



# PELICAN BRIEFS

A Periodic Newsletter  
of the  
Chase Lake Foundation

A Friends Group to Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge  
FALL 2011



## The Passing of Our President Karl Limvere

Karl Limvere, the President of Chase Lake Foundation, passed away on May 20, 2011. Since moving to Medina, ND in 1999, Karl became a dedicated member of the community, involving himself in several groups to help promote the well being of the community he lived in, and that of Stutsman county. Karl was best known by our organization for his dedication to Chase Lake Foundation and to Birding Drives Dakota. He will be sorely missed by this organization and the community of Medina, ND.



Karl Limvere, Chase Lake Foundation President, passed away on May 20, 2011. Photo by Rick Bohn

## 2011 Pelican Update

Pelicans started arriving back to Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) the first week in April of this year. There was still plenty of ice on the lake and scattered snow on the islands but the pelicans were still conducting their courtship flights.

Pelicans began to settle mostly on the larger, south island. Initially, a small group of approximately 15 pairs initiated nesting on the north island. No birds initiated nesting on the peninsula this year.

### 2011 Pelican Update continued

In June aerial surveys were conducted and with the assistance of staff from the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown, 10,427 pelican nests were counted.

In July with the assistance of several US Fish and Wildlife Service staff from the Chase Lake, Arrowwood NWR, and Valley City Wetland Management District (WMD) offices, and staff from Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, over 200 young of the year pelicans were banded.

As of late August, all looks good. The young pelicans are beginning to learn how to fly by hopping, skipping, and bumping their way through the water.



# CHASE LAKE FOUNDATION NEWS!

## FOUNDATION ELECTIONS

Amy Igl, previous Vice President, was sworn in as President at the August Chase Lake Foundation meeting. Ray Heupel was sworn as Vice President. Deb Hoffman and Don Hoffman were also re-elected to the board.

The Foundation thanks to all for stepping forward and volunteering to take on these roles.

## PHOTO DISPLAY

The Chase Lake Foundation recently purchased and automated photo display. The display will be located at the visitors center and will show case photographs by Woodworth photographer and Foundation board member, Rick Bohn.

Rick's collection of scenic photographs of Chase Lake NWR and the surrounding area's wildlife will be a welcomed and informative addition to the visitors center. Stop by and take a look!



## 2012 CHASE LAKE CALENDARS

At the annual fund raising banquet held this past year, one of the great items raffled off was a 2011 calendar highlighting photographs by Rick Bohn.

The Chase Lake Foundation will be putting together a 2012 calendar depicting photographs by Rick and others highlighting the wildlife at Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Contact the Chase Lake Foundation for more information on how to get your copy!

## CHASE LAKE FOUNDATION IS ON THE WEB & FACEBOOK!



The Chase Lake Foundation has it's own website. Visit the site to get information about the Foundation, upcoming events, photographs by Rick Bohn, local birding trails and events, a community calendar plus a whole lot more!

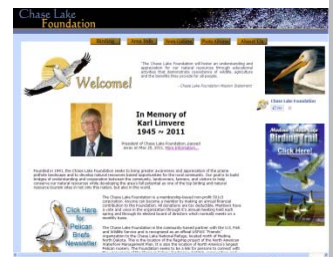
Visit us at:

[www.chaselakefoundation.com](http://www.chaselakefoundation.com)

The Chase Lake Foundation is also on Facebook!

Get updates on the pelicans, local bird sightings and prairie updates, upcoming events, and post your bird sightings as well!

Like us at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chase-Lake-Foundation/156517581076095>

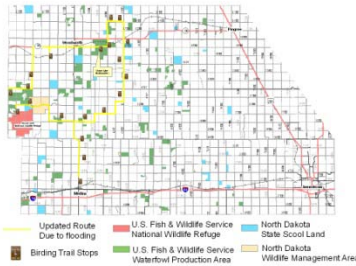


## MEDINA-CHASE LAKE BIRDING TRAIL DETOUR

The Medina-Chase Lake Birding Trail that guides hundreds of birders throughout the local area had to be rerouted this year due to all the high water we have received.

Chase Lake Foundation Board member, Rick Bohn, rerouted the trail to allow visiting Birders an opportunity to enjoy this area's rich bird life. A big thank you goes out to Rick for doing this!

A map showing the detoured route can be picked up at the Chase Lake/Medina Visitor Center, Chase Lake Refuge Headquarters, or printed off The Chase Lake Foundation's Face Book site.



Medina-Chase Lake Birding Trail map  
Showing detoured route due to high water

## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CHASE LAKE FOUNDATION TODAY!

The Chase Lake Foundation welcomes all individuals that have an interest not only in Chase Lake NWR, but also an interest in promoting the partnership that exists between our agricultural community and our wildlife.

We are looking for members that want to help promote all that nature has to offer in this area.

Anybody who gives any supportive monetary donation desired, can become a member for the current year.

## A BIG THANK YOU!

Again the Chase Lake Foundation would like to thank all of those people that attended our annual fundraising banquet held in March and to all those that volunteered and/or donated items for the raffle or auction. We had close to 80 people attend! You helped us raise funds to continue to do projects throughout the area. We believe it was a success and hope to do it again next year!



