

## Upcoming Events

### Weed Webinar Series 2.0

This series is intended to increase awareness of these invasive weed species and knowledge around their management. Webinars are in Saskatchewan time and can be viewed on the Ministry of Agriculture's website afterwards. Topics and Dates are:

Foxtail Barley – January 16, 2018 at 11 a.m.

Burdock – February 15, 2018 at 11 a.m.

Brush Encroachment – March 14, 2018 at 1 p.m.

Register online at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/345701133882988034>

### CropSphere 2018

The conference features sessions on market outlook, research, and agronomy. January 9, 2018 - January 10, 2018, Saskatoon, SK. [www.cropsphere.com](http://www.cropsphere.com)

### 6th Native Prairie Restoration/Reclamation Workshop

Plenary and breakout sessions, case studies, poster session & tradeshow. The overarching theme of the 2018 Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation Workshop will be "Look to the Future, Learn from the Past". Within this theme, issues in the following areas will be addressed:

- Long-term Restoration planning and case studies
- Reclamation/Restoration of Riparian Areas
- Restoration of Aquatic, Plant and Wildlife Species at Risk
- Native Seed Producers to Native Seed Users
- Range Health and Soil Remediation.
- Industry Mitigation for Species at Risk
- Collaborative Efforts for Species at Risk

February 7, 2018 8:00 AM - February 8, 2018 4:30 PM Location: Saskatoon Inn, 2002 Airport Drive Saskatoon, SK  
Organizer: Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) Email: [pcap@sasktel.net](mailto:pcap@sasktel.net) Phone: 306-352-0472

### Saskatchewan Ranch Management Forum

Topics include: Calving Management Tips, Livestock Water Quality, Beef Cattle Nutrition, Managing Forages in Dry conditions, Artificial Insemination and much more. Curt Pate, an internationally recognized stockmanship instructor will provide a stock handling demonstration. Learn cattle handling techniques to help move them comfortably and stress free. February 9, 10 and 11, 2018 at the Masonic Lodge, 1755 Main St. North, Moose Jaw, SK. Cost is \$175.00 (meals included). To register or for more information please call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



Did you know that the OWWA is on Facebook and twitter? Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/oldwiveswatershed> and follow Cierra on twitter at [https://twitter.com/OWWA\\_summerstudent](https://twitter.com/OWWA_summerstudent) for watershed updates, news & events.



### For more information on OWWA please contact:

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# Watershed Watch

## January 2018

## Newsletter

### Summer 2017 from the Tech.'s Desk

By Cierra Wallington, AEPsD Technician

The summer of 2017 flew by, as time usually does, and from the OWWA office there was not too much time spent inside.

One highlight project that was completed this year was the shoreline restoration project at Thomson Lake's Golf Course Hole 7. The final stages of the project included a group of 13 volunteers and myself planting vegetation along the newly re-sloped bank. A total of over 300 plants were placed along the bank and included the following species: Chokecherries, Saskatoon Berries, Willows, Red-Osier Dogwoods, and Lilacs. OWWA and Thomson Lake Park were grateful for the help and treated the volunteers to a delicious pizza supper.



For youth engagement, I had the pleasure of working with the Grade 11 students from Gravelbourg High School and Grade 7/8/9 students from Ponteix. We were able to complete water testing, soil texturing, and biodiversity assessments at both Thomson Lake and the Notekeu Creek. For the younger kids (4-10) OWWA hosted two "Day with Nature" events at Thomson Lake Regional Park and Wood Mountain Regional Park this summer. The events included exploring the local nature area, crafting some bird feeders to take home, and playing games that highlighted the importance of water quality.

Fortunately, OWWA secured funding to hire a summer student through Canada Summer Jobs. Tim was able to attend a total of 6 events: Gravelbourg's Summer Solstice, Bouvier's Jamberry Festival (Kincaid), Wood Mountain Rodeo's Tradeshow, Frontier Days, Mossbank's Old Wives Lake Festival, and the Limerick Harvest Market. Our summer student was also in charge of conducting OWWA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Calendar Contest. Check out page two for details!

Lastly, the majority of my time went towards the completion of the final year of the Growing Forward 2 Program. From April to August of 2017, there has been over 117 producer visits with a total of 216 Growing Forward 2 applications submitted from OWWA on behalf of producers in the watershed. Luckily for producers, the Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program's original application deadline of August 2<sup>nd</sup> was extended to September 30<sup>th</sup> because of the needs generated from the drought-like conditions. One event that proved to be a huge success was the "Water Quality in Times of Drought" workshop in Hazenmore. The event was planned in 8 days in light of the Shamrock pasture water incident and the massive heat wave that was rolling through. The details of the next round of Agriculture Funding for 2018-2022 are not yet out, but I am anxious to see what will be next.

The coming winter months will consist of completing a dump decommissioning, working on community source water protection planning along Thomson, visiting with school groups, and finalizing the rest of the Growing Forward 2 applications. Working in rural Saskatchewan is very rewarding and I am looking forward to what the next year at OWWA will bring.

**AGRICULTURE PRODUCERS: DEADLINES TO SUBMIT YOUR CLAIMS** for the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) and The Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program (FSP) through Growing Forward 2 IS FAST APPROACHING!!  
**PLEASE LOOK AT YOUR CLAIM FORMS** to see if you have a **January 31st or February 15th** deadline.

