

2:35 - 3:10

**NGPC's Survey of Secretive Marsh Birds -
Mallard Room**

Since little is known about the populations and habits of secretive marsh birds in Nebraska, this survey was initiated. Information about the Rainwater Basin wetlands will be highlighted.

- Lauren Dinan, and Joel Jorgensen, NGPC

**The Berggren Plan, Nebraska's Mega Plan to
Improve Pheasant Hunting - Pintail Room**

Learn about the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission's "Berggren Plan" - a comprehensive, science-based effort aimed at improving the pheasant hunting experience in Nebraska.

- John Laux, NGPC

**Ecotourism and Benefits to Landowners - Goose
Room**

Calamus Outfitters is a family owned business in Nebraska's Sanhills. Ecotourism is part of this ranch operation. This presentation highlights how bird watching, tubing, and tanking are incorporated into the operation.

- Sarah Santorum, Calamus Outfitters

3:15 - 3:50

**How Will Changes in Future Precipitation Affect
Playa Plants and Soils in the Rainwater Basin? -
Mallard Room**

Results of a greenhouse experiment evaluating playa plant and soil nutrient cycling response to precipitation treatments that simulate future climate scenarios will be presented.

- Rachel K.Owen, University of Missouri - Columbia

**Private Land and Public Land Project at Pintail
WMA - Pintail Room**

Private lands projects completed in conjunction with restoration on public lands can provide win-win benefits to perpetually protected wetlands and surrounding landowners. Hear how the Pintail WMA project accomplished that objective.

- Laurel Badura, USFWS and Scott Luedtke, NGPC

Groundwater/Irrigation Policy - Goose Room

For 45 years Nebraska's NRDs have been protecting lives, property, and the future of natural resources with management of groundwater as a cornerstone. This panel presentation will highlight NRD groundwater regulations within the RWB.

- Mike Onnen, General Manager Little Blue NRD;
Nolan Little, Water Resources Manager Tri-Basin
NRD; Dave Eigenberg, General Manager Upper Big
Blue NRD; Central Platte NRD representative

Thank you for attending!

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The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture thanks its funding partner for helping make this seminar possible . . .



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RAINWATER BASIN JOINT VENTURE

22ND ANNUAL

INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

HOTEL GRAND CONFERENCE CENTER

(FORMERLY MIDTOWN HOLIDAY INN)

2503 SOUTH LOCUST STREET

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

Welcome!



JOINT VENTURE

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8:30 - 9:30 Registration

9:30 - 9:45 Welcome - *Andy Bishop, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Coordinator*

Plenary Sessions: _____

9:45 - 10:30 Nebraska Environmental Trust Funding Support for Wetland Conservation

The Trust has given over \$260M to more than 2,000 projects across the entire State. On average those dollars have been matched 2:1, meaning there has been almost \$800M of impact.

- Mark Brohman, NET Director

10:30 - 10:40 Break

10:40 - 11:25 What is the Value of Wildlife?

Society's relationship with nature is evolving, but are the emerging values sustainable? Nationally, the Blue Ribbon Panel is striving to avert a fish and wildlife conservation crisis.

- Kristal Stoner, NGPC Wildlife Diversity Program Manager

11:25 - 11:35 Break

Concurrent Sessions: _____

11:35 - 12:10

Effects of Wetland Presence and Upland Land use on Bee Communities in the RWB - Mallard Room

This study observed if bees utilize playa wetlands as habitat and if surrounding land use affects bee communities—including sites that have undergone restoration practices.

- Cyndi Park, Oklahoma State University

Best Management Practices for Rainwater Basin Wetlands - Pintail Room

Managing against invasive wetland plants is challenging. To understand the effectiveness of different treatments, RWBJV partners monitored management activities for five years. This presentation highlights those results.

- Dana Varner, RWBJV

VRI, Pivot Bridges and Fencing Projects - Goose Room

Variable Rate Irrigation has been implemented in several recent wetland projects. Two operators will present on their projects that included wetland restoration, development of grazing infrastructure, and precision irrigation upgrades.

- Gayle Marsh and Phil Carlson, Operators

12:10 - 1:15 Lunch & Awards Presentation

1:15 - 1:50 _____

Agrichemicals in Runoff and Wetlands in the Rainwater Basin - Mallard Room

Agrichemicals used in the RWB may infiltrate and impact wetlands. We screened ag drainages and public wetlands for a suite of contaminants including atrazine, fungicides, and neonicotinoids.

- Michelle Hellman, UNL School of Natural Resources

Pollinators – National, State and Local Perspectives - Pintail Room

Interest in pollinators, especially bees and butterflies, is increasing nationwide. Whether it is the iconic monarch butterfly, bumble bees, or the domesticated honey bee, efforts are underway to address habitat needs and population declines.

- Ritch Nelson, NRCS and Kristal Stoner, NGPC

Whitefront WMA Roundout and Wetland Restoration Project - Goose Room

Learn about the process that resulted in the addition to the Whitefront WMA via land trade of an 80 acre roundout. The conceptual restoration plan for the wetland on this tract will also be presented.

- Charla Rasmussen, and Randy Stutheit, NGPC

1:55 - 2:30

Investigations of Playa Basins as Point Source Recharge to the High Plains Aquifer - Mallard Room

Techniques used to investigate recharge through playas are discussed. Results from past and on-going studies are presented to indicate the sources of recharge to the High Plains aquifer.

- Randy L. Stotler, University of Kansas

Trumpeter Swans in the Nebraska Sandhills – Initial Insights - Pintail Room

Little information is available regarding the ecology of trumpeter swans in the Nebraska Sandhills. We present preliminary information from two studies attempting to learn more about this population.

- Heather Johnson and Letty Reichart, UNK, and Mark Vrtiska, NGPC

Programs for Wetland Restoration Funding - Goose Room

NRCS' Agricultural Conservation Easement Program provides technical and financial assistance to restore privately owned wetlands. This presentation will highlight programmatic options and additional cost-share available through the RWBJV.

- Andy Bishop, RWBJV and Tom Schlieff, NRCS