



**Swift  
Current  
Creek  
Watershed  
Stewards**

# Know Your Watershed

Volume 10- Issue 1

Know Your Watershed

Summer 2016

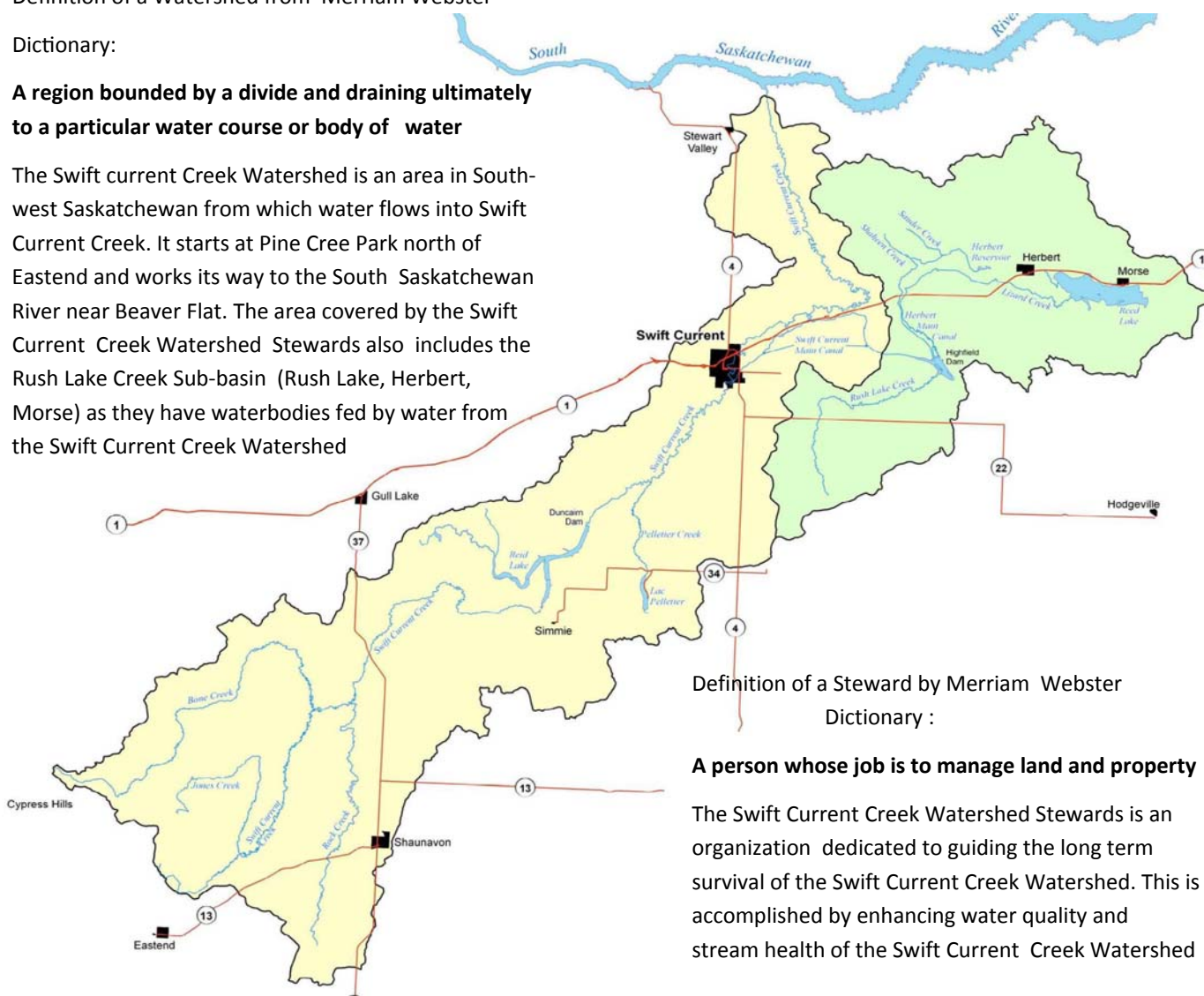
## WHO ARE THE SWIFT CURRENT CREEK WATERSHED STEWARDS

Definition of a Watershed from Merriam Webster

Dictionary:

**A region bounded by a divide and draining ultimately to a particular water course or body of water**

The Swift current Creek Watershed is an area in South-west Saskatchewan from which water flows into Swift Current Creek. It starts at Pine Cree Park north of Eastend and works its way to the South Saskatchewan River near Beaver Flat. The area covered by the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards also includes the Rush Lake Creek Sub-basin (Rush Lake, Herbert, Morse) as they have waterbodies fed by water from the Swift Current Creek Watershed



Definition of a Steward by Merriam Webster  
Dictionary :

**A person whose job is to manage land and property**

The Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards is an organization dedicated to guiding the long term survival of the Swift Current Creek Watershed. This is accomplished by enhancing water quality and stream health of the Swift Current Creek Watershed

The SCCWS would like to thank our sponsors.

### Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards

Box 1088  
Swift Current, Saskatchewan  
S9H 3X3  
306-770-4607

For more information

Visit our website at

[sccws.com](http://sccws.com)

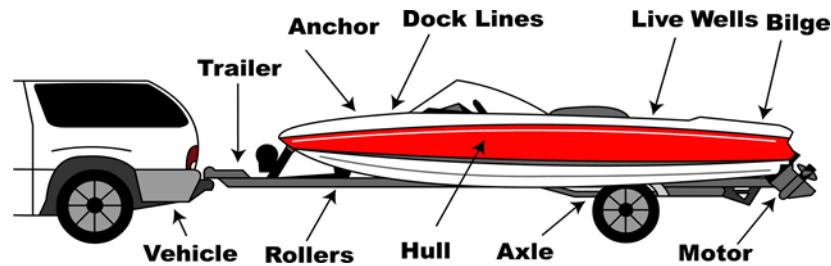
E-mail: [stewards@sccws.com](mailto:stewards@sccws.com)



**Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Agriculture**

# YOU CAN HELP TO STOP THE SPREAD OF ZEBRA MUSSELS

Before returning home from out of province, coming to visit or moving between waters within the province –



**CLEAN** and inspect the watercraft, trailer, equipment and all gear that made contact with the water.

This includes life jackets, floatation devices and skis.

Remove all visible plants, animals and mud. Scrub/scrape grainy surfaces that feel like sandpaper, as this could be young mussels too small to see.

Wash, scrub or rinse using high pressure, hot tap water preferably 50°C (120°F) – away from storm drains, ditches and waterways.

Inspect the watercraft, trailer and vehicle.

**DRAIN** all on-board water from the motor, livewell, bilge, and ballast tanks. Flush with hot tap water away from storm drains, ditches and waterways. Then leave plugs out during transport and storage.

**DRY** your watercraft, equipment and all related gear completely, preferably for at least five days while leaving compartments open to dry.

And remember to **DISPOSE** of all unwanted bait in the trash.

Never release leftover leeches or crayfish, aquarium pets, plants or water into our lakes, rivers or wetlands.

Take the steps above to prevent this from happening:



To report suspected Aquatic Invasive Species

Call the TIP Line 1-800-667-7561 or from your SaskTel Cell Phone #5555

If you are interested in learning more about Aquatic Invasive Species call our office at

306-770-4607 or e-mail [stewards@sccws.com](mailto:stewards@sccws.com)

For more information visit our website at [sccws.com](http://sccws.com).

## Spray With Care

The **Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards** would like to remind all agricultural producers that the preferred practice for taking in water to fill sprayers is to fill a water tank at the creek and haul to the sprayer at a location away from the creek. To protect any source of surface water from which sprayers are being filled, backflow devices and or an air gap should be utilized to prevent backflow contamination from the tank to the water source. Please keep all chemicals away from the creek bank as the risk for contamination is high. An accidental chemical spill would have the potential to kill fish, plants in the riparian area as well as pollute the water.

Let's all ensure that the watershed is a healthy, enjoyable place for future generations.

For more information visit our website at [sccws.com](http://sccws.com).

## Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards Invasive Species Newsletter

### Invasive Species Profile: Leafy Spurge

#### Have you seen this plant?

Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)

#### What does it look like?

Leafy Spurge has many features that you may recognize. Here are a few:

**Stems:** Smooth and can grow up to one meter tall. A white, sticky, milky sap oozes out if the stem or leaves are broken off.

**Leaves:** Arranged alternately directly on the stem and are long and narrow. They are smooth, waxy, and in the summer are a bluish-green colour. In late summer they turn a reddish orange. The leaves can grow up to 7 cm long.

**Flowers:** Small yellow flowers are supported by two green heart-shaped, leaf-like bracts. They grow in small clusters and can produce many seeds, up to 130,000! When the seeds mature they physically explode from the pod and can spread as far as five meters away from the parent plant.



