



CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DE LA FAUNE

Your connection to wildlife

Bulletin

NEWS FROM CWF
MARCH + APRIL 2014



Give a Hoot!

CWF's annual Walk for Wildlife is coming up — with a new twist. We're making the burrowing owl the mascot for this year's event. Join in to help CWF conserve this little critter and other species at risk



ISTOCK

Give a Hoot!...

Yes, it's only March and there's still snow on the ground in most of the country. But this is still a good time to be thinking about the warmer days ahead — and, from CWF's point of view, our annual Walk for Wildlife.

Kicking off during National Wildlife Week (April 6-12), the Walk for Wildlife campaign runs right through to International Day of Biodiversity (May 22) and gives people across the country an opportunity to show their support for conservation while making time to connect with nature themselves.

The process is simple: all you have to do is visit WalkforWildlife.ca to register, start collecting pledges, and then head out to a local park, nature trail or conservation area and spend some time in the wild. You can do it informally with family and friends. Or you can head out with a local organization by joining in one of the Walk for Wildlife events listed on the website. For every pledge you receive, you will become part of our loyalty program, where you can receive special prizes.

Want to plan a walk in your community? Download our handy Organizers Guide (see the "Host a Walk" tab) and we will send you a special walk package including complimentary *Canadian Wildlife* magazines, posters, prizes and more. And for those who just want to head outdoors for some quality time in nature, you can let us know where you enjoyed your Walk for Wildlife on our interactive map.

This year, CWF is adding a new twist to the Walk for Wildlife campaign: we're adopting

a mascot to draw attention to a special animal that needs our help: the burrowing owl.

Burrowing owls, arguably the smallest member of the owl family, were once common in Western Canada. Today, they are listed as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. And in spite of recovery efforts, this little owl has grown even scarcer. The reasons for its decline include habitat loss and fragmentation, lack of suitable prey, poison sprays, and other hardships on its breeding grounds in Canada and on its wintering range in Central and South America.

One thing's for sure: the burrowing owl needs all the help it can get.

And we're working on it. CWF has been playing an active role in aiding the recovery of burrowing owls, in part by supporting important work on reintroducing the species underway at the Calgary Zoo through its Centre for Conservation Research. Those efforts include working with partners to participate in fieldwork and to conduct research aimed at maximizing the survival and reproduction success of the owls.

Now you can add your support by participating in Walk for Wildlife and using the event to collect pledges while spreading the word about burrowing owls. You don't have to stop there, either. You can use your walk to talk about species important to your area, as well. After all, events like Walk for Wildlife are about showing that Canadians care about their natural heritage across the country. Join in and be counted.

CWF PROFILE

John T. Williams

John Williams, a former president of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, joined CWF's board in 2005 and today serves as its secretary. With a lifelong passion for the outdoors, he pauses when asked about his conservation priorities. He starts by listing issues, such as water quality, game management and recreational fisheries. Then he says, "there are a lot. I don't know if I could pinpoint a few."

Williams, a retired business owner, first discovered the outdoors as a child through camping and fishing trips with his father. The passion he developed in those early years has stayed with him. "I'm a great believer in getting out in nature," he says. "It's a natural healer. It makes you feel good."

Over the years, Williams has always been engaged in outdoor conservation organizations and activities. With the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, for example, he helped in the restoration of old quarries, returning them to their natural state. He also places great importance on introducing youth to nature and makes the novel argument that rather than pulling them away from their technology, we should use it to bring them closer to the outdoors.

Williams lives in Winnipeg with his wife, Anne. He has two children and three grandchildren.

Teaming Up for Wildlife ...project funding

With generous support from the Rogers Foundation, CWF is working to expand efforts to promote healthy shorelines and promote turtle conservation.

LOVE YOUR LAKE

The Rogers Foundation has granted \$105,000 annually for three years to help fund the outreach and community-engagement component of the Love Your Lake program through the delivery of property-specific shoreline improvement packages in more regions of Canada. The funds will support long-term engagement through the loveyourlake.ca website to ensure the program continues and grows in future years.

To execute this program nationally, CWF will continue with the delivery model developed in Ontario, where the program has been run in partnership with regional watershed organizations and lake associations.

The Love Your Lake program is designed to improve the health of freshwater wildlife by working with waterfront property owners to create and maintain healthy shorelines.

