

NATURE SASKATCHEWAN NEWS

Nature Saskatchewan and Nature Regina hosted the Fall Meet held in Regina on September 30 and October 1 and 2, 2005. The Meet featured a good deal of discussion on conservation issues as well as three successful field trips. The Awards Banquet, attended by 120 people, took place on Saturday, October 1. The annual awards program recognizes the invaluable contribution of volunteers to Nature Saskatchewan and to conservation. The awards, and their recipients, are listed below in alphabetical order.

Cliff Shaw Award

Named for the second editor of *Blue Jay*, naturalist and writer Cliff Shaw, this award is presented annually to recognize an outstanding contribution in the past four issues of the magazine. Special consideration is given to articles by new contributors. This year's recipients are **Cary Hamel** and **Elizabeth Reimer** for their article in the December 2004 issue, 'The St. Lazare Area of Manitoba: A Biodiversity Hotspot.'



Figure 1. Dale Hjertaas receives award from Lorne Scott.

Conservation Award

The Conservation Award is presented each year to an individual whose total contribution to conservation is outstanding. The award may be presented for a specific project or conservation work over a period of years. There were two recipients: Dale Hjertaas and Elaine Hughes.

Dale Hjertaas, (Figure 1) Executive Director of Policy and Communications for the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, has devoted time, energy and expertise to Nature Saskatchewan. He has served as President and in various other positions, and is currently President of Nature Regina. During the past several decades, Dale has been involved in most of the major wildlife management and conservation initiatives in Saskatchewan either in a professional or volunteer capacity.

On April 9, 2003, **Elaine Hughes** (Figure 2) and several others formed 'Stop the Hogs Coalition' after Big Sky



Figure 2. Elaine Hughes receives award from Lorne Scott.

Farms informed the community of Archerwill about their proposal for a 5000-sow mega-hog operation for the municipality. Thus far, the group has succeeded in preventing the hog barn development in Archerwill. Equally important, Elaine has identified, through research and networking, many of the environmental and social concerns associated with the mega-hog-farm industry.

Fellows Award

Since 1987 the Society has designated members who have made a long and outstanding contribution as "Fellows of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society". In 2005 three members were recognized with this award: George Mitchell, Wayne Pepper and Diether Peschken,.

After receiving his master's degree from the University of British Columbia in 1952, **George Mitchell** (Figure 3) worked as Alberta's first wildlife biologist until he took a leave of absence to complete a Ph.D on Pronghorn Antelope at Pullman, Washington. In 1966, George and his wife, Connie, moved to Regina where George became Associate Professor at the University of Regina. He established the first Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society in Western Canada and many of his biology students have pursued successful wildlife management and conservation careers here in Saskatchewan and elsewhere. George has long been a member and supporter of Nature Saskatchewan and has represented the Society on the Fish and Wildlife Development Advisory Committee since 1993.

Wayne Pepper (Figure 4) came to Saskatchewan in 1965 with a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Management

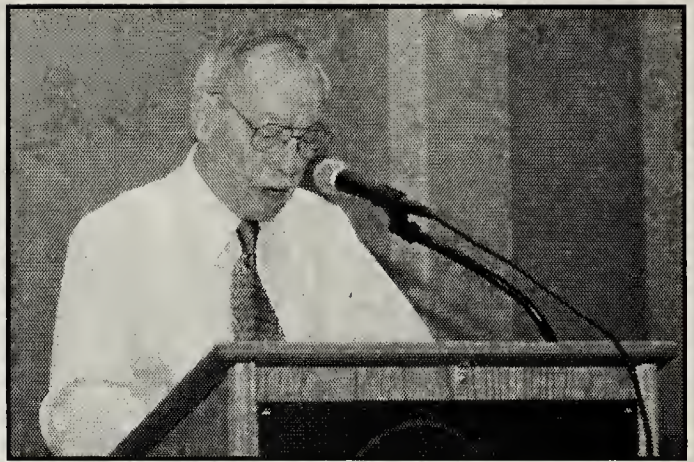


Figure 3. George Mitchell

from the University of Guelph, and worked as a Wildlife Management Ecologist with the Department of Natural Resources in Regina. He joined the Saskatchewan Natural History Society at that time. In 1971, he did a master's degree at the University of Regina on the ecology of Sharp-tailed Grouse. One of his teachers and mentors was George Mitchell. Upon returning to the DNR in a management position, Wayne supervised many wildlife and natural resource programs until retiring in 1996. Wayne continues to represent Nature Saskatchewan on the government's Wildlife Advisory and Parks Advisory committees, Crown Land Stakeholders Committee and Forestry Consultation Workshops.