Photo by Rachael Tumquist

Leafy Spurge is classified as a noxious weed in Saskatchewan. It is a long-lived perennial and aggressive invader. This makes it difficult to control or remove it from an area once it's established. The plants grow in large clusters and can create dense stands of spurge over a period of time, making it a menace to ranchers. It produces a milky sap from all parts of the plant. This sap is toxic and an irritant, both to

livestock and humans; making it a negative impact on grazing land and pastures.

**How to Control:** Spurge is resilient to many control measures, but using a combination of practices may have an effective result. Grazing control has been used with sheep and goats, which will readily eat the plants. However the spread of seeds to new areas is always a factor. Cultivation types include intensive throughout the growing season and fall only cultivation. Mechanical control is by means of hand pulling and mowing, in which unless the stand is small, is ineffective. Roots re-establish and the milky sap may cause irritation to skin. Chemical control sees a combination of a few herbicides known to successfully reduce the density of the plants. Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Center at 1-866-457-2377 for more information. Biological control uses species known to consume the plant. Currently there are four species of beetle and two species of moth that have been imported to use as biocontrol.

Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards (SCCWS) are a non-profit organization that is part of the Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP). This program provides agri-environmental education and delivery of Growing Forward 2 (GF2) programs to farmers and ranchers. GF2 is a federal-provincial-territorial policy framework of agricultural programs.

Funding for invasive weed management planning is available to RM's and First Nation Bands through the Farm Stewardship Program. There are many other projects offered through Growing Forward 2 including the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program. Contact SCCWS or Ministry of Agriculture at 1-877-874-5365 or visit [www.saskatchewan.ca](http://www.saskatchewan.ca).

*Technical information was sourced from The Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan.*



# **SWIFT CURRENT CREEK WATERSHED STEWARDS STAFF**

**Kevin Steinley, BSA**

**Executive Director, Joined the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards May 2016**



I operate a cow calf operation with my brother and his family. We are the third generation to raise livestock on the farm north of Rush Lake.

I understand first-hand the importance of maintaining water quality and stream health of the Swift Current Creek. Our cattle drink water from the Swift Current Creek Watershed, and much of the forage fed to the livestock is from land irrigated with water from the Watershed.

I graduated from the College of Agriculture with a degree in Animal Science in 1990. Since then I have held a number of positions gaining experience working with producers, government and business, allowing me to effectively promote awareness and understating of the importance of the Swift Current Creek among all stakeholders in the Watershed.

**I can be contacted at 306-770-4607 or e-mail [kevin.steinley@canada.ca](mailto:kevin.steinley@canada.ca)**

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**Dallas Peters, B. Sc Environmental Biology, Integrated Resource Management**

**BMP Technician, Joined the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards April 1, 2016**



My involvement with the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards started in high school when I volunteered to help on the biomonitoring projects. My lifelong love of the creek and prairies led me to taking post-secondary schooling at SIAST Woodland Campus in Prince Albert, SK and earning a diploma in Integrated Resource Management and a B.Sc. degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Regina. I was happy to come back to the Stewards as the summer student coordinator and even taking on the coordination of the biomonitoring projects in 2013. In 2016 I joined the Stewards again as the Beneficial Management Practices Technician. I strive to educate all users of the Swift Current Creek Watershed and its importance to rural, urban, and agricultural communities. We have a valuable resource in the creek and it provides so much in terms of a water supply, diversity with wildlife, and aesthetic values within the city of Swift Current and surrounding area.

**I can be contacted at 30-770-4606 or e-mail [dallas.peters@canada.ca](mailto:dallas.peters@canada.ca)**

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**Victoria Orthner**

**Student Stewardship Coordinator 2016**



I am the Student Stewardship Coordinator. My role is to provide the Frog Hoppers Presentation to students across the watershed. The Frog Hoppers Presentation is a fun and interactive learning experience aimed to spread awareness about the Swift Current Creek Watershed and its inhabitants. This is my second summer in this position. During the year I attend Brandon University, taking Music Education. I will be entering my third year in the fall. Despite the fact that this is not my main field, I grew up on a farm so I understand the value of having a positive impact on the environment. It is my goal to educate the young generation of water users to help improve water quality and environmental health.

Throughout the summer I will be in various places in the community, so be on the lookout for me and do not hesitate to talk to me and learn all about the Swift Current Creek Watershed.

**I can be contacted at 306-770-4623 or email [victoria.orthner@canada.ca](mailto:victoria.orthner@canada.ca)**