

Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve



Summer 2010

1st Place Winner 2010 RMBR Photo Contest – Cherie Storozinski

Management and Direction

Board of Directors – 2010

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

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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Our Mandate:

To foster and encourage a sustainable community-based regional economy with high biodiversity, landscape and social values.

Biodiversity Day Celebrated With Erickson Elementary Students



To celebrate UN designated International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22nd, Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve enlisted the help of five students from Erickson Elementary School. The students wanted to create an art project demonstrating the diversity of plant and animal life encompassed in the only

Biosphere Reserve in Manitoba and used chalk, a sustainable non-permanent medium, to do this. The mural on the driveway of RMBR's office in Erickson was an eye-catching 45ft x 14ft.



Biosphere Reserve Teams Up With Park West School Division



Elementary schools in the Park West School Division got back to nature thanks to a three-day trip in Riding Mountain National Park. The trips are set up in partnership with Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve, Parks Canada and Friends of Riding Mountain National Park and exposes kids from various schools to the outdoors. Students discovered information about the RMBR and activities included a GPS unit geocache adventure which led students into the brush at Lake Audy, and a pseudo archaeological dig at a potential bison kill site along the Manitoba Escarpment.

Warblers to Waterfowl Weekend



Despite the cool wet weather nine people from across Manitoba came to the Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve to search for great grey owls, herons and the rare golden winged warbler and were treated to a host of wonderful warblers and other exciting boreal forest birds in the Biosphere Reserve's core protected area, Riding Mountain National Park. While the weather was a bit wetter than some would have liked, meeting friends old and new, great food and excellent accommodations to come back to at the end of the day made for a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. The group was led by expert birders and enthusiastic raconteurs Ian Thorleifson and Ken Kingdon.

Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve is an internationally designated, grass-roots, not-for-profit organization.

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 the World



Buying Local with New RMBR Initiative: At the Farm Gate



A new initiative in the Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve aims to pair farm-fresh food with hungry locals and visitors. The goal of this project is help these "locavores" to find locally produced, fresh products that many small family farms are already producing and selling, such as farm fresh eggs, grass-fed or free-range beef, pork, and chicken, jams, jellies and preserves, baking, fruits and vegetables.



Why Local? The benefits to eating local food are numerous. Not only is the food fresher but also there is less of an environmental impact. The average food item travels between 2,500-4,000 kilometres to reach Manitoba dinner plates. It's not just that food travels far: plastic wrapping, labels, jars, coloring, flavouring, boxes and cans all get shipped to factories to process and package our food before it is shipped to warehouses and stores. Local food is often less processed, less packaged and isn't shipped as far, cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions.



We're not only producing food products here within the Biosphere Reserve that people are interested in purchasing; there are a multitude of farm entrepreneurs that are making soaps and salves with natural and wild crafted ingredients, wool duvets, alpaca socks and a wide variety of unique and inspiring art pieces.

2010 Photo Contest



Our annual photo contest encourages photographers to enter their favourite photograph or digital image from the Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve (including the 15 rural municipalities surrounding Riding Mountain National Park). First place winner this year was Cherie Storozinski (see image in header) from Dauphin. Second place went to Wendy Meilleur Erlendson from Ste Rose du Lac (image on left) and 3rd place went to Celeste Brunel from Winnipeg. This year we received so many terrific submissions it was really difficult to pick our winners. There were 77 beautifully captured photos of life and landscapes within the RMBR.

Low Impact Logging Workshop

Mountainside Community Woodland is made up of Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve, MAFRI, Nature Conservancy Canada, and Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District. Workshops on sustainable woodlot management are held at various times throughout the year. A low-impact logging workshop by Mountainside Community Woodlands has one main goal for anyone with any amount of land: to encourage people to manage their wood lots in a sustainable manner.



Ian Kirby, a Woodlot Forester and Business Development Specialist with MAFRI who helps landowners, small-scale loggers and small-scale forestry companies with woodlot management and ecologically sustainable practices presented at the latest workshop. "When you're managing your woodlot you're trying to steer the woodlot towards an end result for the land owner."

Depending on the goals and depending on the type of property that is owned, harvesting timber and harvesting trees to simulate natural disturbances can be beneficial because of the lack of natural disturbances due to fire suppression.

Colleen Cuvelier, Manager of Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District, which provides incentives for landowners in the Little Saskatchewan River and Oak River watersheds, says that they participate in the Mountainside Community Woodland to help "maintain biodiversity and the health of the watersheds which are affected by the woodlands."

Mountainside Community Woodlands recommends low impact logging, a technique that uses natural species and promotes natural regeneration in areas which logging has occurred in.

RMBR Black Organic Cotton T-Shirts Now Available

Show your support for Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve and the earth by purchasing an RMBR “Be A Hero – Save the World” T-shirt. Profits from your purchase help support educational programming. Purchase these lovely 100% organic cotton t-shirts (black only) and show that you care about the environment and your Biosphere Reserve. Member price only \$10.00 each for the first two. After that it’s the regular (non-member) price of \$24.95.

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 4th GPS Adventure Quest held in June had 12 teams of Geocachers trying to locate 52 geocache locations in a 26 hour race around the biosphere. Some of this year’s physical caches included getting dressed up in heavy fire gear and shooting a barrel with a hose at the Ochre River Fire Station, skeet shooting clay pigeons, hosted by Scandinavia Sporting Clay Association and Delta Waterfowl Minnedosa Chapter. Other activity caches



included guessing between rye, whole wheat and white flower in Sparrow’s Bakery located in Wasagaming and a bird identification challenge held by Nature Conservancy. Treasure Hunters, who returned to defend their title, once again took first place! Every year the Adventure Quest has different locations within the biosphere, the diverse landscape providing the perfect atmosphere to explore mixed terrains and see wildlife (one group even spotting a mother bear teaching her three cubs to climb a tree). This year, a video was created to promote the Adventure Quest, following a team from the beginning to the end. Please check out the website for details (www.rnbr.ca or www.cachingridingmountain.ca). Caching Riding Mountain is a RMBR initiative in partnership with Friends of RMNP and supported by RMNP.

