

# South Dakota Chapter The Wildlife Society

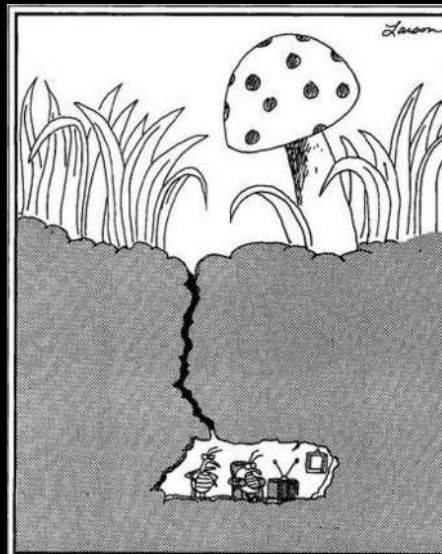


## A Prairie Voice



## What's Inside...

- 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes
- President's Message
- Notes From Dennie Mann
- [2021 Annual Meeting Recordings](#)
- NEW—Notes from the field—check it out!!



"You call this a niche?"

# President's Message

Hello wildlife society members! I hope you are enjoying the change of seasons. Spring is always a beautiful time in South Dakota, when everything starts to green-up, pasque flowers bloom and the birds and frogs start regaling us with their beautiful chorus.

The last year has been challenging in so many ways due to the pandemic. To help ensure the health of the SD TWS members, the board decided to hold our 2021 Annual Meeting in a virtual environment. I hope that many of you were able to attend some if not all of the presentations and the annual meeting. Our agenda covered many interesting topics dealing with the pandemic's effects on wildlife and research, advancements in technology, and how citizen science can increase the amount of research that is being conducted. If you haven't seen the presentations I invite you to check them out at your leisure. The presentations were all recorded and can be accessed on youtube [HERE](#).



The board is currently planning for next year's Annual Meeting. We are hoping for an in-person meeting at Cedar Shores in Oacoma, from March 2-4, 2022. More to come as these plans come together. Please remember to take photos as you are out and about for our annual photography contest!



At the 2021 annual business meeting, our membership voted in Brady Neiles as the President-Elect, Melissa Greenwalt as Secretary-Treasurer, and Anna Kopp as a board member. The other board members still in service are Casey Heimerl (Past President) and Robert Lonsinger (board member). I want to thank the outgoing board members Bruce Toay, Chad Carlson, and Eric Magedanz for all their help on the board in 2020.

Our TWS chapter presents awards annually to individuals or groups who have made an outstanding contribution towards furthering the aims of wildlife management in South Dakota. This year Cynthia Anchor was presented the Master's Student of the Year award, and Anna Kase was presented the PhD Student of the Year. The Citizen of the Year award was presented to David and Teri Geditz for their outstanding land stewardship. And the Wildlife Professional of the Year award was presented to Jon Jenks for his lifelong commitment to South Dakota's wildlife resources.



You will see in this newsletter some highlights from on-going research projects in our state. I welcome you to submit a short article and photo for the next newsletter. There are so many interesting projects happening all the time, and I'm positive the other members would love to learn more about them.

Enjoy your spring!

Julie DeJong

SDTWS Chapter President

[oologist.jd@gmail.com](mailto:oologist.jd@gmail.com)



# SDTWS Mentoring Program

I would like to remind everyone of a great opportunity through the SDTWS that is available for both professionals and aspiring professionals alike. The SDTWS Mentoring Program was launched in the fall of 2019 and has had 10 mentors and 10 mentees sign up to be involved.



This program was designed to connect professionals with nonprofessionals as well as professionals with professionals who seek guidance and constructive feedback to aid in the aspects of career direction and opportunities, professional and academic advice, and fostering networking relationships.

The SDTWS board will connect mentees with appropriate mentors. We encourage all that are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee to please email Eric Magedanz at [eric.magedanz@state.sd.us](mailto:eric.magedanz@state.sd.us).

# The Wildlife Society News

## Popular Articles on the TWS website

- [Filling piping plover research holes](#)
- [Migrating whooping cranes avoid wind turbines](#)
- [Migratory Bird Treaty Act rule to be revoked](#)

For the latest TWS News

<http://wildlife.org/learn/news-center/>



**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**  
*Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation*



## Check it out...

- Renew your membership [online](#) at SDTWS website
- SDTWS is on Facebook!

### South Dakota Chapter



[Chapter Home](#) [About](#) [Membership](#) [Annual Meeting](#) [News](#) [Contact](#)

Click [here](#) to join the group! Facebook is a great way to share information, post events, to stimulate discussions on environmental issues or other topics of interest.

Contact Chuck Pyle at [goosemansd@hotmail.com](mailto:goosemansd@hotmail.com) if you have events, pictures, or topics you would like posted to the site.



# Notes from Dennie Mann....

This has been a very limited winter for photographic adventures! Mary Ann had a week off in December and the weather out west was not great for traveling, and another week in March and the blizzard hit with 70 mph winds and 2 feet of snow in Casper, as you can guess another week in SD.



Sharp-tail grouse, sage grouse, ruffed grouse and turkeys have been on the agenda for early spring trips. In visiting with Chuck Berdan during spring sage grouse lek surveys, it appears that the counts may be similar to 2020 but will not know until the middle of May when he completes the surveys!





Winter in Yellowstone was pretty similar to South Dakota with lower than normal snow cover.



I wouldn't be spring without a few trips to the Badlands, the ewes are staging in the Pinnacles and the Homestead overlook areas that are the typical nursery areas for badlands bighorns. No lambs showing up yet but guessing by mid-May we will begin to see a few!



Hope everyone has a great spring season!!!

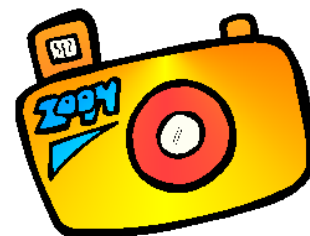
Dennie





## PHOTO CONTEST

**Postponed to 2022  
Save your photos!!**



We know our members have great pictures from their outside adventures including landscapes, hunting, outdoor recreation, and flora/fauna. We would like to showcase your pictures during a photo contest at this year's annual meeting.

**Entry fee:** \$5 per photo—no limit on number of entries

**Size:** 8x10 attached to 10x12 black cardboard / foam board mat

- Photos can be submitted prior to the meeting to any board member or can be brought to the annual meeting
- Winner will be chosen by popular vote at 2022 Annual Meeting & receive 50% of the entry fees.
- The winning photo will be displayed on the SDTWS website and will be made into a canvas to be auctioned off at 2023 annual meeting.





# Notes From the Field....

- SDTWS is looking to highlight projects that students and wildlife professionals are working on.
- If you have a project or story to share—please contact Jennifer Briggs or one of the Executive Board members.  
We look forward to sharing your story.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks biologists have partnered with Scout Clean Energy LLC and Western Ecosystems Technology Inc. (WEST) to study sharp-tailed grouse and wind energy development. Sixty sharp-tailed grouse hens were captured between March 31-April 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 and fitted with solar-powered GPS telemetry units. These units will last for the life of the bird, and will collect locations via cell phone tower signals every 15 minutes. Biologists from WEST and SDGFP will follow these hens for three years (1 year pre-construction and 2 years post-construction) and estimate survival, nest locations, nest success, movement and brood survival.