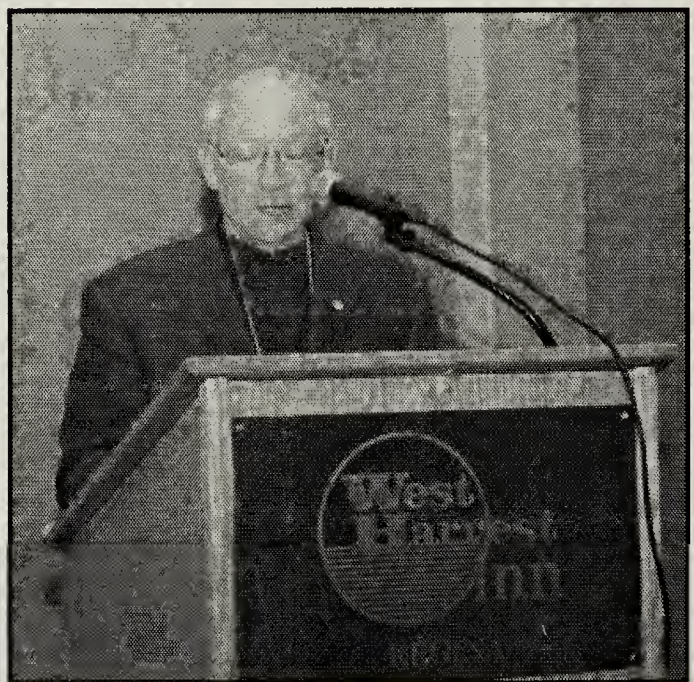


Figure 4. Wayne Pepper



Figure 5. Diether Peschken, left, with NS President, Attila Chanady.

Diether Peschken, (Figure 5) an entomologist, was a research scientist with Agriculture Canada for many years, specializing in biological pest and weed control. Educated in Germany and Canada, he completed his Ph.D at the University of Gottingen, Germany in 1964. He has been an active member of the Saskatchewan Entomological Society, the Regina Natural History Society (Nature Regina) and Nature Saskatchewan. He joined the N.S. Board of Directors in 1999 and served as Research Director and Vice-President. A much respected and valued member of the Board, he made a substantial contribution to the work of the Society throughout the years. He retired from the Board earlier this year for family reasons.

Larry Morgotch Memorial Award

This award is presented to the member showing the best photographs at the Meet's Friday night presentation. Winners of the Larry Morgotch Award for 2005 are **Michelle Yaskowich** (Figure 6) and **Andrea Perras** for their entertaining and informative presentation, "The Adventures of the Losh Ladies," about their field work experiences in the Shrubs for Shrikes program.



Figure 6. Michelle Yaskowich receives award from Jim Elliot.

Long-term Service Award

This award is presented to an individual who has made an ongoing contribution to the society through his or her volunteerism and energy. This year, the recipient is **Rob Warnock** (Figure 7). Rob has a BSc degree from the University of Regina, joined the NS Board in 1999, has served as Membership Director, Vice-President, and Research Director, and for the past couple of years as co-editor of *Nature Views*. Rob has always been a very hard worker, prepared to help out where and when necessary. He was recognized for his years of uninterrupted service to the Society.

