fur Harvesters LAUCTION INC.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND WILDLIFE FEDERATION



Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
PO Box 692
Souris, PEI
C0A 2B0

Website: www.souriswl.ca
Facebook: Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation

Coordinator: Fred Cheverie
Phone: (902) 687-4115
Email: sourisareawildlife@gmail.com



East Tarantum Road Completed

In 2011, Souris & Area Wildlife partnered with the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal to repair a section of the East Tarantum Road. The road was a mess of water and ruts, with ditches higher than the road. As a result, we experienced siltation into Alder Brook.

Alder Brook is an important section of stream in North Lake Creek as it is a critical spawning area for Atlantic salmon. In 2011, we counted approximately a dozen redds here. Proper spawning habitat is imperative for Atlantic salmon to flourish. With silt being deposited into the stream, as far as one kilometer upstream, we were concerned it would damage this important spawning area.

Souris & Area Wildlife limbed the trees to widen the road to allow the necessary machinery access to complete the repairs. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal graded the road, dug tap drains, and dug deeper ditches. We hope this will alleviate the problem so we can avoid possible siltation in critical spawning areas.



East Tarantum Road before repairs in 2011

Interested In Becoming A Member of Souris & Area Wildlife?

2012 Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation memberships are now available. Membership fees are \$10 and were included with the purchase of a ticket to the 2011 Souris & Area Wildlife Fundraising Dinner.

There are many benefits of becoming a member:

- Participate free of charge in Souris & Area Wildlife activities
- Free catch and release fishing at Rollo Bay Pond (in season)
- Receive electronic color copies of recent newsletters
- Voting privileges on resolutions at annual meetings
- Enhance and preserve the environment in Eastern Kings through community support

Memberships may be purchased at our office at the Souris Striders Ski Club or by mailing payment to:

Souris & Area Wildlife Branch
PO Box 692
Souris, PEI
C0A 2B0



East Tarantum Road after repairs in 2012

Prince Edward Island Wildlife Conservation Fund



The Prince Edward Island Wildlife Conservation Fund (WCF) provides funding for the protection and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitat. Created in 1989, money for the fund is generated through the sales of angling, hunting and trapping licences. This fund distributes approximately \$100, 000 to local organizations for approved projects. Applications are approved by a committee of ten members representing the angling, hunting and trapping communities, community watershed groups, non-consumptive users, and the Department of Agriculture & Forestry.

Souris & Area Wildlife was approved for \$7, 500 for stream enhancement projects. Monies will be used for top up wages, equipment and materials, and travel. Funding partners such as the WCF are necessary to continue stream enhancement to open spawning and foraging habitat for fish species in our management area.



Fly fishing in Souris River
Photograph by Joanne Dunphy

Department of Fisheries & Oceans Contract: Basin Head

The Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) has contracted Souris & Area Wildlife to conduct monitoring activities at Basin Head. These activities include multi-site water quality monitoring and Ulva (Sea lettuce) monitoring. Since Basin Head is a Marine Protected Area, only one of nine in Canada and one of two accessible by land, it is critical to collect data to monitor any changes. Basin Head is designated a Marine Protected Area due to the presence of a unique strain of Irish moss which is not found anywhere else in the world.

Multi-site water quality monitoring is done weekly to collect data at 11 sites via canoe. These sites encompass an area from the “run” to the top of the arm (below Elliot’s), plus two freshwater sites which flow into Basin Head. Parameters tested include water temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, turbidity and chlorophyll. Two water samples are also collected at each station for nutrient analysis.

Ulva monitoring is done through a series of panoramic photographs taken at three locations; Elliot’s Lookout, Foul Bay and Ching’s Bridge. Ulva growth is important to monitor as it is hypothesized that Ulva shading may be contributing to the decline in Irish moss. Also, it is important to monitor as it is a driver in creating anoxic conditions. Anoxia, or the absence of oxygen, occurs when the decaying Ulva uses all the available oxygen in the water making it uninhabitable for aquatic species. Ulva grows well in Basin Head for a variety of reasons; nutrient input, shallow and warm waters and incomplete flushing.

Souris & Area Wildlife Receives a 2012 National Recreational Fisheries Award

The National Recreational Fisheries Award recognizes individuals and organizations for the contributions to the conservation, restoration and enhancement of recreational fishing and habitat in Canada. This award was created in 1989 and is administered by the Department of Fisheries & Oceans each year.