This study is the first of its kind to evaluate the effects of wind energy development on multiple generations of prairie grouse and will provide science-based solutions for conservation.

Hilary Morey—SDGFP





## **Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife Brings Together Leaders of Outdoor Recreation, Tribes, Business, Sportsmen/women, Conservation & More to Secure Funding to Address Wildlife Crisis**

*This Earth Day, A Bipartisan Bill Aimed at Recovering America's Wildlife Introduced in Congress*

WASHINGTON, DC – April 22, 2021

Today, on Earth Day, an unprecedented alliance of business, academic, tribal and conservation leaders have united to provide a solution to one of America's greatest threats—the decline of our fish and wildlife and their natural habitats. Scientists estimate that one-third of wildlife species in the United States are at risk of becoming threatened or endangered without much needed funding for their proactive conservation. Healthy, sustainable fish and wildlife populations drive many sectors of our economy, especially the \$788 billion outdoor recreation industry.

The solution to this wildlife crisis is passage of the bipartisan *Recovering America's Wildlife Act*, introduced today by Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE). The bill will dedicate \$1.3 billion annually to state fish and wildlife agencies to implement their science-based wildlife action plans and an additional \$97.5 million for tribal fish and wildlife managers to conserve fish and wildlife on tribal lands and waters. This will provide dedicated funding, so state and tribal wildlife managers can proactively conserve fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need in a voluntary, non-regulatory manner before federal listing under the *Endangered Species Act* is warranted. This bill will get Americans back to work immediately, creating an estimated 33,000 jobs each year restoring natural resources and bolstering community resilience while protecting our valuable natural infrastructure. What better way to honor the spirit of Earth Day than to introduce the most impactful wildlife conservation funding bill in a generation.

The [Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife](#) has expanded out of the strong partnership and recommendations created by the *Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources*, consisting of members representing the outdoor recreation, retail and manufacturing sector, the energy and automotive industries, private landowners, educational institutions, sportsmen's and other conservation groups and state, tribal and federal fish and wildlife agencies. The Alliance also sent a letter today to the U.S. House encouraging support for the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* signed by over 350 partner organizations and businesses.

"As we celebrate Earth Day and continue our work to combat the biodiversity crisis, bold solutions are needed to safeguard our nation's wildlife from further decline," said Congresswoman Dingell. "The *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* represents a strong commitment to addressing the current biodiversity crisis using innovative, state-based management that will protect our nation's environmental heritage for years to come."

Congressman Fortenberry added “The *Recovering America’s Wildlife Act* is smart upstream policy to promote continuity of habitat and prevent the costly downstream emergency room procedures of the *Endangered Species Act*—enhancing opportunity for birders, hikers, hunters, anglers, and the burgeoning field of ecotourism.”

Proactive conservation is good for wildlife, good for taxpayers, good for business and good for our communities. By directing funds to State Wildlife Action Plans through the *Recovering America’s Wildlife Act*, America will be fueling shovel ready projects that immediately create jobs in a sector with one of the highest returns on investment and supporting continued world class outdoor recreation opportunities.

“This nation is blessed with abundant fish and wildlife resources that provide enjoyment as well as essential services to people and communities. Our state agencies have the primary responsibility of conserving our treasured natural resources and with this dedicated funding, states and our many partners will be able to make sure our fish and wildlife are healthy for years to come,” said Sara ParkerPauley, Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation and President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. “This past year has really brought into focus the value of nature, outdoor recreation, our overall health, clean air and water and our economy. We must work together now to pass this legislation so that future generations will have these same opportunities and quality of life that we enjoy.”

Not since enactment of the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson acts, that provided critical funding for fish and wildlife on the brink of extinction, have we had an opportunity to pass legislation of such magnitude to the overall health and wellbeing of our wildlife and our planet Earth. The *Recovering America’s Wildlife Act* is the most important conservation legislation in a generation.

“Tribes are our nation’s first people and first conservationists with many fish and wildlife species having biological and cultural importance,” said Elveda Martinez, President of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. “The *Recovering America’s Wildlife Act* is monumental legislation for Tribes to protect these species and our cultural ties to them along with promoting tribal self-governance. With the support of this legislation, the Tribes stand ready and committed to ensure that wildlife endures for all of our future generations.”

“America’s wildlife are in crisis. One-third of all species in the country currently face a heightened risk of extinction. This bill represents a bold, bipartisan vision for how we can recover wildlife and create jobs in every state across the nation,” said Collin O’Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. “There is important work just waiting to be done restoring habitat, removing invasive species, stopping wildlife diseases, reducing water pollution, and mitigating the harm from climate change. This bill will put people to work today protecting our wildlife heritage for tomorrow. Representatives Dingell and Fortenberry’s steadfast leadership on this bill is a shining example of how Congress can still find common ground on conservation even in these polarized times. We’re confident the bill will be signed into law by President Biden this year.”



"As legislative Co-Chair of the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife, I am grateful for the leadership of Representatives Dingell and Fortenberry," said Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation President Jeff Crane. "The reintroduction of *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* represents one of the most significant investments in fish and wildlife conservation in the last two decades. This bipartisan legislation is crucial for ensuring an abundant and healthy future for our nation's fish and wildlife."

A lot is at stake if we do not act soon. Every American benefits when we have healthy and accessible fish and wildlife. We need to start down a new path where we invest proactively in conservation rather than reacting to emergencies that cost taxpayers more than preventative measures like this one.

Please visit [OurNatureUSA.com](http://OurNatureUSA.com) and urge your U.S. Representative to support passage of the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* to address our biodiversity crisis and allow future generations to enjoy the same abundant fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation opportunities that we have today—for Our Nature, Our Nation and Our Future.

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## About the Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife

The Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife formed in 2017 to secure funding for much needed conservation of our most precious natural resources, our fish and wildlife. The Alliance was built upon the strong partnership created by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources. The Alliance consists of members representing more than a trillion dollars of economic impact, millions of non-exportable jobs, and tens of millions of members and consumers across the country, all who rely on healthy fish and wildlife populations. Our goal is to partner with all Americans to conserve our precious fish and wildlife and natural heritage for future generations. Learn more at [OurNatureUSA.com](http://OurNatureUSA.com).



## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

*South Dakota Chapter, 523 E. Capitol Ave.*

*Pierre, SD 57501, (605) 773-4345*

**Executive Board Meeting, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**1:00 – 4:00 PM (CST)**

*Heimerl called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm (CST). Meeting conducted via Zoom video conference with Heimerl, DeJong, Magedanz, Carson, Lonsinger, and Toay present.*

- Secretary/Treasurer's Report
  - Approval of minutes from last executive board meetings (12/16/2020)
    - *Magedanz motion to approve minutes, second by Carlson*
    - *No further discussion; all in favor, minutes approved*
  - Approval of Treasurer's report
    - *Toay reviewed recent income and expenses*
    - *DeJong motion to approve report, second by Lonsinger*
    - *No further discussion; all in favor, Treasurer's report approved*

### Old Business

- 2021 Annual Meeting Planning
  - Agenda/Presentations
    - *DeJong reviewed agenda and request for one presentation to be pre-recorded*
    - *After discussion, board decided to replace that time slot with another live presenter and provide link via website for pre-recorded presentation*
    - *After further discussion, the board decided to post recordings of the entire conference on the website, except the annual business meeting*
      - *Each afternoon will be divided into two sessions for four total links*
    - *DeJong to follow up with presenters to seek approval for recording*
    - *Toay to explore recording options via Zoom and link to SDTWS website*
  - Abstracts
    - *DeJong to solicit abstracts from all presenter and include on the agenda document*
  - Moderators
    - *Heimerl as President will moderate the Wednesday afternoon session and the Annual Business Meeting*
    - *DeJong as President-elect will moderate the Thursday afternoon session*
    - *Moderators will include time after each presentation for question submitted via Chat option in Zoom*



- Speaker bios and presentations
  - *DeJong to request short bios from each of the presenters and distribute to moderators*
- Presentation Evaluations
  - *Need three evaluators each for the MS presentation award and the Open presentation award*
  - *Heimerl to locate ranking forms*
  - *Evaluators will send scores to Heimerl immediately following the last presentation so award can be announced prior to closing*
- Test Zoom for presenters
  - *DeJong to query presenters that may request a test-run Zoom session to ensure comfort level*
- Registration update from Bruce
  - *Currently 19 registrants for either Day 1 or Day 2 of Zoom meetings*
  - *Anticipate higher enrollment after agenda announced and as we get closer to session*
  - *After agenda and format is finalized, all board members to expand outreach to students, agencies, etc., to expand viewership and take advantage of virtual setting*
- Awards
  - When to present the nominated awards and presentation awards?
    - *Awards typically announced during the Thursday evening reception*
    - *After discussion, the board decided to present award at the tail end of the Annual Business Meeting*
    - *Set a time for 11:00 CST for those who may not attend Business Meeting*
  - Review award nominations and select recipients
    - *The board discussed all nominations received*
    - *Heimerl to request plaques from Nathan Baker and send to recipients in the mail following the conference*
    - *All awards and nominations will be presented during the Business Meeting on Thursday*
    - MS Student Award
    - PhD Student Award
    - Citizen of the Year
    - Wildlife Professional of the Year
- Annual audit – past-president needs to conduct before the annual meeting
  - *Typically conducted the evening prior to Annual Conference*
  - *Toay and Magedanz to meet prior to Annual Meeting to review expense spreadsheets and documents*
- Business meeting

- Meeting quorum
  - *25 needed in attendance to validate proceedings of the Business Meeting*
  - *Need to identify Parliamentarian*
- How to handle voting
  - *Board reviewed polling options via Zoom*
  - *Board candidates all running unopposed, but if a vote is needed, Toay will provide polling option via Zoom*
  - *Results can be shared immediately and retain confidentiality*
- Transfer of gavel and presentation of past-president plaque
  - *Virtual transfer conducted during Business Meeting*
- Test run of Zoom with board?
  - *After exploring multiple options during the February Board meeting, an additional Zoom test run for board members was deemed unnecessary*

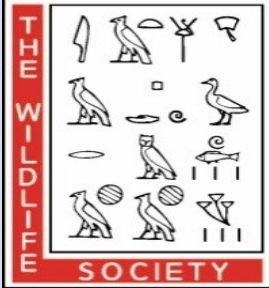
#### New Business?

- Funding requests
  - *No new funding requests received*
  - *Toay noted that donations are being received via PayPal link on SDTWS website*
- Meeting checklist
  - *Heimerl has meeting checklist and is reviewing to ensure continuity*
- Mentorship Committee
  - *Magedanz discussed the growing mentorship program and potential need to establish a committee to assist connecting a growing list of mentees with a minimal list of mentors*
  - *Heimerl to inquire about chapter requirements for establishing a new committee*
  - *Board to discuss with the group during Annual Business Meeting*
- Board member scholarships
  - *Carlson discussed potential option for board members to receive reimbursement for enrollment in the parent chapter (a requirement of board members)*
  - *Many board members were unaware of requirement when volunteering for position*
  - *Ensure all future candidates are aware of the required cost of TWS membership (\$83 Regular Membership)*

*Motion to adjourn by Toay; second by Lonsinger*

*Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm CST*



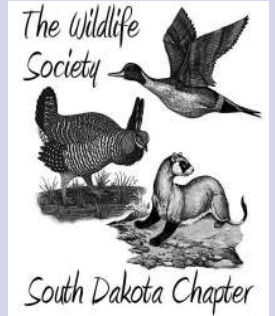


## **SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

**25 February 2021 – Zoom Video Conference**

9:00 am Call to order – Casey Heimerl  
Recognized a quorum (38 in attendance)

Recognized Parliamentarian – Paul Coughlin



Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting – Bruce Toay

Julie DeJong noted to amend and add Life Member #50 Chuck Berdan to list

Motion to approve as amended by Alex Solem; Second by Jennifer Briggs; All in Favor

Annual Treasurer's Report – Bruce Toay

Motion to approve by Josh Stafford; Second by Mary Clausen; All if Favor

Info on voting members – Casey Heimerl noted that new members as of this morning are not allowed to vote in elections

### Old Business

Standing Committee Reports:

Nominations and Elections – Casey Heimerl

\*Comments from the Candidates

- President-elect candidate: Brady Neiles
- Secretary/Treasurer candidate: Melissa Greenwalt
- Board member candidate: Anna Kopp

\*Casting of the Ballots

- Motion to approve all unopposed candidates by Mark Norton; second by Alex Solem; All in favor

Audit – Eric Magedanz

- Reviewed bank accounts on February 23, 2021; found to be in good standing

Awards – Nathan Baker

- One nomination was received for the Wildlife Professional of the Year Award, and one nomination was received for the Citizens Wildlife Award. We also received two nominations for the M.S. student of the year award, and one nomination for the Ph.D. student of the year award, which is offered every other year. Awards will be presented after the annual chapter business meeting. Student and open presentation award plaques were again procured, as was one

for our outgoing chapter president.

- We have five new SDTWS Life Members:
  - o #51 Shelly Deisch
  - o #52 Eric Pulis
  - o #53 Owen McElroy
  - o #54 Randy Meidinger
  - o #55 Drew Davis

## Conservation Review – Mark Norton

- As described in the SDTWS Chapter bylaws, the Conservation Review Committee is charged with reviewing legislative proposals, administrative regulations, and NEPA related documents affecting wildlife or wildlife habitat in South Dakota and making recommendations to the Executive Board regarding possible action by the Board or Chapter. Current members of the committee include Paul Coughlin, Matt Morlock, Bob Hodorff, and Mark Norton.

- Conservation Affairs Network:  
In 2014, the Chapter's Executive Board tasked the Conservation Review Committee to serve as the Chapter's representative to parent chapter's Conservation Affairs Network (CAN). The CAN was launched in early 2014 and serves to engage and unify efforts by chapters, sections, and the parent Chapter in wildlife conservation policy issues at the national, regional, and local levels. The CAN is a venue for streamlined communication, collaboration, and cooperation on policy matters important to wildlife professionals.

