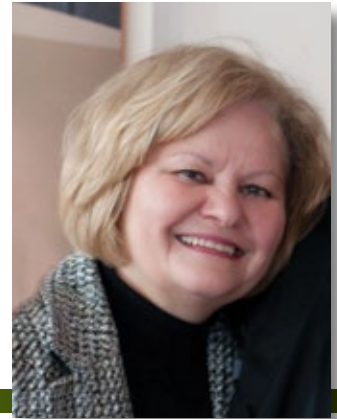


The Great Gray Owl Award

By Christyann Olson, *AWA Executive Director*



Heather Crone



AWA's top volunteer award is the Great Gray Owl Award that is presented to an outstanding individual in recognition of characteristics, not unlike the great gray owl. With unending patience and dedication to purpose, these individuals work wisely and tenaciously to conserve wilderness habitat and wild creatures. Our success is a reflection of the enduring commitment they have made to AWA.

Heather Crone is this year's Great Gray Owl – she embodies a high standard of volunteerism, dedication and commitment. Heather describes herself as a Saskatchewan farm girl. She called AWA her family when she accepted her award at our Annual Awards and Lecture evening on October 31, 2014. Knowing and appreciating your fami-

ly and helping when you can is both natural and very important to her.

We describe Heather as “vivacious, tough, caring” and so those words are engraved on the plaque recognizing her and our other award winners. Shy of the spotlight and always ready to help – that's Heather. Sometimes I think she literally reads your mind. Just think that something needs to be done and... when you turn around – presto – Heather's already working on it! No muss, no fuss, just “I'm here to volunteer, what can I do?” Whether it's her gorgeous, reassuring smile or the fact that she always seems to have the tool we need for this or that job Heather epitomizes what the volunteer spirit really means. We are so pleased to honour her with our top volunteer award!