

South Dakota Chapter The Wildlife Society



A Prairie Voice



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- Award Nominations
- Notes From Dennie Mann
- Registration Info
- 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes



From the President's Desk...

Greetings and warm wishes to everyone,

It is hard to believe this is already my last message to you as president. This past year was certainly a whirlwind, but despite the challenges of working in a virtual environment our Chapter made several accomplishments including expanding our mentorship program and providing several comment letters related to the management and conservation of wildlife and habitat in our state. The year 2020 certainly taught us many things and showed how important getting out and enjoying wildlife and nature is to our wellbeing.

Our annual conference is only a month away and will be held virtually from February 24-25th. We decided to shorten the length of the meeting to two days to avoid participant burn out that naturally comes with sitting in front of a computer all day. Although it is disappointing that we cannot meet in person to network and catch up with friends, I still believe holding a virtual meeting will be valuable for keeping up to date with new research and making our SDTWS annual business meeting available to our members.



President-Elect Julie DeJong has put together an excellent agenda with a variety of speakers that is included in this newsletter. Registration for the conference is now open and available online on our Chapter's website at <https://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/annual-meeting/>. Please also remember to renew your SDTWS membership which is available at the same link. Conference registration is free, but please consider making a \$5 donation which can be done while renewing your membership.

We are still accepting award nominations until February 5th for the Wildlife Professional of the Year Award, Citizens Award, and Outstanding M.S. and Ph.D. student awards. Information regarding the nomination process and the student Award Nominations can be found here: <https://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/awards/>



I would like to again encourage everyone to make full use of your membership and get more involved in the SDTWS Chapter by considering joining one of our many committees <https://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/leadership-governance/> or signing up to either be a mentor or mentee in our mentorship program.

I am going to keep this message short and sweet. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your president. It has been a great experience for me professionally and personally, and I am honored to be able to work with such an amazing group of dedicated wildlife biologists.

Casey Heimerl



SDTWS Award Nominations

Accepted until
February 5th, 2021



- Wildlife Professional of the Year
- Citizens Wildlife Award
- M.S. Graduate Student Award
- Ph.D. Graduate Student Award



If you have any questions regarding the nomination process or the formulation of nomination letters, please contact [Nathan Baker](#).

Information regarding the nomination process and the student Award Nominations can be found here:

<https://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/awards/>

2021 SDTWS Annual Meeting

February 24-25th, 2021

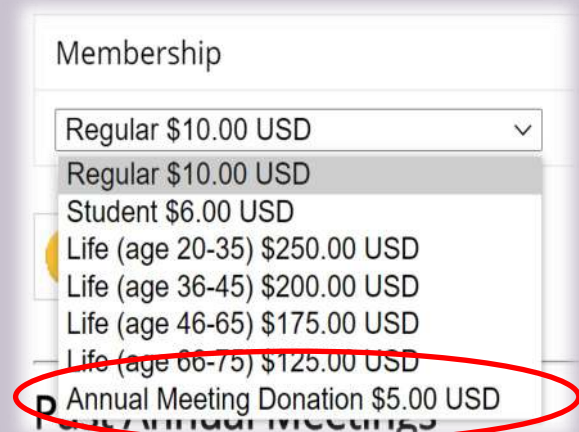
ZOOM Virtual Meeting

Register for the Annual Meeting
Click [Here](#) to register



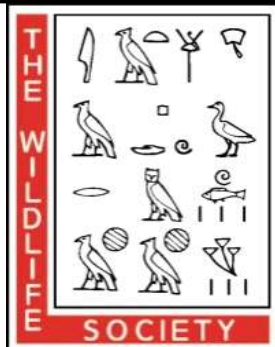
Please register for each day of the conference by clicking 'Day 1' and 'Day 2' on the page (you must register for each day separately). Registration is free but please consider making a donation of \$5 or more via the Membership Dues dropdown menu.