- 2020 Conservation Review Committee Activities:  
In 2020, the conservation review committee worked with wildlife diversity committee to draft a comment letter on the definition of habitat for regulatory purposes of the Endangered Species Act as requested by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The committee also reviewed the comment letter drafted by the chapter's Public Lands committee on the Update to the South Dakota Sage Grouse Management Plan by SD Game, Fish and Parks.

In December the conservation Review Committee submitted three federal policy priorities for the next two years to the parent chapter.

These were the Recovering Americas Wildlife Act, the 2023 Farm Bill, and the North American Grasslands Conservation Act. In February, we heard back from the parent chapter on the priorities that were selected by the TWS Council. While our priorities were not specifically listed, they will be more broadly covered by TWS policy staff as the need arises over the next couple of year. See attached 2021-2022 TWS Final Policy Priorities letter.

- The conservation review committee also continues to participate in the Conservation Affairs Network.
- A few other topics on the Conservation Affairs Network's radar over the past year include:

Recovering America's Wildlife Act - The Conservation Affairs network, along with numerous other TWS chapter and section units, has become fully engaged in support and advocacy for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

The US Department of Interior's interpretation of the words "take" and "kill" in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Federal budgets and appropriations

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

Endangered Species Act regulation changes

Gray Wolf delisting from ESA in lower 48 states

- The Executive Board and Chapter membership are encouraged to engage and utilize the Committee as a resource for addressing legislative, policy, and environmental issues affecting South Dakota wildlife and their habitats, and take full advantage of resources available through the Conservation Affairs Network, accessible on the TWS website.

#### Education and Information – Bruce Eichhorst

- Looking to expand Facebook applications and outreach opportunities at SDSU

#### Membership – Chuck Pyle

- Facebook page has approximately 130 members
- Please post scientific and relevant information

#### Program – Julie DeJong

- Planning for 2021 Annual Meeting was difficult with COVID-19
- Solicited guidance from other chapters and similar venues
- 148 registered for Zoom platform Annual Meeting, with increased opportunities to reach broader audiences and speakers
- Recordings of presentations will be available on the website

#### Resolutions and Public Statements – Paul Coughlin

- Primary duties to assist membership and committees to prepare statements

#### Special Committee Reports:

##### Arrangements – Casey Heimerl

- Purchased monthly Zoom membership to accommodate large group (up to 500)

##### Certification – Eileen Dowd Stukel

- The Wildlife Society recently announced changes to the Wildlife Biologist Certification Program, some of which take effect immediately, with others effective in two years. Changes can be found at this link: <https://wildlife.org/new-changes-announced-for-tws-certification-program/>
- For information about Certification, including application material, please visit: <https://wildlife.org/learn/professional-development-certification/certification-programs/>

##### Chapter History – Corey Huxoll

- Nothing to report



Energy –KC Jensen

- Nothing to report

Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife – Andy Lindbloom

- Nothing to report

Fundraising – **Vacant**

- Need a volunteer to fill this position before 2022 Annual Meeting

Grassland Issues –Boyd Schulz/Jim Madsen/Joel Murano/Pete Bauman

- Nothing to report

Missouri River Issues – Nathan Baker

- Nothing to report

Newsletter – Jennifer Briggs

- The SDTWS newsletter, produced each quarter, contains a message from the President, Executive Board Meeting Minutes, Annual Meeting Minutes, SDTWS Executive Board Member contact info, annual membership renewal form, and other items.
- Please bring new ideas, pictures, and comments

Public Lands – Chuck Berdan

- Nothing to report

Tribal Fish & Wildlife – Mike Gutzmer

- Standing Rock Indian biologists Dr. Gutzmer, Jordan Kort and Kurt Tooley will be conducting big game surveys on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in January and February. Our deer populations are stable and increasing with improved trophy quality. Our elk are increasing across the reservation and surveys continue to assess their impacts. Biologist Gutzmer is concept founder of the Tribal Science Area (TSA) for Standing Rock Indian Reservation and other Great Plains tribes (February 2020). Gutzmer' discovered the black-footed ferret on Standing Rock Indian Reservation and has unofficially documented them in North Dakota. He has numerous plant and animal discoveries and documentations across the country in addition to the black-footed ferret. Michael' firm has also been contracted to conduct fish & wildlife surveys on millions of acres of Native American Indian Reservation land in Nebraska, Iowa, Montana, Minnesota, Kansas and the Dakotas and has written over 3 million dollars in grants for them. Gutzmer has written several flora books and is currently writing Aquatic Plants of Nebraska to be published by the University of Nebraska' School of Natural Resources scheduled for publication in early 2022.
- In mid-June Michael Gutzmer was notified by The Wildlife Society that he had been selected to receive The Wildlife Society's Special Recognition Service Award for

2020. This award honors a person or group who has made an outstanding contribution over the short or long term to the wildlife profession. The presentation was made formal in a virtual setting at the 27th Annual Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 27 – Oct. 1, 2020

- Tribal biologists have written three grant applications in 2021 to BIA for the following:
  - o ESA-Listed Small Mammals Management on Standing Rock Indian Reservation
  - o Bald and Golden Eagle Conservation Management
  - o A Baseline Assessment of Invasive Species on Standing Rock Indian Reservation
- Our biologists will again be applying to the USFWS for a Tribal Wildlife Grant for the following:
  - o 2021: Black-Footed Ferret (and Black-Tailed Prairie Dog) Conservation Management on Standing Rock Sioux Reservation
- Tribal Biologists Dr. Michael P. Gutzmer and Kurt Tooley, M.S.
- Introduction: Program Goals
  - o Our goals are to expand and improve the conservation management of the endangered black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) and their primary prey, black-tailed prairie dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*), on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation (Standing Rock). As elsewhere throughout their range, black-footed ferrets (ferrets) and black-tailed prairie dogs [prairie dog] on Standing Rock are currently threatened primarily by habitat degradation and fragmentation, and sylvatic plague.
  - o At this time, however, there are no habitat or population assessments sufficient to manage black-footed ferrets and black-tailed prairie dogs on the 2.4 million acres of tribal and private land on Standing Rock. Consequently, we propose to conduct habitat and population surveys for both black-tailed prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets to fill the information vacuum currently impeding ferret and prairie dog management on Standing Rock.
- We propose:
  - o 1. To conduct surveys sufficient to evaluate and rank order the ferret and prairie dog habitat on Standing Rock.
  - o 2. To conduct surveys for black-footed ferrets on Standing Rock.
  - o 3. To develop a self-sustaining plague monitoring system on Standing Rock.
- We are currently writing a book entitled “Mammals of Santee Sioux Indian Reservation,” and should be drafted in summer 2021.

#### Wetlands – Randy Meidinger

- Nothing to report

#### Wildlife Diseases – Steve Griffin

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): Surveillance for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in South Dakota during the period of July 1, 2020 through February 10, 2021 resulted in the testing of 99 elk, 311 mule deer (MD) and 1,304 white-tailed deer (WTD),

for a total of 1,714 samples. Most of the elk sampling involved collection of heads at drop off locations from hunter-killed animals from the Black Hills. Most deer collections were from hunter harvested deer. A total of 200 WTD samples were collected through the Rapid City, Sioux Falls, and Custer deer reduction programs. South Dakota now has CWD located in 16 counties within the state. This past year, CWD was found in Sully county to the north of Pierre and is the first East River County documented to have CWD.