Souris & Area Wildlife was nominated for this award by the Town of Souris in 2010 for our efforts in promoting recreational angling, as well as enhancing habitat to ensure unimpeded fish passage and adequate spawning areas for salmonids in our waterways.

On Thursday, July 26, the Honorable Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries & Oceans, was on hand to present the award. Town of Souris Mayor David MacDonald welcomed the Honorable Minister to Souris. The Honorable Minister then presented Souris & Area Wildlife President Joe MacDonald and Watershed Coordinator Fred Cheverie with the award.

The Honorable Minister stated: "Our Government is proud to recognize these dedicated volunteers for their outstanding commitment to conservation of resources and to recreational fishing. Their efforts to protect and promote recreational angling help preserve our important resources for future generations to enjoy."

Fred Cheverie followed with an acceptance speech on behalf of Souris & Area Wildlife. He stated the importance of recreational fishing as a multi-million dollar industry in Canada. He credited his

diligent staff and dedicated volunteers for the enhancement and preservation of fish spawning areas. With adequate habitat, fish species can flourish and recreational fishing will continue to be a stable, green activity.

Paul A. Gallant, Past President and current Director, offered words on behalf of the board. Many of Souris & Area Wildlife's past Presidents were in attendance and were acknowledged. The legacy left by these former leaders formed the foundation for the recent success of our branch.

Rosie MacFarlane, Freshwater Fisheries Biologist with the Fish & Wildlife Division of the PEI Department of Agriculture & Forestry spoke on the dedication of Souris & Area Wildlife to preserving habitat to foster growth in recreational fishing. She also spoke on the importance of the recreational fishery on PEI and the many environmental and economic benefits which can be attributed.

Invited guests enjoyed a sunny evening on the deck at the Sheltered Harbour Café. They were treated to a variety of delicious food including seafood chowder, oysters, smoked salmon, mussels, and chicken among others. Entertainment was provided by local musicians J.J. Chaisson on fiddle with Darla MacPhee accompanying on piano.

Souris & Area Wildlife was elated to have received this award, being only the second recipient on PEI to receive this honor, following Daryl Guignon in 2011. A huge thank you to the community at large for the continuing support of our organization. This award speaks volumes to the dedication of our staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers and their continued commitment.



Accepting the 2012 Canadian Recreational Fisheries Award

Left to right: Watershed Coordinator Fred Cheverie, President Joe MacDonald, and the Honorable Minister Keith Ashfield

Photograph by Loretta Campbell



Souris & Area Wildlife Coordinator Fred Cheverie (left) and President Joe MacDonald (right) with ASCF Executive Director Stephen Chase (middle).

ASCF has been a major funding partner in the past and has committed to another three year funding contribution.

Photograph by Loretta Campbell



The Board of Directors and staff of Souris & Area Wildlife with Minister Keith Ashfield

Back (left to right): Fan MacIntyre, Justin McKinnon, Honorable Minister Keith Ashfield, Fred Cheverie, Fred Ward, Michael Jacklyn

Front (left to right): Brian MacDonald, Joe MacDonald, Paul Gallant, Jill MacPhee, Steve Cheverie, Tony Meade

Photograph by Loretta Campbell



Accepting the pins and medallion from Minister Keith Ashfield

Left to right: Watershed Coordinator Fred Cheverie, President Joe MacDonald, and the Honorable Minister Keith Ashfield

Photograph by Loretta Campbell

WEBs: Invertebrates in Springs and the Effects of Agriculture

By Kyle Kynsh



“Springs are tunnels to the inner earth, where mystical magical things live.” An Islander friend said she was told that as a child, and it’s true! There are many odd and wonderful creatures that live in springs, and springs have long been revered as mystical places. Since PEI has many springs, it has many of these special places, but surprisingly, they haven’t been very well studied. Some of these spring sites are located on the WEBs (Watershed Evaluation of Beneficial Management Practices) sites, which led to my Master’s project on the effects of agricultural land use on the plants and animals living in the spring pools.

Springs are areas where groundwater comes to the surface, and in PEI, they are the point where most brooks and rivers begin. What makes springs special ecologically is that they maintain a relatively constant temperature, close to the mean annual temperature for the region. Groundwater on PEI is near 7°C all year round, so the animals and plants that live in this habitat must be able to survive these constant cold temperatures. Over time, springs have developed a unique group of species, some of which are found nowhere else.