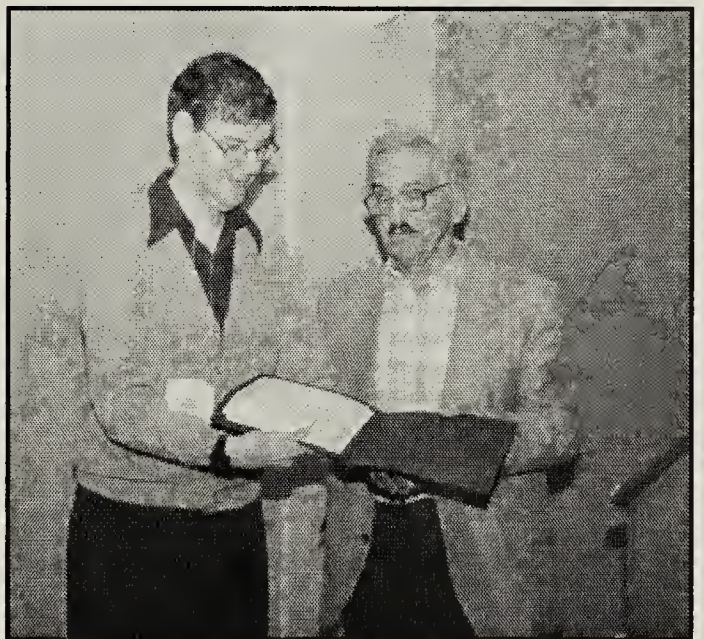


Figure 7. Robert Warnock (left) receives award from Attila Chanady

Natural History Scholarship

Nature Saskatchewan encourages academic achievement and excellence with a scholarship for graduate students of excellent academic standing whose studies are in keeping with the goals and objectives of the Society. In 2005, scholarships were presented to two students: Janet Ng and Jana Berman. **Janet Ng** (Figure 8) is in a Master of Science program in Biology at the University of Regina. She is studying the ecology of Common Nighthawks in Southern Saskatchewan. **Jana Berman** is a Master of Arts student in the Geography Department at the University of Saskatchewan. Her thesis title is 'Learning about place and the environment through school based ecological monitoring in the Frenchman River Basin, Saskatchewan.'

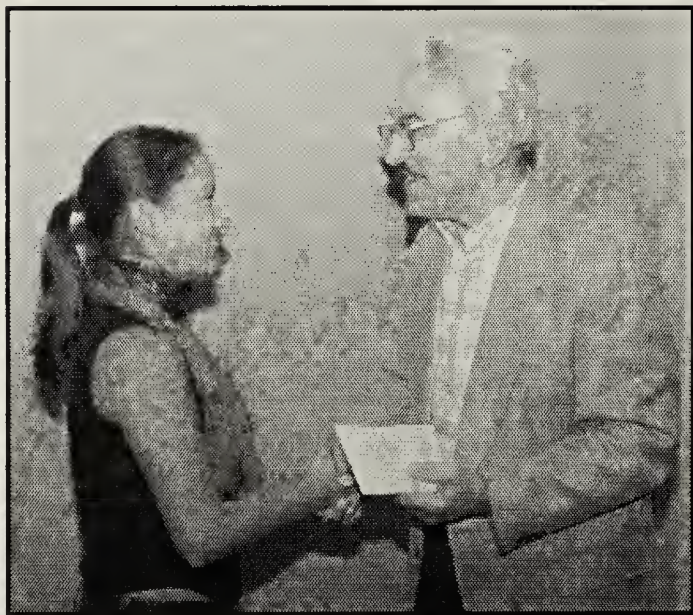
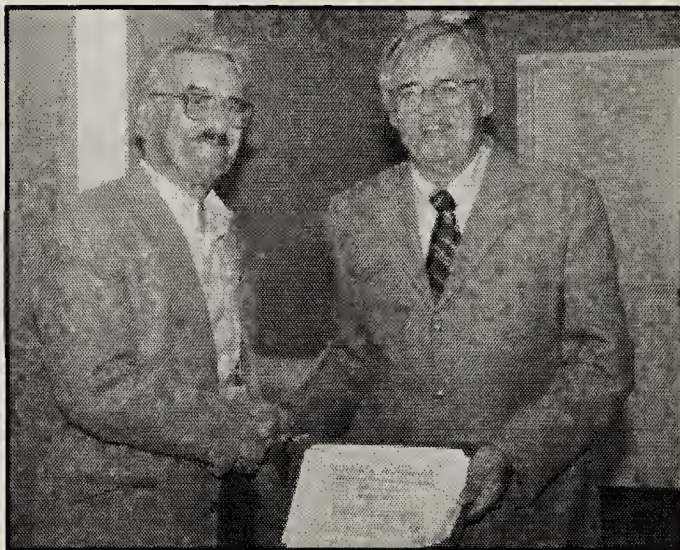


Figure 8. Janet Ng receives award from Attila Chanady

Volunteer of the Year Award

This award acknowledges individuals who have devoted significant time and energy to promoting the goals of the Society. This year, the Society acknowledged **Gary Seib** for his contribution, as Member Services Director, to the development of Nature Saskatchewan's centennial project, the publication of *Prairie Phoenix: The Red Lily (Lilium*



Gary Seib receives award from Attila.

philadelphicum) in Saskatchewan. The publication of a book is a complex and time consuming process and Gary gave many, many hours to this task in addition to continuing to meet the other responsibilities of the Member Services Director.

Special Award

Bonnie Lawrence and **Anna Leighton** were recognized for their commitment to research and the conservation of the Western Red Lily, Saskatchewan's floral emblem, and for authoring the Nature Saskatchewan publication: *Prairie Phoenix: The Red Lily (Lilium philadelphicum) in Saskatchewan*. Each received a leather-bound copy of their book, *Prairie Phoenix*.



From left to right: Bonnie Lawrence, Attila Chanady and Anna Leighton

- Compiled by the Editors from text contributed by Attila Chanady, Lorne Scott and Paul Wilson. Photographs by Dale Williams of Regina.