- Test results received on 1,714 samples indicate 34 WTD, 7 MD, and 8 elk were CWD positive. The total number of CWD positive animals discovered in SD since the first free ranging white-tailed deer was found in the fall of 2001 is now 595, including 243 elk, 113 mule deer and 239 white-tailed deer.
- SDGFP continues to collect all voluntary hunter harvested cervid samples as we have in the past. We continue to test any suspect animals from across the state. For more information on CWD in South Dakota visit: <https://gfp.sd.gov/chronic-wasting-disease/>
- Hemorrhagic Disease: The State of South Dakota experienced a mortality event of mainly white-tailed deer during late July-November 2020 due to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHDV) and/or Blue Tongue (BTV). SDGFP started receiving reports of sick and deceased white-tailed deer during late July of 2020. As in previous years with substantial mortality in the summer months, EHDV was suspected and efforts were made to document the virus through the Diagnostic Lab at SDSU. Through lab testing, confirmation was received that the EHD virus was present in 25 white-tailed deer and 2 mule deer. The SDGFP continued to document sick and dead ungulates until November before a substantial frost ceased EHDV/BTV disease transmission in most areas of the state.
- Thirty-seven counties from across South Dakota had confirmed or reported EHD virus in white-tailed deer or mule deer. Most cases were found in central South Dakota on the east side of the Missouri River with Butte County and Perkins County in western South Dakota also reporting deaths. Pending final analysis, a total of 267 reports of deceased or sickly deer were recorded with 665 reported mortalities. Substantially more animals were reported lost to EHDV in 2020 than the 27 reports received in 2019. For more information on EHD in South Dakota visit: <https://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife-disease/>

#### Wildlife Diversity – Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema

- State T&E listing and delisting: The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) Commission completed its biennial review of the state list of threatened or endangered species in 2020. No species were added or removed from the list at that time, but the North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) was delisted earlier in 2020 due to meeting approved delisting goals. South Dakota held its first modern era river otter season during the fall of 2020, with a conservative harvest limit of 15 animals within a 32-county area of eastern South Dakota. The season began on November 1, with the harvest limit reached on November 6. Successful trappers were required to report harvested otters within 24 hours, have pelts tagged with a CITES tag, and surrender the carcass to SDGFP to allow collection of biological data. SDGFP revised the state river otter management plan ([https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/otter\\_plan\\_2020-08-28.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/otter_plan_2020-08-28.pdf)) and continues work on determining the best methods of monitoring this species in the state.
- Natural Heritage Program – Environmental Review Tool: SDGFP is currently in the final stages of developing an online Environmental Review Tool that will be made available to the public by March 1, 2021. This effort was funded with State Wildlife Grants and when completed will streamline the department's environmental review



process and provide information on rare and unique species and habitats to improve awareness of these resources and to use in conservation planning. When the tool is released it will be advertised by SDGFP and made available through the agency's website in the Environmental Review page <https://gfp.sd.gov/environmental-review/>.

- Recovering America's Wildlife Act: This legislation would provide stable, long-term funding to state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies to benefit the full array of species and related native habitats. For state agencies, funding would aid in the implementation of state wildlife action plans, which are strategic planning documents to help states meet their full array of responsibilities. South Dakota's Wildlife Action Plan can be reviewed here: <https://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife-action-plan/> RAWA will hopefully be reintroduced early in the federal legislative session, building on momentum gained during the previous years. For more information on RAWA, please visit: <https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Wildlife-Conservation/Policy/Recovering-Americas-Wildlife-Act>
- Black-tailed prairie dog acreage mapping: SDGFP periodically censuses prairie dog acreage in the state to assess current status and trends, including determining whether the state continues to meet its acreage goal as part of a broader effort to maintain this ecosystem. SDGFP GIS staff have begun work on another census of colony acres using aerial photographs taken in 2020. To view the South Dakota prairie dog management plan, visit: <https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/prairiedog-management-plan.pdf>
- Federal Endangered Species Act activities:
  - o The gray wolf was delisted due to recovery, effective January 4, 2021. This species will now be managed by state wildlife agencies. The Mexican gray wolf subspecies (*Canis lupus baileyi*) remains federal endangered.
  - o The Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) was a federal endangered species that was delisted due to recovery, effective February 12, 2021.
  - o The American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) was reclassified from endangered to threatened, effective November 16, 2020. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) also released a 4(d) rule for this species, which describes conservation measures for the species, prohibiting all intentional take, and describing activities for state and federal partners and landowners that aren't expected to cause injury or mortality. For more information, visit: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-10-15/pdf/2020-19810.pdf#page=1>
  - o The monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) butterfly is a federal candidate species, following the publication of a 12-Month Finding by the USFWS that the species warrants listing as endangered or threatened, but such action is precluded by higher listing priorities. For more information on this finding, visit: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-12-17/pdf/2020-27523.pdf#page=1>
  - o The USFWS has announced the beginning of a 5-year status review on the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a federal threatened species. These reviews solicit scientific and commercial information on species biology, habitat conditions, conservation measures to benefit the species, threat status and trends, and other new information.
  - o The USFWS has also begun soliciting information to help prepare species status assessments (SSA) for three bat species. An SSA helps describe a species' current status and future viability. SSAs often use quantitative mod-

eling to accomplish these goals. The SSA for the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) will help the USFWS in conducting a discretionary review for this species. The SSA for the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) will provide information for a 12-month petition finding. The SSA for the northern long-eared bat will both inform the 5-year status review and help address a court-remanded listing decision. The goal is to complete this set of SSAs by spring/summer of 2021 and publish related documents in the Federal Register by August 2022.

- o The USFWS is currently conducting an SSA for the regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*). Formerly more widespread, this butterfly is now found mainly in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The SSA is expected to be concluded during the summer of 2021.

#### Other Reports:

##### SDSU Student Chapter Report – Taylor Peck, President of SDSU Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club

- Expanded membership to 46 members
- 9 members attended CMPS Utah Conclave in spring 2020
- Bruce Eichhorst began as club advisor in fall 2020
- Collaborating with conservation partners to volunteer, gain field experience, network, and learn
  - o Brush cutting, waterfowl nest boxes, Adopt-a-Lake, Ice Fishing Derby, etc.
- Have t-shirts and stickers available
- Have weekly presenters to engage membership
- Eager for more opportunities

#### Election Results – Casey Heimerl and Julie DeJong

- Election results decided by unanimous vote
  - o Brady Nieves – President-elect
  - o Melissa Greenwalt – Secretary/Treasurer
  - o Anna Kopp – Board member

#### Other Old Business

- Fewer funding requests in 2020 due to COVID-19
- Board members Julie DeJong and Robert Lonsinger attended TWS Virtual Conference
- Board submitted and commented on multiple letters:
  - o Ft. Pierre National Grasslands management
  - o US Fish and Wildlife Service definition of 'habitat'
  - o Bureau of Land Management grazing regulations