## A Summer with the Old Wives Watershed Association

By Tim Cloutier, OWWA 2017 Summer Student

This past summer has been quite eventful within the Old Wives Lake Watershed and surrounding area. I found out that work for the Old Wives Watershed Association (OWWA) doesn't stop for the staff who work with the general public and countless producers to suit their needs and the needs of the environment. Over the summer I had the opportunity to travel to different areas across the watershed to complete various activities. I helped producers with the Growing Forward 2 program, attended community events to spread awareness about OWWA, monitored the reservoirs, creeks and river for Zebra Mussels and helped host the free water quality workshop for ranchers. I also helped to facilitate OWWA programming including community events such as bird quest, free water testing (TDS), and a photo contest for anyone to enter.

Every event I attended highlighted different aspects and goals of OWWA. During the "Kid's Days", OWWA provided the young children with new, fun and interactive information about the watershed they live in. At other community events, including Mossbank's Old Wives Festival, we distributed free booklets on invasive weeds, species at risk, water use on the farm and many more! Additionally, a Water Quality in Times of Drought workshop was held in Hazenmore that allowed producers to test their water and learn all about water quality. The Hazenmore workshop was my favorite activity as it allowed OWWA to aid a variety of producers when they needed it the most. Every day coming to work meant new challenges and opportunities.

Overall, the summer was very productive with both public education and producer support. As the summer drew to an end, I returned to the University of Saskatchewan. Thank you so much to the public and OWWA for such a great opportunity this summer.



## 2018 Calendars are Now Available!!

OWWA is very pleased to announce the winners of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Calendar Contest. We received many beautiful pictures of our watershed and the online voting was fast and furious! Please check out our website to view all the winning entries. **A BIG thank you to each of our prize sponsors!** We sincerely appreciate your support. The winners in each of the categories are:

**Landscape:** 1<sup>st</sup> Colleen Andries "Serenity", 2<sup>nd</sup> Miguel Rea "Behold Your Beauty", 3<sup>rd</sup> Jill Jenkins "Spring Beauties" and 4<sup>th</sup> Hannah Cook "The Steel Bridge"

**Watershed/Nature:** 1<sup>st</sup> Miguel Rea "Birds Certify the Quality of the Environment", 2<sup>nd</sup> Colleen Andries "The Sentinel", 3<sup>rd</sup> Wanda Hudson "Fox Kit", 4<sup>th</sup> Sharon Condie "Who Me"

**Agriculture:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sharon Condie "Combining Under the Super Harvest Moon", 2<sup>nd</sup> Wanda Hudson "Crop Checking", 3<sup>rd</sup> Hannah Cook "Harvest Moon", 4<sup>th</sup> Jeremy Stevens "Chaplin Pasture".

**Calendars are now available.**

**They make fantastic gifts!**

**Each calendar is only \$15 (picked up) or \$17(mailed out)!**

## OWWA holds a Water Quality in Times of Drought Workshop

This past year the watershed and surrounding regions were faced with severe to extreme drought conditions. As a result many producers were faced with the reality of not having enough water available to their livestock. And for many, the water that they did have was of poor quality. This is in part because the Old Wives Watershed is a closed watershed and has above average salinity levels in many parts of the watershed, even in non-drought years.

On July 25th, OWWA hosted a Water Quality Meeting that focused on poor water quality and how to safeguard livestock in times of drought. Producers from across Old Wives Watershed attended, bringing people together all the way from Chaplin to Val Marie to Scout Lake. Well over 100 producers came together to listen to the professional guest speakers, broaden their knowledge on water quality and use and to have their water samples tested to determine Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). OWWA Board Member Julie MacKenzie PAG helped with the testing, "Unfortunately, where we are in the world a large portion of the dissolved minerals in our water is salts. But, when we can test TDS and see values below that 4500 ppm range generally water is still within acceptable limits for livestock." Julie adds, "The Ministry of Agriculture suggests concerns should be raised above that 4500 range and livestock should be watched closely or other precautions be taken". OWWA tested 193 samples free of charge to aid producers during this meeting alone.

In addition to a large amount of water testing, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Security Agency, Veterinarian Sylvia Wiebe and Shadow Ranch (watering systems) all offered high levels of expertise. The guest speakers spoke on water quality issues to watch for in drought, how poor water quality affects livestock, dugout construction to ensure good water quality and remote watering systems. Producers were able to take home



valuable and extensive knowledge that will allow them to proceed through this stressful time. Old Wives Watershed Association sincerely thanks the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Security Agency for all their assistance putting on this emergency meeting and appreciates all the producer interest.

OWWA Technician Cierra Wallington reminds producers "***If anyone would like to test their TDS please get a hold of the OWWA office as we have a TDS tester free to use.***" Please contact the OWWA office for more information.

***"Unfortunately, where we are in the world a large portion of the dissolved minerals in our water is salts. But, when we can test TDS and see values below that 4500 ppm range generally water is still within acceptable limits for livestock."***

Julie MacKenzie, PAG

## Become a Member of OWWA

OWWA is a non-profit organization that was formed to serve the residents of the Old Wives Watershed by helping to manage the water in a sustainable way in order to ensure the economic success and environmental preservation of our watershed for generations to come. We are run by a board of dedicated volunteers representing both urban and rural interests across the watershed. RMs, communities, individuals and groups can become members! Individual memberships cost only \$25 per year. For more information on how to become a member or if you have an idea for a future event or project in the watershed please contact OWWA.