While you are there—pay your membership dues!! To add multiple items to your cart, click the "continue shopping" tab in PayPal and use the back button on your browser to return to this page.



If you have any questions or issues, please contact [Bruce Toay](#) at (605) 380-0684

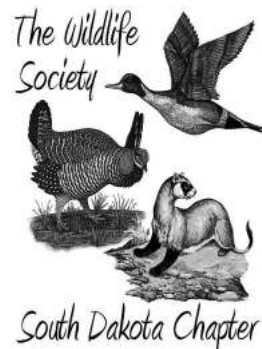
NOTE: Once you have registered you will receive, via email, the link to the zoom conference for each day.



2021 SDTWS Annual Meeting

Virtual through ZOOM

February 24-25, 2021



WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY

1:00 1:10 **Welcome and Introductions**

1:10 1:40 **Central Mountains and Plains Section Updates** – Shelly Dietch

Special Session: *The Effects of a Pandemic on Research and Management*

1:40 2:00 **COVID Impacts on License Sales** Heather Villa SDGFP

2:00 2:20 **COVID Impacts on State Park Usage** Scott Simpson SDGFP

2:20 2:40 **South Dakota Habitat Stamp: Reinvesting in habitat and public access for hunting and fishing.** Paul Coughlin SDGFP

2:40 3:00 **BREAK**

3:00 3:20 **COVID impacts on black footed ferret research** Travis Livieri Prairie Wildlife Research

3:20 3:40 **How Citizen Science has changed due to the pandemic.** Dr. Darlene Cavalier Professor of Practice, School for the Future of Innovation in Society, Arizona State University

3:40 4:00 **Using Citizen Science to Monitor for Amphibian Disease Outbreaks Across South Dakota** – Danielle Galvin* and Dr. Jacob Kerby USD PhD Research

4:00 4:20 **National Conservation Training Center** Dr. Richard B. Minnis USFWS

4:35 4:55 **Closing remarks and announcements**

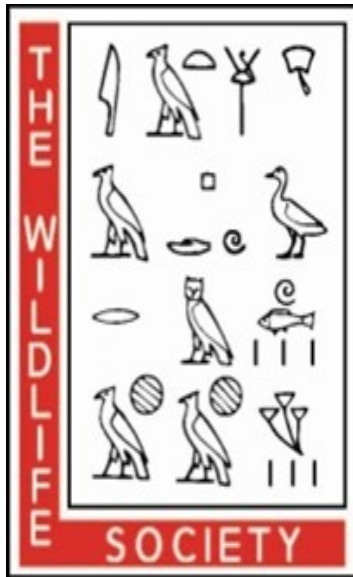
THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY

09:00 12:00 **Annual Chapter Business Meeting**

Special Session: *Technological Innovations in Research and Management*

- 1:00 1:20 **What can we learn from wildlife sightings during the COVID-19 global shutdown?** Dr. Amanda J. Zellmer Occidental College, CA
- 1:20 1:40 **Use of small unmanned aerial systems for sharp-tailed grouse lek surveys** Benjamin Geaumont NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center
- 1:40 2:00 **Applications of UAV's for delivering plague vaccines to prairie dogs.** Kristy Bly, World Wildlife Fund and Randy Matchett USFWS
- 2:00 2:20 **Technology for WL Monitoring and management** Dr. Roland Kays NC State University
- 2:20 2:40 **Assessing feasibility of using unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and deep learning computing techniques for waterfowl and wetland habitat monitoring** Reid Viegut MS Student University of Missouri
- 2:40 2:50 BREAK
- 2:50 3:10 **Delta Waterfowl** Dr. Chris Nicolai Delta Waterfowl
- 3:10 3:30 **"A 2-tiered duck regulation experiment: Can a simplified regulation option increase recruitment, retention, and reactivation of duck hunters in South Dakota and Nebraska?"** Dr. Rocco Murano SDGFP
- 3:30 3:50 **A Predator-Prey Interaction Between a Threatened Turtle Species and an Invasive Bivalve** – Anna Kase*, Vanessa Weigel and Dr. Jacob Kerby. USD PHD Research
- 3:50 4:10 **Preliminary Results from a Survey of Western Painted Turtles in Marshall Co., SD Suggest Trapping Method Bias and a Skewed Sex Ratio** – Dr. Amy Dolan*, Dr. Heather Waye, and Terrina Barnes
- 4:10 4:30 **Research in Progress: Population genetic structure of bobcats in South Dakota using harvested samples to inform management.** – Stuart Fetherston*, Lisette Waits, Jennifer Adams, Chad Lehman and Robert Lonsinger. SDSU MS Graduate Research
- 4:30 4:50 **World's Most Popular Insecticide Rapidly Accumulates in Brain and Delays Reaction Time** – Kaitlyn Campbell* and Dr. Jacob Kerby. USD PHD Research
- 4:50 5:00 **Final remarks**