**President Teddy  
Roosevelt  
Portrayed by  
Dr. Jerome Tweton**

# CHASE LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE NEWS!

## SOME THING YOU MAY NOT KNOW?

Chase Lake NWR is also becoming recognized as an important nesting area for other water birds as well. In recent years, the Chase Lake islands likely comprised nests of over **40,000 breeding birds**.



Black-crowned Night Heron chicks



Snowy Egret chick

Dr. Larry Igl, Ecologist at Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, states “Chase Lake NWR is one of the **most significant mixed-species waterbird colonies in the northern plains** and certainly one of the most important colonies managed by the USFWS in this region.”



Ring-billed Gull Chicks



Double-crested Cormorant chicks

Cattle egrets, Snowy egrets, Great egrets, Double-Crested cormorants, Black-Crowned night-herons, Little blue herons, White-Face ibis, Glossy Ibis, California gulls, and Ring-billed gulls all nest on the islands.

## A First for North Dakota!



Refuge staff found this Mute swan enjoying the waters of Chase Lake NWR in August.

## LOCAL BOYS HELP OUT AT THE REFUGE

Medina high school students, Logan Hoffman and Gage Look, participated in the 2011 Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program at the Chase Lake NWR headquarters this year. Thank you!



Logan Hoffman with pelican chick



Logan & Gage helping at the visitor center



Gage Look with pelican chick

The YCC program is an opportunity for high school to get summer employment in the wildlife/conservation field. It is an 8-week program which began on June 6 and concluded on July 29.

## PARTNERSHIPS MAKE IT WORK

Chase Lake NWR has a great working partnership with the US Geological Survey, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center (NPWRC) office located in Jamestown. It is with the assistance of NPWRC staff that a lot of the work with the pelicans and other birds that make Chase Lake home gets completed.



USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center employee Alisa Bartos, left, and Kris Spaeth, USFWS employee inspecting the north island on Chase Lake NWR.

This year the Chase Lake office received funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's office of Wildlife Health to hire a seasonal employee to monitor the birds out at the Refuge.

Kris Spaeth was hired and has done a great job in keeping watch over the birds. She's like the Grand Mother Pelican!

## SPECIAL VISIT

Chase Lake NWR received a special Visit from the USFWS Wildlife Health office which is located in Bozeman, MT. Diane Borgreen, Wildlife Health,



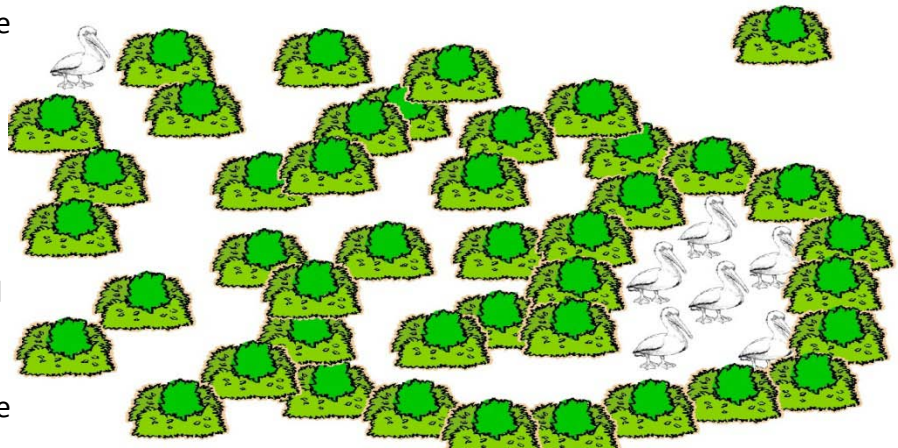
Diane Borgreen, USFWS Wildlife Health, Along with researchers from NPWRC and USFWS discuss the importance of Chase Lake.

Wanted to know more about the birds at Chase Lake. Researchers from USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, and USFWS staff gave Ms. Borgreen a tour of the islands and discussed many aspects of all the birds that call Chase Lake home. Ms. Borgreen was amazed by the numbers of birds that use the islands to nest. She left with a great understanding of how important Chase Lake is to many different species.

Some of the pelican chicks at Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge have a difficult time walking through all the vegetation to find each other.

Help Pauly the Pelican navigate his way through all the vegetation to find his friends in their "crèche" at Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

## PELICANS FOR KIDS!



- How many eggs do pelicans lay?
- a. 1
  - b. 2
  - c. 4

## FIND THE LOST CHASE LAKE PELICAN!



## The Warm Season Grasses

It's the beginning of September and the last push from the prairie is underway. Right now is a great time to see the warm-season grasses in their full glory. Warm-season grasses found in our area include:



Big Bluestem



Little Bluestem



Blue Grama



Sideoats Grama



Indian Grass



Switch Grass

Peak growth periods of these mostly perennial bunch grasses are from June through August. The growth form of native warm-season grasses is a key factor in their wildlife habitat value. The bunch grass open structure provides bare ground between the plants allowing for easy wildlife movement while providing protective overhead cover. Native warm-season grasses are structurally durable, with stems capable of withstanding heavy loads of snow in the winter. This characteristic provides wildlife with winter cover and decreases winter mortality. Warm-season grasses provide particularly useful nest sites for ground-nesting birds. Their bunching nature provides the type of structure and materials important for nest building. Native warm-season grasses have been shown to be very beneficial for livestock production also. Warm-season grasses thrive and provide high quality forage during hot summer months, during which time cool-season grasses are slow growing and unproductive.