MUSKOKA TURTLE CONSERVATION

Freshwater turtles in Ontario are at risk because of factors ranging from habitat loss to nutrient runoff. Of the province's eight native species, four are designated threatened by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Two more are of special concern and one is endangered.

To help the turtles, CWF has received annual funding of \$73,700 for three years from the Rogers Foundation to support community engagement for turtle conservation in the Muskoka region.

Freshwater turtle conservation led by CWF and delivered in collaboration with regional partners will foster tangible outcomes, such as the creation of safer nesting habitats. This will be paired with a broad communications strategy that addresses the risks turtles face. By inspiring Muskoka residents to protect turtles, CWF will create a national example of how these precious species can be protected.



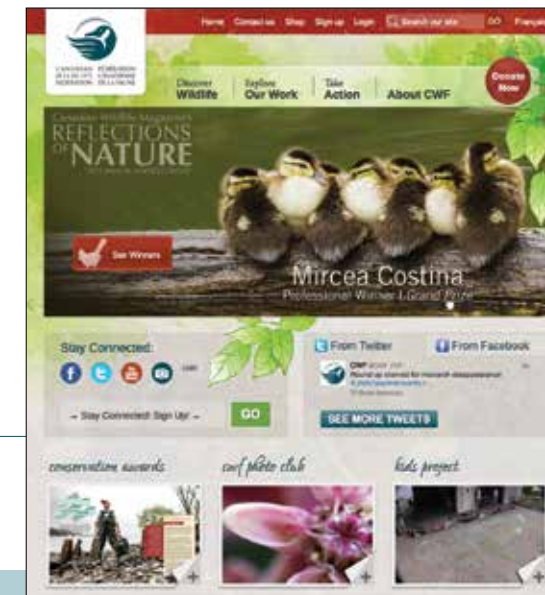
DEBBIE COPPERMANN



Your Shot

Congratulations to Kerry Stratham, who won the December 2013 By Popular Vote monthly photo contest with this charming image of a mother polar bear caring for her cubs. The theme of the December contest was "Old and Young." The themes for the March and April contests are "Signs of Wildlife" and "Enchanted Trails," respectively.

Visit WildPhotoContest.ca for your chance to win a CWF prize package valued at \$100.



CWF NEWS, PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

What's Happening

Wild for Students

CWF and Algonquin College in Ottawa are teaming up to enrich the conservation content of programs on offer at the school. Under a memorandum of understanding, this new program promotes the sharing of curriculum, resources and expertise to promote outdoor education. "We are always looking for partnerships that benefit our students," Algonquin president Kent MacDonald says. "Given the expertise and excellent reputation of the Canadian Wildlife Federation, we are pleased to enter into this joint venture."

Ready for Trouble

CWF is joining a new national steering committee to coordinate response to marine animal emergencies, such as entanglements, strandings and entrapments. Other members of the committee include the Marine Animal Response Society (Nova Scotia), Whale Release and Strandings (Newfoundland and

Labrador), the Groupe de recherche et d'éducation sur les mammifères marins (Quebec) and the Vancouver Aquarium's Marine Mammal Rescue Centre. The committee is now developing a comprehensive operational and funding strategy.

We're All Wet

Even if you don't live near a coastline, oceans are an

important part of your life. That's the message CWF is bringing to classrooms with its new Saltwater Cities Kids Project, which connects young students around the world online to explore the importance of oceans from a global perspective. Check out the Saltwater Cities Kids Project online at CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca. You'll find resource

materials, sign-up forms and galleries of projects from Canada and abroad.

Speakers' Corner

David Browne, CWF's director of conservation, was a speaker in February at the conference "Biodiversity Offsets in Canada: Getting It Right, Making a Difference." Organized by the University of Ottawa's Sustainable

Prosperity Institute, the two-day meeting explored issues in and around the idea of offsetting biodiversity losses due to development with protection efforts, resulting in a zero net gain or loss. Browne spoke about the problems with taking an offsetting approach to protecting species at risk.

Connect

For more online wildlife news, tips, facts and photos, sign up for CWF's free monthly newsletter, *Wildlife Update*. Visit CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca and enter your e-mail address under "Get CWF News." You can also follow the Canadian Wildlife Federation on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