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Founded in 1937 as The Society of Wildlife Specialists, [The Wildlife Society](#) has evolved into an international nonprofit organization of professional wildlife ecologists and managers. Members number over 10,000 from 40 different countries, and include administrators, biologists, conservation officers, educators, managers and researchers.

The objectives of TWS are to:

1. Promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and the environments upon which wildlife and humans depend;
2. Undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation;
3. Increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values; and
4. To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



The South Dakota Chapter of TWS (SDTWS) was initiated on February 19, 1966 with 56 charter members. SDTWS is affiliated with the [Central Mountains and Plains Section](#), one of eight subdivisions of TWS. The full membership of SDTWS meets annually in the spring to exchange scientific information through presented papers, debate current issues in wildlife management and land use, and conduct chapter business. The chapter's Executive Board of Directors, consisting of President, Past-President, President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and two standing board members meet at least 4 times each year to discuss issues that don not require full chapter approval. The chapter also communicates with its members through a newsletter, *The Prairie Voice*, published within 30 days of Executive Board meetings. SDTWS has a current membership of 171 people interested in the welfare of South Dakota wildlife.

SDTWS Board Elections

Brady Neiles – President-Elect

Originally from Pierre, I left South Dakota to pursue my bachelor's degree at the University of Wyoming. From there, I travelled the western states working wildlife technician positions for state, federal, university and private organizations. I eventually landed at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale for my master's degree, studying avian and predator use of CP33 habitat buffers in southern Illinois. I am now a Resource Biologist with South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, based out of Custer State Park. My work is focused on helping graduate student research projects with field logistics and study design, as well as assisting SDGF&P with internal research concerning bobcats, wild turkeys, bighorn sheep and mountain goats. I have been a member of TWS for 12 years, and the SD Chapter of TWS for 3 years. I currently live in Rapid City with my wife and our shepherd mutt and enjoy biking, skiing and sailing throughout western South Dakota.

Melissa Greenwalt – Secretary / Treasurer

Melissa grew up on a wheat and cattle farm in eastern Washington state, where she developed a passion for agriculture, natural resources, and wildlife. She attended University of Idaho where she earned bachelor's degrees in Animal Science and Rangeland Ecology and Management, with emphasis on livestock production in rangelands. During her time as an undergraduate, Melissa had the opportunity to travel to Western Australia to attend Murdoch University as a study abroad student. While there, she had the awesome privilege to work as a wildlife keeper with many iconic Aussie animals, further igniting her passion for wildlife and conservation. Her love of travel and desire to further her career led Melissa to return to school, this time in England at the University of Exeter in Cornwall, to complete a master's degree in Conservation and Biodiversity. Melissa lives in Faith, SD where she works as a Farm Bill Biologist for Pheasants Forever and enjoys working with landowners in northwestern South Dakota to help them achieve their conservation goals. When she's not at work, she can typically be found out exploring the beautiful prairie or the nearby Black Hills on a hike with her trusty four-legged sidekick, Ava.