RMBR & Social Networking

The RMBR website (www.rnbr.ca) is live and new sections/pages of the website continue to be developed. RMBR is now giving updates and promoting workshops through Facebook (the number one growing social networking site, which is used by various other international biosphere reserves) and Twitter! Twitter is a communication platform that helps organizations stay connected to their customers. You can use it to quickly share information with people interested in your organization, gather real-time market intelligence and feedback, and build relationships with customers, partners and other people who care about your organization. See RMBR’s Twitter at http://twitter.com/RM_Biosphere.

RMBR Chairs Bovine Tuberculosis Meeting

Though there may be a range of opinions when it comes to bovine tuberculosis, Farmer and RM Councillor of Grandview Jack Squance sums up the best way to take action: “The only way it’s going to work is if everyone’s on one side, working together.”



On Monday June 22nd, RMBR held a field trip for the local committee of The Bovine Tuberculosis Stakeholders Advisory Committee (TbSAC). The Bovine Tuberculosis Stakeholders Advisory Committee (TbSAC) is a multi-stakeholder advisory committee, formed in 2003. Its intent is to allow people and organizations impacted by Tb in the Riding Mountain Eradication Area to have input to the Manitoba Bovine Tb Management Program and its Implementation Plan. The Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve chairs the group, and Parks Canada funds operating expenses. The Manitoba Tb Task Group is responsible for the design and delivery of a program that deals with bovine Tb in wildlife and the wildlife-livestock interface in the Riding Mountain Ecosystem. Riding Mountain National Park is the only national park to be surrounded so heavily by farmland. Bovine Tb is costly to the livestock industry, creates trade barriers and a human health threat.



Biosphere Reserve Announces Plans for Native Species Garden



Beautiful native plants abound within the diverse ecosystems set in Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve. Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve has decided to celebrate our beautiful surroundings by converting the lot of land next to the Erickson office into a native species garden, open for public perusal. The garden, as any native species garden, will be easy to maintain because local plants have adapted to local conditions. The workload that goes with using local plants is significantly lower than a traditional garden. It requires no pesticides or fertilizers. These plants survive in the wild in our region; they should thrive in your yard.

Planting species that are native to the region in which you live has additional benefits as well. You'll attract birds and butterflies to your yard, cut down on irrigation and other maintenance requirements and create an area of natural beauty.

Biosphere Reserve and Parkland Habitat Partnership



The PHP is a group of organizations including Nature Conservancy Canada, Louisiana Pacific, Ducks Unlimited, Riding Mountain National Park and Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve who come together to help support continue to identify areas of natural habitat on private lands within the intermountain corridor between Duck Mountain and Riding Mountain, to foster relationships between conservation partners and local landowners in this region, to promote conservation amongst youth, to determine species at risk populations (birds) and their habitats in the area, and to disseminate information via a website for public and partner use.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Image
by Kay Frey

The RMBR helps to facilitate meetings and administrates the funding for projects, workshops and seminars as well as funding for the summer field staff. This summer Megan Gray was hired for the Land Inventory Specialist position. Megan has completed first year of the Land and Water Diploma program at Assiniboine Community College. Her work included research of existing reports, interviews with landowners, identification and inventory of native prairie, boreal transition, aspen parkland plant species and wetland species on private lands as wells as birds, insects and geological formations. The 2010 Field Season Report will be completed by the end of August and will be available.

Communications and Outreach

This summer RMBR hired Izzy Goluch to fill a communications and outreach position. Izzy has recently graduated from Red River College's Creative Communications Program in Winnipeg, and has skills in journalism, public relations, media production (video camera/camera equipment) and advertising. Izzy has written numerous articles on RMBR activities throughout the summer as well as developed media materials such as posters for schools and brochures for our At the Farm Gate project. Her technical skills in social media has allowed the Biosphere to move into the realm of Twitter and Facebook and we now have a significant following of people who are interested in what is taking place in the Biosphere Reserve from within the biosphere region and well beyond our borders nationally and globally. Izzy has helped to develop online material for our website and has created a video clip promoting Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve Caching Riding Mountain GPS Adventure Quest. This video can be view on our Facebook page – see below for info.



Baydak Lake Trail

Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve joined in partnership with Parks Canada, Lake of the Prairies Conservation District, the RM of Silver Creek and the Silver Beach Lake Cottage Owners Association, and the Baydak Lake Interpretive Trail and Boardwalk Committee to help to begin to create a new trail. The Baydak Lake Interpretive Trail and Boardwalk will take you along a boardwalk over a wetland area, past productive agricultural lands, along scenic lake shores, across into Riding Mountain National Park to a beautiful rolling landscape of mixed wood forest, wetlands, moist woodlands with ostrich fern, beaver dams and to the gorgeous scenery of Baydak Lake. Listen to the haunting call of loons, take in the smell of wild roses wafting in the air and watch for a variety of woodland creatures as you walk this 5 km return trail. The trail can be a bit wet so bring along your rubber boots! Baydak Lake Trail is located at Silver Beach Lake just north of Angusville.

For more information please contact:

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