- o Sage Grouse Management Plan – BLM
- o Support for Recovering America's Wildlife Act

## New Business

### Approval of New Members

- No new members this morning
- Meeting site/dates for the 2021 Annual Meeting

- The board surveyed the membership in spring 2020 with minimal feedback. Indicated some preference to move the conference meeting site, but not strongly. Did indicate support for potential joint meeting with ND Chapter of TWS
- John Kanta noted potential for hybrid in-person/virtual event in 2022 to reach a broader audience not capable of attending
- Hilary Morey noted that it would be beneficial to move the location and integrate field sites if possible, too
- Bruce Eichhorst noted that pre-recorded webinars and field updates are very easy to do with today's technology and would be valuable for education
- Paul Coughlin motioned to allow the board to decide next year's location and date; second by Silka Kempema; all in favor; motion passed

### Mentorship program committee – Eric Magedanz

- Magedanz reviewed success over the past year connecting 10 mentors with 10 mentees for career guidance and assistance
- Request that the board develop a special Mentorship Committee to continue the program and solicit additional committee members to maintain continuity and growth
- President Casey Heimerl reviewed with Parliamentarian Paul Coughlin that she has authority to add a special committee
- Magedanz agreed to chair the committee through Year 1 and requested volunteers to help build the committee

### Other New Business

- None noted

### Transfer of Gavel to President-Elect Julie DeJong

### Presentation of Past-President Plaque

- Plaque to be given to President Casey Heimerl at a later date

Motion to Adjourn by Corey Huxoll; second by Silka Kempema

Meeting adjourned at 10:21

*Respectfully submitted by: Bruce Toay*



## Tribal Fish & Wildlife Committee Update

Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota Wildlife Society Newsletter for 2021

Dr. Michael P. Gutzmer, Principal,

New Century Environmental LLC April 28, 2021



### **June 2020-June 2022**

- **New Century Environmental** provided a virtual presentation on February 8th 2021 entitled "Fish Community Assessment on the Iowa Tribes Reservation". This USFWS project summarized a two year study documenting western blacknose dace and potentially the Topeka shiner in northeast Kansas streams on the Iowa Tribes Indian Reservation.
- In mid-June, 2020, Michael Gutzmer was notified by The National Wildlife Society that he had been selected to receive The Wildlife Society's Special Recognition Service Award for 2020. The presentation was made formal in a virtual setting at the 27th Annual Conference which will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 27 – Oct. 1, 2020. Tribal Science Areas and credit stacking models for eco-assets top the list.
- **NCE** is assisting the Santee Sioux of Nebraska with currently completing a BIA funded grant on Invasive Species and a USFWS Tribal Wildlife Grant on rare small mammals including bats on the reservation. We have been successful in managing these species with the development of management plans going forward for these important species. The two studies near completion are entitled:
  1. Gutzmer, M.P., J.M. Kort, A. Bartling, and J. Avery. 2021. *A Baseline Inventory of Invasive Floral and Aquatic Species With Management Control Recommendations of the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska*. Office of Environmental Protection. Santee Sioux Indian Tribe. Unpublished report for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. 39 p.
  2. Gutzmer, M.P., J.M. Kort, A. Bartling, and J. Avery. 2021. Representative Small Mammals in Minimally Disturbed Habitats Of the Santee Sioux Indian Reservation, Nebraska. Office of Environmental Protection. Santee Sioux Indian Tribe. Unpublished report for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. 75 p. [submitted for publication].
- In April 2021, BIA announced that **New Century Environmental** (NCE) who wrote the research grant for Standing Rock Game & Fish Department, was awarded funds for conducting endangered species work focusing on bats and the black-footed ferret. The grant is a project entitled "ESA-Listed Small Mammals Management on Standing Rock Indian Reservation" for \$119,653 that staff scientists at New Century Environmental wrote in early 2021. Bat monitoring has started with installation of acoustic monitors at select locations and BFF monitoring will commence in late summer 2021.
- **NCE** is the tribal biologist for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. SRST Game & Fish Department Wildlife Commission approved hunting season recommendations made by NCE for 2021 on March 19th, 2021. Tribal biologist and staff prepared and met with the Wildlife Commission Meeting and all recommendations were generally agreed to and passed. Tribal biologist and staff have decided to help create awareness & educational opportunities within the tribe and have come up with an idea called the SRST Game & Fish Department newsletter. Numerous recommendations have been compiled regarding habitat improvements across the reservation. It appears the wildlife commission has much interest in this and will wait when the Director says the word to start. In the mean-time we are gathering information for the plan as it

will take the rest of this year to complete. NCE biologists are conducting pheasant crowing counts in April and May and will be doing antelope doe-fawn ratios in June, along with isolated elk herd and abundance/condition assessments with a helicopter.

- In October 2012, Gutzmer' firm New Century Environmental (NCE) documented the most endangered mammal in North America, the black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*), on Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North (unofficially) and South Dakota. In October 2015 NCE scientists (Kurt Tooley and Chris Shank) also discovered the northern long eared bat, *Myotis septentrionalis* on Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota. NCE has supported Standing Rock Indian Reservation for almost 10 years.
- **NCE'** work with the DAPL pipeline in Cannonball ND was the only study that was successful for the tribe in U.S. Circuit Court in Washington D.C. installing the pipeline in 2017. In 2021, SRST has asked NCE to review the USACOE EIS and conduct aquatic macrophyte and other Missouri River studies. These unique aquatic communities in an NCE assessment entitled Missouri River High Consequence Area Assessment Establishing Baseline Ecological Information And Impacts To Hunting And Fishing From The Proposed DAPL' Pipeline In The Event Of An Oil Spill On The Missouri River In North Dakota Adjacent To The Standing Rock Indian Reservation.
- **NCE** will be providing wetland training to the Santee Sioux from April through October 2021 when an EPA funded grant for Wetland Conservation Plan Development can proceed for reservation wetlands.
- **NCE** wrote a Climate Adaptation Plan grant for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska (WTN) proposes to develop and adopt a Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP) for the WTN Reservation. This effort follows the Winnebago Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment conducted by Winnebago Environmental Protection Department (EPD), written by NCE in 2015-2016. The plan will focus primarily on tangible human welfare, but as the plan develops, elements will naturally extend to natural resources and eco-assets that are less directly connected to human welfare.
- **NCE** is in the process of completing two books:  
Gutzmer, M.P., J.M. Kort, S.M. Gutzmer, K. Tooley, A. Bartling, and J. Avery. 2021. *Mammals of the Santee Sioux Indian Reservation*. Office of Environmental Protection Department, Santee Sioux Indian Reservation. UPS Publication Store | 135 pages  
Gutzmer, M.P. and R. Henrickson. 2022. *Aquatic Plants of Nebraska*. Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln. 300 pp. (under review by UNL editor, publication pending).
- NCE assists Loup Power District with FERC articles related to stream bank protection, tern and plover monitoring, fisheries and invasive species in the entire LPD Project and service area through 2023. There will be numerous publications come out of the six years of monitoring on this important project.
- NCE conducted aerial grouse lek surveys and ground confirmation in Keith County on the Duck Creek Ranch in April 2021.
- NCE is also conducting point count surveys for grassland birds south of Gerald Gentleman station in Lincoln County for a solar facility proposal.