Erica Hill – Executive Board

I grew up wandering the Loess Hills of western Iowa near the little town of Logan. A professional opportunity and curiosity to explore the beautiful landscapes of South Dakota brought me to where I currently live in Mitchell, South Dakota! I received my BS degree in Conservation Biology from Wayne State College in Wayne, NE - where I first got involved in Pheasants Forever and started their student chapter of The Wildlife Society. I have been employed with Pheasants Forever for seven years in two different capacities. I started first as a Biologist working with private landowners in southeast Iowa but have been the Regional Representative in the state of South Dakota for two years now. My role has switched from working hand-in-hand to help landowners establish and manage habitat to helping our chapters and volunteers deliver our habitat mission. I am new to the SD Chapter of the Wildlife Society but was involved in both Iowa and at Wayne State College. I'm also a Life Member of Pheasants Forever as well as Quail Forever. In my free time I enjoy doing just about anything outdoors: big game hunting, upland hunting, hiking, fishing, ice fishing - you name it!

South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Absentee Ballot

President Elect:

☐ Brady Neiles

☐ _____

Secretary / Treasurer:

☐ Melissa Greenwalt

☐ _____

Executive Board Member:

☐ Erica Hill

☐ _____

If you are unable to attend the SDTWS Virtual Meeting, please complete this absentee ballot and return it by February 19th, 2021 to Bruce Toay, Ducks Unlimited, PO Box 427, Ipswich, SD 57451

WILDLIFE RESTORATION AWARDS NOMINATIONS

This is the third year for The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Restoration Awards. Two awards are given each year, one for Wildlife Management and a second for Wildlife Research and Surveys. **Nominations are due by May 1, 2021.**

There were no 2020 award winners due to a lack of nominations.

From the TWS website:

The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Restoration Awards recognize outstanding projects supported by Wildlife Restoration funds (also known as Pittman-Robertson funds) and associated non-federal matching funds. Established in 2018, the annual awards highlight the importance and effectiveness of the United States' Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program and recognize excellence in wildlife management and research.

The Wildlife Restoration program, also known as the Pittman-Robertson program after its primary Congressional sponsors, is funded by manufacturer excise taxes collected on pistols, handguns, revolvers, other firearms, ammunition, bows, quivers, broadheads and points, which are apportioned to State fish and wildlife agencies for wildlife conservation and hunter education. It was first created in 1937 and has provided over \$11 billion since its inception. TWS recognizes the critical importance of this program for state wildlife agencies, but also realizes that the program is subject to ongoing scrutiny from the users who pay the excise tax. This annual awards program identifies and showcases outstanding projects from across the continent to generate continued support for the Wildlife Restoration program.

AWARD NOMINATIONS PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Completed projects or current projects with defined completion dates are eligible. To nominate a project [click here](#) to learn about the criteria and the nomination process.

Nominations must be submitted by May 1, 2021 at 11:59 PM EST.

Eileen Dowd Stukel CWB®

Pierre, SD

eileen.dowdstukel@state.sd.us

The Wildlife Society News

Popular Articles on the TWS website

- [To quiet your mind, listen to the birds](#)
- [Numbers matter in bighorn sheep translocation](#)
- [Noise, light pollution impact bird reproduction](#)

For the latest TWS News

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



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.

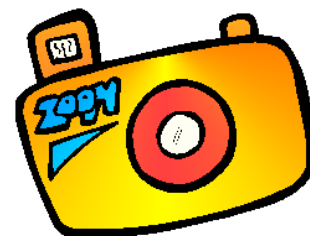
Contact Chuck Pyle at goosemansd@hotmail.com if you have events, pictures, or topics you would like posted to the site.





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.



Badlands & Bighorns

Notes from Dennie Mann....



This has been quite a year, we were scheduled for a trip in September to Rocky Mountain National Park, but because of the fire we cancelled the trip! This gave Mary Ann and I more time to begin photographing bighorns in the Badlands. A little history of Badlands Bighorns.



