

Native Prairie Speaker Series

Title: Plovers On Shore: How Landowners are Conserving Endangered Piping Plovers in Saskatchewan

Speaker: Shirley Bartz, Habitat Stewardship Coordinator, Nature Saskatchewan

Presentation Summary:

Nature Saskatchewan's Plovers On Shore (POS) is a voluntary stewardship program that promotes the endangered Piping Plover as an ambassador for conserving shoreline/wetland habitat for plovers and other prairie species. POS works with southern Saskatchewan landowners to voluntarily conserve shoreline/wetland habitat by agreeing not to disturb or negatively alter plover nesting habitat including not draining wetlands, allowing livestock on the shoreline/wetland, or breaking surrounding prairie. Nature Saskatchewan also engages landowners in habitat enhancement projects including support of fencing and alternate water developments to keep livestock away from shorelines used by plovers. POS is one of four programs within the Stewards of Saskatchewan suite of habitat stewardship programs delivered by Nature Saskatchewan to raise awareness and conserve habitat for species at risk.

Speaker Bio:

Shirley Bartz was born and raised far from the Prairies. Whether she was backpacking in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, cross country skiing in the Los Padres National Forest, or rock-hopping in the hoodoos of Joshua Tree, Shirley was always watching birds, chasing lizards, staring at bugs and tracking mammals. Following her passion for studying living things, Shirley completed a B.Sc. in wildlife management, worked as a field biologist for 10 years, and then completed an M.Sc. in biology. Shortly thereafter, she moved to Winnipeg and soon settled out in Regina. In the 13 years that she's lived in the Prairies, she's found the rolling grasslands as comforting as the sage and chaparral of her native southwestern U.S., and takes a similar joy in feeling small under the Prairie sky as she did on the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

Shirley delights in sharing her passion for stewardship of rare species, and in reciprocal learning about conservation and restoration of native ecosystems. While in her temporary position as Habitat Stewardship Coordinator, Shirley is looking forward to applying her experience engaging with multi-use land owners and monitoring species at risk. She hopes to continue working with Nature Saskatchewan long into the future.

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