**Best regards, Mike**

Certified Wildlife Biologist (#03142013) Certified Fishery Professional (#3229) Certified Senior Ecologist (#05231998) Professional Wetland Scientist (#000161)

Certified Environmental Professional #960030339 Technical Service Provider (NRCS) (TSP-11-7336)





# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

South Dakota Chapter, 523 E. Capital Ave.

Pierre, SD (605) 773-4345

**Executive Board Meeting, April 22nd, 2021**

**9 AM – 12 PM (CST)**

*DeJong called the meeting to order at 9:02AM (CST). Meeting conducted via Zoom video conference with Heimerl, Lonsinger, Nieves, Greenwalt, and Kopp present).*

- Secretary/Treasurer's Report
  - Approval of minutes from last executive board meeting (2/8/21)
    - *Lonsinger motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Heimerl*
    - *No further discussion; all in favor, minutes approved*
  - Approval of Treasurer's report
    - *Greenwalt reviewed recent income and expenses since last board meeting*
    - *Heimerl motioned to approve report, seconded by Lonsinger*
    - *No further discussion; all in favor, Treasurer's report approved*
- Old Business
  - Annual Meeting Review
    - *Discussion of how the annual meeting went with the virtual format due to COVID-19 pandemic.*
    - *Generally agreed that attendance this year was good, and many attendees have reported to board members that they appreciated the option to attend virtually.*
    - *Many attendees have also reported appreciation for the recordings being shared, to catch those they missed during the live event.*
    - *Discussed possibility of future virtual option, with the need for more time for talks as it was difficult in some cases to keep the event on time. Will further discuss future virtual options in the agenda item for the 2022 Annual Meeting.*
  - Approval of Annual Business Meeting Minutes
    - *Reviewed by email. No edits recommended or further discussion.*
  - Committee Vacancies/ Discussion on Committees
    - *Some discussion of committee reports being fairly minimal or having nothing to report.*
    - *Lonsinger suggested that inviting committee chairs to a board meeting could help open up a line of communication with committees and increase engagement within those committees. This could help to address any roadblocks they are facing, create opportunity for collaboration, and allow for sharing of ideas between the committees.*



- *Neiles suggested that a board member could act as a committee chair coordinator, to give those committees one person to connect with for issues/questions/concerns, etc.*
- *As some committees have had little or no activity for a few years, the possibility of dropping committees was discussed. This would need to be discussed and voted on at a business meeting.*
- *Board members all agree it could be valuable to have chairs attend a meeting with the board, as well as to discuss creating a point of contact on the board for those committees.*
- *Heimerl called to attention the need for a fundraising committee chair, and suggested that it would be best to try to identify potential candidates for this position, rather than make a general ask to the membership as the latter may result in no response.*
- *Lonsinger brought up the question of how to better engage the wildlife law enforcement community as a critical group in the wildlife profession who have not typically engaged with TWS in South Dakota. Discussion of a couple professionals who might be a good fit for such a committee.*
- Comment Letter for USDA Forest Service Pennington County
  - *DeJong shared the comment letter via email in March asking for any edits/questions from the board. Board responded via email, and the comment letter was sent forward on March 18, 2021.*
- New Business
  - Virtual board meeting platforms (Zoom, Teams, Skype, etc.)
    - *Team agreed that Zoom has worked well and Lonsinger is able to continue to provide the link for the board meetings.*
  - State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Fly-in
    - *Mark Norton of GFP had shared this with the board via DeJong in end of March, and the board agreed to share the email for this opportunity for the membership to join if they wished.*
  - Spring Newsletter ideas and topics
    - *DeJong suggested reaching out to the committees for topic ideas and will do so.*
    - *Lonsinger suggested sharing awards information, recent retirements within the membership.*
    - *Heimerl suggested a short blurb about the recordings from the Annual Meeting being available for viewing.*
    - *Lonsinger also suggested that an "In the Field" section, with a brief summary (short paragraph) of information on field research within the state, could be interesting. Lonsinger and Neiles both have contacts who they thought could submit something for this.*
  - Review duties/responsibilities of board members for new board
    - Google Drive Information
      - *New board members were informed of the by-laws and other information available on the Google Drive and the chapter website via email in end of Feb/early March and all reported having reviewed this information.*

- *Neiles mentioned that he had trouble accessing the Google Drive because it has a phone verification step. Heimerl's phone is the number stored in the system, so he can email her before accessing again.*
- Summer meet & greet and field tour?
  - *This was suggested in the previous year when discussing holding a virtual annual meeting, as an opportunity to get members together for the sake of networking/camaraderie.*
  - *Group discussed concerns about holding an event in the summer, because some events are still being cancelled due to COVID-19 ongoing pandemic. Concerns were discussed with regards to a fall event due to the work needed to prepare for the annual meeting.*
  - *DeJong tabled this item for future discussion.*
- 2022 Annual Meeting Date and Location
  - Hybrid (part virtual, part in-person)?
    - *Neiles suggested aiming for an in-person event, as it is preferred.*
    - *Some discussion was had on whether to move the meeting around to different locations around the state, but it was agreed the consistency with pricing and vendors and ease of working with Cedar Shore has been very nice.*
    - *DeJong will put our name down on end of February dates to hold the space at Cedar Shore (February 23-25 would be in line with the typical timeline).*
    - *Greenwalt asked whether the group had ever recorded live sessions before, given the appreciation following the virtual event for recordings of presentations. The group discussed that this had not been done but could be a nice option for those not comfortable with/unable to attend a live event. Agreed it would be best to look into professional options for recording and pricing for this, as it would be a difficult job to coordinate at the meeting.*
  - Theme/Speakers/Workshop?
    - *The group will think on these items and discuss further at the next meeting.*
- Increasing/maintaining chapter membership and meeting attendance
  - Doodle poll of 2021 meeting participants and members
    - *DeJong suggested a poll to current/past members to ask what they would like out of their TWS membership, to make sure that we are providing that as much as possible.*
    - *Neiles suggested that the board look at this from the angle of what we want to offer and how to highlight what national membership includes.*
    - *Lonsinger brought up the importance of networking and mentorship within the state, including the mentorship program, as features of the SD chapter which could be further enhanced. He also brought up the idea of having more training opportunities for members, through workshops/field trainings. The group liked the idea of some more training opportunity,*

*which could either be tied to the Annual Meeting or be done separately at various areas throughout the state.*

- *Kopp mentioned the need to engage other groups, like private landowners, who often share with private lands biologists that they want to do projects to benefit wildlife. There was discussion around how best to engage these landowners and highlight what TWS is about and has to offer.*
- *Lonsinger suggested that training topics/ideas or even the trainings themselves could be organized through the committees, who might also like to help identify topics for the meeting theme/agenda.*
- *Neiles suggested that we could also look to other chapters for ideas on trainings/workshops.*
- TWS Annual Conference and SDTWS Chapter Representation
  - *Heimerl suggested that DeJong and Neiles attend the virtual conference and noted that she will likely be attending as well.*
- TWS Nomination for Chapter Award
  - *DeJong added this item to the agenda for discussion with the group. The group agreed the chapter needed to see better engagement and activity within the membership before putting in for an award, but may wish to do so in the future.*
- Next meeting
  - *Per typical timeline, next meeting should be mid-June. DeJong will send out a doodle poll early on to check availability and get the next meeting scheduled in advance.*