Since we know little about springs, the first step in my projects on how agriculture might affect the springs had to be finding out what lives there. Everything in the springs is so tiny, so it isn’t surprising that in the hundred or so species I’ve found so far, most of them have not been recorded on PEI before. A notable example would be water mites (tiny relatives of spiders) in the genus *Hydrovolzia*. These tiny

creatures lives only in areas where water temperatures are less than 10°C and are generally restricted to spring habitats. Another odd critter is the phantom midge (with the daunting name of *Eucorethra underwoodi*) which looks a bit like a mosquito (but do not bite as adults!), though like the mite, *Eucorethra underwoodi* likes cool water and have been found in unlikely spots like tree holes as well as in springs. One of my favorite creatures in the springs is a type of caddisfly (known to fishermen as sedges or caddis). A species that prefers springs, *Lepidostoma vernale*, builds a square shaped case out of plant matter that looks just like a sleeping bag.

In addition to having interesting species that like in an interesting habitat, these animals can be also be indicators of the quality of the water they live in (The types of invertebrates and numbers of individual ‘bugs’ found can tell you how clean a water body is). This leads to other aspect of my study, which is examining whether agriculture activities may be affecting the animals that live in the springs. To test this I am comparing the animals from springs in agricultural areas to springs that originate in more natural forested areas. When excess nutrients from agriculture leach into the ground water and flow to the surface at the springs, they cause changes in the growth and species of pant life in the springs, which in turn can affect the small invertebrate animals (the “bugs”) that live in them. So in addition to accounting for the invertebrates I have also been examining parameters relating to plants and algae. I am still working at figuring out the exact effect on increased nutrients on the plants and the bugs-that will be in my final thesis.

For further information contact Kyle Kynsh at kknynsh@upei.ca



Lepidostoma vernale (adult)

Stream Enhancement Work



Hay River



Cow River



Souris River

Coordinator's Comments

The Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation was honored to have received a Canadian National Recreational Fisheries Award on July 26, 2012. We have been very fortunate through the decades to have been led by innovative and committed presidents complimented by a dedicated Board of Directors. We are also privileged to have hired staff that care and take pride in improving all aspects of our environment. As well, our agricultural community boasts producers who utilize respectful and diligent environmental practices in their daily operations.

In 2005, recreational fishing in Canada was a \$2.5 billion industry comprised of 3.2 million licensed recreational anglers. In 2012, recreational fishing became an \$8 billion dollar industry. There is an economic spin off which provides real jobs in rural Canada. Recreational fishing is a green industry that provides a healthy alternative to an acclaimed obese and technically addicted society. These figures would indicate a thriving business that should see a direct influx of funding funneled to local watershed groups across our nation. This would ensure that this industry is kept vibrant with healthy stream habitat which would promote a sustainable future.

One can clearly detect in the photos of our Board of Directors a fair amount of baldness (and those that are lucky enough to have hair it is usually silver in color). If we hope to continue with the same degree of commitment we will need an influx of new and young individuals that are willing to offer their expertise. We will be starting our regular monthly meetings this fall and I invite all those that would like to get involved to attend. The public will be advised of upcoming meetings via newsletters, email, website and Facebook.



Fred Cheverie – Watershed Coordinator of the Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation

President's Comments

Another summer stream enhancement season has quickly come to an end. Our summer staff has done a marvelous job considering we only had two teams of four people. Our management area contains hundreds of kilometers of streams and tributaries; therefore we have to prioritize which watersheds we work in.

We have worked in most of our watersheds which include: North Lake, Priest Pond, Cross River, Hay River, Bear River, Naufrage, Cow River, Fortune River, Souris River, Rollo Bay, East Lake and Black Pond. We have encountered major beaver problems in Naufrage River, Bear River and Fortune River. Many of these beaver sites will be directed towards trappers in the fall season.

I would like to wish Calvin MacAulay, Kelsey Cheverie, Kyler Burke, Max MacDonald and Dylan MacIntyre all the best in their studies this fall. I would like to thank Sandra Meade for her dedicated work this summer. Tony Meade and Michael Jacklyn will continue working with our organization into the fall season. The work ethic displayed by this crew is unprecedented.



Joe MacDonald – President of the Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation

Interested in making a donation to the Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation?

Simply fill out this form and mail it to us:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Cheques may be made payable to the Prince Edward Island Wildlife Federation. This is important for charitable tax purposes.

Cheques may be mailed to:

PO Box 692, Souris, PEI C0A 2B0