

# Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve



1st Place Winner 2009 RMBR Photo Contest - Liz Cieszynski

## Management and Direction

Board of Directors – 2009

Ray Frey (Chair) – RM of Park  
Nick Fiarchuk – RM of Grandview  
Martin Woodley – RM of Strathclair  
Ilse Ketelsen – RM of Rossburn  
Dwayne Blackbird – First Nations  
Daryl Nuestader - member at large  
Sandy Walters – member at large  
John Whitaker (past Chair)

Valerie Pankratz - Executive Director

## Three Functions of a Biosphere Reserve

Conservation of biological diversity so all the animals, plants, insects, trees, and fungi remain there for generations to come to see.

Development of better ways to live and work in the environment so that we do not destroy nature's resources or the traditional and cultural ways of the people who live in these areas.

Support scientific research by being "open air" laboratories and classrooms for research and for teaching people how to find solutions to some man-made problems in the environment.

## Contact

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[www.rmbbr.ca](http://www.rmbbr.ca)

## New Offices for RMBR

New Office for RMBR. This new office space is located in the town of Erickson, about 10 km south of the south entrance to Riding Mountain National Park. The office space will hold a boardroom, two office spaces for researchers or other likeminded organizations, a library and archives. Over the winter months we will be working with various groups and local schools on a plan to convert a vacant lot that is included in our lease into a native species garden and interpretive walk.

## Ministerial Announcement of Environment Canada Funding



RMBR held this event September 22, 2009 with MP Inky Mark making the announcement of the 5 year funding package at Proven Marsh, an Important Bird Area and Heritage Marsh located near Erickson Manitoba. Local residents and representatives from municipal, provincial and federal government attended.

## Onanole Elementary School becomes a UNESCO ASPnet School

The first school in the RMBR to become a candidate UNESCO ASPnet (Associated Schools Project Network) school was officially announced at the end of June. Onanole Elementary School has 54 students and is working on projects dealing with poverty, animal cruelty and environmental issues.



RMBR helped to celebrate their candidacy with hands-on programs that included learning about the RMBR and UNESCO, the health of our watershed and invasive plant species. ASPnet Schools are schools which promote an inclusive environment that is safe and caring, respects diversity and the rights of all persons, and provides equitable opportunities for success while incorporating peace education into their curriculum. Peace Education involves teaching individuals the information, attitudes, values and behavioural competencies needed to resolve conflict without violence and to build mutually beneficial, harmonious relationships.



UNESCO ASPnet was established by UNESCO in 1953. Canada joined UNESCO ASPnet in 2001 and today there are now more than 7100 schools in 176 countries involved. We will be working with the teaching staff at Onanole Elementary to help to create projects that will fit with the UNESCO values for this school year as well as future projects for the coming year.

## Get Involved!



**Become a Member of the Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve**

Student/Senior, Individual, Business and Not-for-Profit Rates

**Be a Hero – Support your Biosphere Reserve – Save your World**

## Parkland Habitat Partnership



RMBR administers and facilitates the Parkland Habitat Partnership (PHP) project in creating an inventory of acreage that may be suitable to developing forested corridors for animal movement. This year a data base of information was created from works of previous years in order to better determine where habitat may be found that might contain species at risk and of concern as well as native fescue prairie, and calcareous fen. Field work encompassed an area along the Shell River Valley in the northern area of the Biosphere Reserve. Thirty-six parcels of land were inventoried. The PHP was also involved in research for habitat of the Golden Winged Warbler, a Manitoba Species at Risk.

## Adopt A River

Education pilot project– The RMBR facilitated and provided expertise for visitor and citizen science model intakes within the biosphere reserve in partnership with Friends of RMNP and Riding Mountain National Park. This project is being adapted to accommodate for the slow water that is found in most of the area of the biosphere and templates are further being adapted in a “Wild On Wetlands” program that can be taken to schools so students can monitor the health of the water and monitoring vegetation and animal and insect communities.



## EcoScience Camp 2009

This year’s EcoScience Camp saw 28 students selected from schools across the biosphere participate in a three day outdoor science experience October 1-4, 2009. Students participated in sessions about the United Nations, UNESCO and the Man and Biosphere project. They found out about and became familiar with some of our ongoing projects. This year students were also engaged in map reading and gps training, grasslands education and water health using a modified version of the Adopt a River project.

## Caching Riding Mountain

GPS training workshops and events for schools and community groups allowed people to learn to use technology that will take them to interesting and significant environmental, historic and cultural sites throughout RMBR. The 3<sup>rd</sup> GPS Adventure Quest held in June had teams of Geocachers trying to locate 52 geocache locations in a 26 hour race around the biosphere. Some of the activities they participated in were herding goats at a goat ranch near Kelwood, flailing wheat at the historic Nygrych site and identifying plant species deep in the boreal forest of Riding Mountain National Park. Congratulations to our 1<sup>st</sup> prize winners – Team Treasure Hunters



**Coming Up! - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual GPS Adventure Quest June 12-13, 2010**

## RMBR has a Website!

The RMBR website is live and new sections/pages of the website continue to be developed. Information on some of our ongoing projects can be found on the site as well as updates and news. You can find the website at [www.rmbr.ca](http://www.rmbr.ca).

## Mountain Side Woodlot Program

The Mountain Side Woodlot Program is new project with the objective of sustaining/ maintaining regional woodlots by demonstrating ecologically sound forest management practices designed to deliver ongoing economic return to landowners while developing practices that meet landowner needs with landowner inputs.

### Upcoming Woodlot Program Seminars:

January 26<sup>th</sup> 2010 – 1:00 – 3:00 pm – Onanole

**For more information please contact:**

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**Don't Forget! RMBR Photo Contest - Deadline for Entries June 18, 2010**

**See the website for more details! [www.rmbr.ca](http://www.rmbr.ca)**