In 1964 22 bighorns were captured in the Pikes Peak area of Colorado and reintroduced in Badlands National Park which was a joint effort between the South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks and the National Park Service.

What a great partnership with the reintroduction and the subsequent 50 plus years of Badlands Bighorns.

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep were extirpated from most of their historical range in the western United States by the turn of the century. Since 1967, 3 bighorn subpopulations have been established at Badlands National Park through translocation efforts by the

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGF&P), Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDW) and the National Park Service (NPS).



Fourteen bighorn sheep (2 ewes, 2 rams, 4 yearling ewes and 6 lambs) were released to the wild on August 31, 1967. The population size has fluctuated during the last 53 years with total numbers estimated at 163 in 1994 to a population in 2002 of 58 individuals found in three separate subpopulations.

At the present time 2020 approximately 150 bighorns call the badlands ecoregion their home range. In the last 3 years, 4 bighorns have been harvested just north of Badlands NP on public lands adjacent to

the BLNP, and as most of you know the first one harvested is the current B&C record scoring 209 1/8!



The Badlands is noted for great photography opportunities and this year was no exception, I just checked our bighorn image numbers and we have 21,000 from the Badlands. The snow in October started the pre-rut with the younger

rams with these two rams trying to show their dominance.

We did document sore mouth disease which is caused by parapoxvirus and is transmittable to people if direct contact occurs. The illness is typically spread from ewes to lambs, and affected animals usually recover without scarring. The scabby sores often disappear in two to four weeks!



We also found this ram that must be the warrior of the park with major parts of both horns missing! We didn't find the 10 year old ram that we have photographed for the last 5 years, this is the last image we have of him December 2019!



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

South Dakota Chapter

523 E. Capitol Ave, Pierre SD 57259, (605) 773-4345



Executive Board Meeting, September 24th, 2020

Heimerl called the meeting to order at 9:04 am (CST). Meeting conducted via Zoom video conference with Heimerl, Lonsinger, Magedanz, Carlson, DeJong and Toay present.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Approval of minutes from last executive board meeting (6/17/20), DeJong motion to approve minutes, second by Carlson, No further discussion; all in favor, minutes approved

Approval of Treasurer's report

Toay reviewed recent expenditures and receivables, Lonsinger motion to approve report, second by DeJong No further discussion; all in favor, Treasurer's report approved

Old Business

SDTWS Mentorship Program update

Heimerl and Magedanz reviewed success of recent connections of SDTWS Mentors and Mentees. Recent email blast solely dedicated to mentorship program more effective than newsletter announcements. Signed up 6 mentors and 9 mentees. Recommend email reminders every semester moving forward

Student travel/virtual conference grants

SD Chapter to provide grants for virtual TWS National Conference for students attending workshops or presenting. Four applications funded with a total cost of \$650.00

Committee positions update

Paul Coughlin provided guidance on the Resolutions and Public Statements Committee and volunteered to chair. Bruce Eichhorst to chair the Education and Information Committee. Could update and manage chapter Facebook page. Provide additional connections for mentors and mentees. Grasslands Committee still needs a chair. Fundraising Committee still needs a chair. Magedanz agreed to solicit potential chairs

Comment letters

USFWS habitat definition Drafted by Mark Norton and Eileen Dowd-Stukel, Board approved and posted to USFWS website

Sage Grouse Management Plan Revision Drafted by the Public Lands and Conservation Review Committees, Board approved and comments were submitted by Greg Schenbeck

Ft. Pierre National Grasslands – Prairie Restoration Project Drafted by Greg Schenbeck and Chuck Berdan, Board to review before 9-30-20

New Business

TWS National Conference

2020 Conference to be held virtually. DeJong and Lonsinger to attend Chapters and Sections Collaboration Meeting and represent SDTWS

2020 Annual Meeting Planning – *discuss if we should still hold our annual meeting.*

*Virtual conference? Discussed options for Annual Conference (normal, none, virtual, or some combination). Will attendees be able to attend? Or willing? DeJong and Lonsinger to seek guidance during Chapter discussions at National Meeting
Heimerl to develop online survey for membership to solicit feedback. After this meeting the board later approved (via email) a 1-month membership to SurveyMonkey to conduct online survey. Will reconvene with a special meeting in 2-3 weeks with additional information to make decision. Delay all other related decisions until official format is planned at next meeting*

Potential speakers?