*Motion to adjourn by Lonsinger, second by Heimerl.*

*Meeting adjourned 10:53AM (CST)*

Welcome to the Central Mountains &  
Plains Section of The Wildlife Society



Spring  
Newsletter  
[Click Here](#)

# SDTWS Executive Board 2021

## President

[Julie DeJong](#)

304 W 4th ST  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

## Secretary-Treasurer

[Melissa Greenwalt](#)

PO Box 84  
Faith, SD 57626

## Past-President

[Casey Heimerl](#)

523 E. Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501

## Board Member

[Rob Lonsinger](#)

007 Agriculture Hall  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74078

## President-Elect

[Brady Neiles](#)

13329 US-16A  
Custer, SD 57730

## Board Member

[Anna Kopp](#)

4130 Adventure Trail  
Rapid City, SD 57702

## Grant Opportunities



The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society offers a Student Travel Grant to help pay for attending a national or state TWS Annual Conference. The Chapter also offers a Student Membership Sponsorship Grant which will cover student annual dues for membership into TWS if you are a student board member of a Student Chapter of TWS in South Dakota. For more information of how to apply for either grant, click [here](#).





# SDTWS Life Members

Doug Alvine  
Galen Burgett  
Eddie Childers  
Mary Clawson  
Charles Dieter  
Lester Flake  
Kurt Forman  
Andy Gabbert  
Dave Gilbert  
Steve Griffin  
Troy Grovenburg  
Bob Hodorff  
Harris Hoistad  
Earl Hyink  
Warren Jackson  
Jonathan Jenks  
John Kelley  
Colleen Kolbeck  
Rolf Kraft

Thomas Kuck  
Scott Larson  
Thomas LeFaive  
Tony Leif  
John Leisner  
Jesse Lisburg  
Kevin Luebke  
Carl Madsen  
Will Morlock  
Glenn Moravek  
Jay Peterson  
Erling Podoll  
Chuck Pyle  
Greg Schenbeck  
Boyd Schulz  
Steve Spawn  
Cara Staab  
Dave Steffen  
Eileen Stukel

Joel Tigner  
Tom Tornow  
Ralph Town  
Spencer Vaa  
William Walker  
Dave Azure  
James Headley  
Paul Mammenga  
Silka Kempema  
Julie DeJong  
Larry Gigliotti  
Paul Coughlin  
Shelly Deisch  
Chuck Berdan  
Eric Pullis  
Owen McElroy  
Randy Meidinger  
Drew Davis

## Life Membership dues are prorated by age as follows:

Age 20 to 35:  $25 \times \text{annual dues}$  ( $\$10 \times 25 = \$250$ )

Age 36 to 45:  $20 \times \text{annual dues}$  ( $\$10 \times 20 = \$200$ )

Age 46 to 65:  $17.5 \times \text{annual dues}$  ( $\$10 \times 17.5 = \$175$ )

Age 66 to 75:  $12.5 \times \text{annual dues}$  ( $\$10 \times 12.5 = \$125$ )

Age 76 and over: Free

For More Information, Contact Chuck Pyle (605) 353-5753.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF TWS**

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

#### **REPRESENTATIVES:**

**Northern Great Plains Working Group, Representative:** Rocco Murano\_ (605) 688-4786

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Audit Past-President,** Casey Heimerl (605) 773-4345

**Awards** Nathan Baker (605) 223-7709

**Conservation Review** Mark Norton (605) 773-3096

**Education and Information** Bruce Eichhorst (605) 688-4706

**Membership** Chuck Pyle (605) 353-5753

**Nominations and Elections** President, Julie DeJong

**Program** President Elect, Brady Neiles

**Resolutions and Public Statements** Paul Coughlin (605) 773-4194

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#### **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Arrangements** Past-President, Casey Heimerl

**Certification:** Eileen Dowd Stukel (605) 773-4229

**Chapter History** Corey Huxoll (605) 773-4195

**Energy Committee** Kent (KC) Jensen\_(605) 688-4781

**Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife** Andy Lindbloom (605) 394-1751

**Fundraising** **VACANT**

**Grasslands Issues:** **VACANT**

**Missouri River Issues:** Nathan Baker (605) 223-7709

**Newsletter** Jennifer Briggs (605) 256-2974

**Public Lands Management** Eddie Childers (605)433-5203 and Chuck Berdan (605)210-0099

**Tribal Fish and Wildlife:** Mike Gutzmer (402) 562-9155

**Wetlands** Randy Meidinger\_(605) 380-0380

**Wildlife Diseases** Steve Griffin\_(605) 394-6786

**Wildlife Diversity** Eileen Dowd Stukel (605) 773-4229 / Silka Kempema\_(605) 773-2742

## **The South Dakota Chapter TWS Objectives are:**

- To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environment upon which wildlife and humans depend.
- To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation.
- To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
- To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

### **To aid in the achievement of these objectives, the South Dakota Chapter proposes to:**

- Provide opportunities for better liaison among individual members, their Section, and The Society.
- Evaluate and respond to the principles involved in proposed or enacted societal actions that could affect wildlife or its habitats.
- Recognize and commend outstanding professional achievements in maintenance, restoration and enhancement of habitats for wildlife.
- Focus the aims and objectives of The Society and the Central Mountains and Plains Section upon professional wildlife needs, problems, and events in local situations.
- Encourage communication between members and nonmembers to facilitate understanding and effectiveness of research and management of wildlife resources.
- Evaluate the principles involved in proposed or enacted public or private actions that could affect wildlife and to make these evaluations known to the public and public officials.

## SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Application for Membership/Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (indicate home or work) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (for newsletter delivery) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please note:

SDTWS's newsletter, A Prairie Voice, is all electronic. Therefore, an email address must be provided above in order to receive it (paper copies will be provided only to individuals who do not have a computer, internet access, or an email address). Email is also the typical mode of communication concerning other SDTWS news.

**Please check one:** \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member

\*If you did not renew your dues in 2018, you will be considered a new member in 2019 as per the SDTWS Bylaws.

### Please check box:

☐

**By becoming a member of SD TWS, I support the Chapter's bylaws and objectives:**

- To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environment upon which wildlife and humans depend.
- To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation.
- To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
- To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

Send the completed application/renewal form and a check for \$10.00 (regular), \$6.00 (student) to:

Bruce Toay  
PO BOX 427  
Ipswich, SD 57451  
605-380-0684

Regular Dues: \$10.00

Student Dues: \$6.00

Life Membership dues are prorated by age as follows:

Age 20 to 35: 25 x annual dues = \$250

Age 36 to 45: 20 x annual dues = \$200

Age 46 to 65: 17.5 x annual dues = \$175

Age 66 to 75: 12.5 x annual dues = \$125

Age 76 and over: Free

For more information on becoming a life member, contact Chuck Pyle (605) 353-5753.