## August/September Flowers – The Sunflower Family

This time of year one also notices the late summer blooming native forb species. This year it seems the Stiff Sunflowers have really taken off. Stiff sunflower is perennial by long rhizomes and often forms patches on the prairie. Plants may be five feet tall, but one to two foot specimens are most frequently encountered. Rough, hairy leaves grow in pairs up to about the middle of the stiff, prickly stem. Flower heads are purplish-brown in the center, with yellow rays about an inch long. From one to five flower heads are found on each stem.



Narrow-leaved Blazing Star  
(*Liatris punctata*)



Stiff Sunflower (*Helianthus rigidus*)



Round-headed Blazing Star  
(*Liatris ligulistylis*)

We've been noticing two blazing star species in our area. The Narrow-leaved Blazing Star is usually about 10-18 inches tall. The narrow, sandpapery leaves point strongly upward and are covered with tiny dots of resin. Bottom leaves are about four inches long, but get progressively smaller toward the top of the plant. One-to-two dozen light purple (rarely white) flower heads about 1/2 inch wide form spikes on the upper one third of the plant. The Round-headed blazing star is a tall, gaudy plant with ten to fifteen brilliant smoky-purple flower heads atop unbranched stems. The heads are about an inch wide. Leaves are rough to the touch. At the bottom of the plant the leaves may be over six inches long, but they become progressively shorter towards the top.

# MANAGER'S CORNER!

Well, it's been slightly over a year since I came to the Chase Lake office and that year has gone by fast!

Excluding the weather, it has been a wonderful year for me. I have had many opportunities to meet and work with some great people. I look forward to meeting and working with more such wonderful individuals.

With all the precipitation we have received this year, as with most of you, a fair amount of my time has also been spent dealing with water and flooding issues. At the headquarters we experienced minor water issues with some roads partially flooded and some water issues with the buildings. However, it has been nothing like I see a lot you have had to deal with. Most of the flooding issues I've dealt with are with landowners whose farmsteads are being impacted, township and county supervisors on flooded roads, and contractors looking for material to repair roads. Let's all hope for a dry winter.

Whenever I am able to get out into the field, I am truly amazed by the amount of grass we have on our landscape here. Some of it has been seeded through programs like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or the like, and some of it is native sod that has never been broke by the plow. I grew up in a prairie state where now there is less than 0.1% native prairie left. I realize why you love this area.

One thing I've noticed is the difference between some of the Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) that we manage and some of the grassland tracts some of you manage. What I am noticing is some of the WPAs do not contain the diversity of both grass and forb species that are located on adjacent private pasture. Realizing that



Chase Lake Refuge Manager, Neil Shook, meeting with students this summer from Sitting Bull College discussing prairie management .

some of the difference is that some of the WPAs were seeded to specific grass mixes but even some of the native sites lack diversity.

The main difference in management between the two is grazing. Those diverse private pastures had active grazing on them. As you are aware, the prairie requires both fire and grazing in order to remain healthy. We have the ability to conduct the burning but we do not have a herd of bison or elk that we can use to graze the WPAs.

That is where you come in. In order to have healthy, diverse grasslands we need to develop partnerships with people that have cattle and are willing to graze these WPAs. We have developed a handful of partnerships where the WPAs are being grazed. We definitely want to develop more partnerships.

If you or if you know of someone that may be interested in grazing a WPA have them stop by and visit with us or give us a call. We also have programs to cost share fencing materials, water set ups, etc.

It is a true blessing and honor to be where I am at and I look forward to meeting and working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

# MEMBERSHIP, PASS IT ON!

Give this membership application to someone you know and ask them to help support the Chase Lake Foundation



Chase Lake  
Foundation

P.O. Box 311, Medina, ND 58467-0311

email: [clf@chaselakefoundation.com](mailto:clf@chaselakefoundation.com)

[www.chaselakefoundation.com](http://www.chaselakefoundation.com)

## Membership Application

### Become a Chase Lake Foundation Member

Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the Chase Lake Foundation, to move forward in its interpretative and educational programs and activities. Membership includes "Pelican Briefs" newsletter.

Please Print!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Check to have "Pelican Briefs" newsletter emailed to you in .pdf to save paper and postage.

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

*Donations to the Chase Lake Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization, are tax deductible.*  
The Chase Lake Foundation is a partner Friends organization to the US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Print, Fill Out, & Send with Donation to:

**Chase Lake Foundation, PO Box 311, Medina, ND 58467**



**Thank You!**