



THUNDER BAY DISTRICT STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

“To foster and promote the establishment of healthy, productive and self-sustaining ecosystems through partnerships, community participation and education.”

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL UP AND RUNNING

The Thunder Bay District Stewardship Council held its inaugural meeting on July 15, 2009. The Council presently consists of 9 members with Lucy Kloosterhuis serving as Chair and John Kaplanis serving as Co-Chair and MNR employee Davis Viehbeck serving as the District Stewardship Coordinator. Other Council Members include: Jean Hall-Armstrong, Barry Tabor, George Clark, Mac Squires, Bob Turner, Lucie Lavoie, and Bill Greaves.

The Council meets monthly and has already launched a variety of projects including: Invasive Species Prevention & Awareness Campaign, Hen House Program (nesting structures for mallards), Marten Nesting Box Program and a Mason Bee Condo Program to name just a few.

WHAT IS A STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL?

Community Stewardship Councils share a strong commitment to maintaining Ontario's natural resources. Each Council consists of a chairperson with Council members acting as the Board of Directors. On a volunteer basis, individual Council members:

- Provide a community forum to foster stewardship, influence responsible land care by landowners and seek funding and capacity-building opportunities to support their initiatives.
- Work with existing community groups to complement and build on their achievements.
- Encourage cooperation among agencies and associations by focusing on projects that require shared efforts.

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Photo: Davis Viehbeck

Volunteers pose for a quick photo during a cleanup project in 'phase 1' of the Current River Park Project led by the North Shore Steelhead Association.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Come see us at the Central Canada Outdoors Show, February 26th-28th, 2010 at the Sports Dome on the CLE Grounds in Thunder Bay.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to SRC Print & Graphics in Thunder Bay for the creation of our logo:



“Sustaining Resources Together”



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DELTA WATERFOWL EXPANDS HEN HOUSE PROGRAM TO NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Partnership developed with Thunder Bay District Ministry of Natural Resources Stewardship Council

The Thunder Bay District Stewardship Council, a group of volunteers interested in responsible land care and sustainable resource use has partnered with Delta Waterfowl to increase duck nesting habitat in the Thunder Bay area.

The project was spearheaded by Davis Viehbeck, Thunder Bay District Ministry of Natural Resources Stewardship Coordinator. Viehbeck, an avid waterfowl hunting enthusiast, contacted Delta regarding the Hen House Program. After learning more about the program through Carly Michie, Delta Program Coordinator, the Stewardship Council submitted a successful funding application to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources *Community Fish and Wildlife Involvement Program* to support a Hen House project in the Thunder Bay area.

Delta has generously supported the Thunder Bay District Stewardship Council's Hen House project through the donation of twenty-five pre-built Hen Houses to assist the program to get started. Shipment of the Hen Houses from Delta's Canadian office in Winnipeg to Thunder Bay was generously provided at no charge by Erb Transport, a Thunder Bay transportation company.

In addition to the building and installation of the Hen Houses, Stewardship Council members and local waterfowl hunters will be volunteering to monitor and maintain the thirty-five Hen Houses to gauge utilization and ensure the nesting structures are in good form for future nesting seasons.

If you have a pond or wetland on your property and would like to maintain a Hen House, please contact Davis Viehbeck, MNR Stewardship Coordinator at (807)475-1481.

For More Information contact:

Carly Michie, Program Coordinator,
Delta Waterfowl

(877)667-5656

Davis Viehbeck,
MNR Stewardship Coordinator

(807)475-1481



Photo: Davis Viehbeck

Ontario Stewardship Rangers build 'Hen Houses' for a local duck nesting habitat enhancement project.

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

"An ethic in which humans care for the land as one part of the natural system. To participate in environmental stewardship is to make a personal commitment to the land to sustain and enhance it for generations to come."

Questions or Comments? Email us at davis.viehbeck@ontario.ca or call (807)475-1481