

NATURE SASKATCHEWAN

The 2007 Nature Saskatchewan Fall Meet took place in the Battlefords area on September 28 - 30. Participants enjoyed field trips focusing on the natural history as well as the human history in and near the North Saskatchewan River Valley. The Saturday program wound up with a banquet and the presentation of the Nature Saskatchewan Awards. The awards and their recipients are listed below in alphabetical order.

Cliff Shaw Award

This award is given in recognition of the best article published in *Blue Jay* in the previous year. The award recipient for 2007 is **Christian Artuso** whose two excellent articles within the past year, 'Manitoba's southern bird invasion,' in the December 2006 issue and 'January initiation of suburban Great Horned Owl nests in Manitoba,' in the March 2007 issue are thorough, detailed, well-written and well-illustrated. Christian's combined abilities make him the kind of naturalist Cliff Shaw would enthusiastically applaud.

Conservation Award

Nature Saskatchewan's Conservation Award is presented each year to an individual or organization whose contribution to conservation is outstanding. The award may be presented for a specific project or conservation work over a period of years. This year, the Nature Saskatchewan Conservation Award was presented to the **Greencover Canada Program**. This Government of Canada initiative has been successful in assisting landowners and producers in improving grassland management practices, protecting water quality, and

enhancing biodiversity and wildlife habitat. Jason Fradette, Technical Director, Saskatchewan Region, PFRA, came to the Fall Meet to receive the award on behalf of the Program (Figure 1).



*Figure 1. Jason Fradette receives the Conservation Award from Society President Bill MacKenzie on behalf of PFRA's Greencover Canada Program
Margaret Skeel*

Fellows Award

Since 1987, the Society has designated members who have made a long and important contribution as "Fellows of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society." To date, over 50 Nature Saskatchewan members have been



*Figure 2. Muriel Carlson receives the Fellows Award from Society President Bill McKenzie
Margaret Skeel*

awarded this distinction and the contribution of two members is recognized with the award this year: **Muriel Carlson** (Figure 2) and **Melanie Elliott**. Muriel has worked tirelessly for years as a wildlife monitor and a steward at the Turtle Lake Nature Sanctuary. Melanie has done superlative work in promoting an understanding of the natural world and she has also, for many years, provided service to naturalist organizations.

Larry Morgotch Memorial Award

Initiated by the Yorkton Natural History Society in memory of former member Larry Morgotch, this award is presented to the member showing the best photographs on Friday night at the Meet. The winner this year is **Bill Mackenzie** for his images of the Australian outback.

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. The recipient this year is **Teresa Dolman** who has prepared the annual index for *Blue Jay* for seven years, starting with the December 2000 issue. Compiling an index is a necessary but time-consuming task and one that tends to go unnoticed unless it doesn't get done. The index is a critical tool for giving people access to the material published in *Blue Jay*.

Natural History Scholarships

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. The 2007 recipients are **Kim Dohms** and **Jessica Stolar**. Kim is working towards her M.Sc. degree in Biology at the University of Regina and is studying Sprague's Pipit in native and planted grassland habitats. **Jessica Stolar** is working towards her M.Sc. degree in Biology at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and is studying the reproductive biology and pollination ecology of the Western Red Lily.

Volunteer of the Year Award

This award acknowledges individuals who have devoted significant time and energy to promoting the objectives of the Society. This year's recipient is **Dennis Lawson** whose volunteer commitment to education and service through his long association with the Living by Water Project has been outstanding (Figure 3).

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Figure 3. Dennis Lawson receives the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Society's General Manager, Margaret Skeel.
Paul Wilson