Keynote speaker ideas?

Awards

Attendance/Recruitment

Photo Contest

Meeting Sponsors

Fundraising

Sponsor/funding requests

None

Fall/Winter Newsletter ideas

Delay Summer Newsletter until early fall

Content requested before 9-30-20

Provide an update on the Mentorship Program success

Provide options and information for potential annual meeting

Lonsinger to investigate options for students to link digital posters on the newsletter

Display awards or accomplishments from SDTWS membership

Motion to adjourn by Magedanz; second by DeJong

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am CST



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

South Dakota Chapter

523 E. Capitol Ave, Pierre SD 57259, (605) 773-4345



Executive Board Meeting, October 27th, 2020

Special meeting regarding Annual Meeting options conducted via Zoom video conference with Heimerl, Lonsinger, Magedanz, Carlson, DeJong, and Toay present.

New Business – Annual Meeting Planning

Discuss results of membership survey

The board reviewed the survey results from 68 responses to four survey questions regarding availability and preference for virtual vs online meeting options. Virtual option deemed favorable over in-person/traditional. Potential option for outdoor event during the 2021 field season to allow personal interaction amongst peers in an outdoor environment.

Final decision – online, in-person as usual, in-person delayed until summer at outdoor venue.

Board agreed to conduct an online Annual Meeting, along with an option for a summertime outdoor field event.

Meeting platform and structure (if we decide to hold virtually)

Zoom platform generally pretty simple and well received by peers. Provide opportunity for engagement and Q&A sessions after presentations. The board discussed options for “blocks” of related presentations over a multi-day period. Discussed opportunities for engagement, polling, and attendance to a virtual Business Meeting. Lonsinger to inquire if SDTWS can utilize the SDSU Zoom account to allow for up to 300 attendees. TWS will provide opportunities for Zoom attendance to members who may not have appropriate technology.

Speaker ideas

The board decided to forego a general conference “theme” and solicit presentations from a wide audience to capitalize on potential presenters that otherwise may not be able to attend in person. Each board member will solicit speaker ideas to DeJong to assemble into similar categories. Speakers can range from “keynote” presentations to student presentations. Availability of presenters will likely determine both the content of presentation “blocks” and total length of virtual conference.

Awards

Awards will be split amongst the virtual meeting and the field session, depending on availability of recipients and timeliness of award. Presentation awards will be decided at the conclusion of virtual event.

Photo contest?

Photo contest will be conducted via virtual conference.

Meeting sponsors?

Virtual conference will likely require very little actual cost, so the board will delay seeking sponsorships until summer field event is planned.

Fundraising?

Discussed opportunities for raffles and/or auctions during the in-person field event.

Board member candidates

Board needs to solicit nominations to replace Board Member Carlson and Secretary/Treasurer Toay, and for a President-elect. Each board member to solicit peers and bring ideas for candidates to the next meeting.

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Annual Business Meeting Agenda

27 February 2020 – Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, SD

9:06 am Call to order – Alex Solem

Recognize a quorum; recognized Parliamentarian – Mark Norton

Minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting – Bruce Toay

Moved to approve by Tom LeFaive; Second by Corey Huxoll; All in Favor

Annual Treasurer's Report – Bruce Toay

Moved to approve by Randy Meidinger; Second by Julie DeJong; All in favor

Old Business

Standing Committee Reports:

Nominations and Elections – Alex Solem

*Comments from the Candidates

-Board member candidate: Robert Lonsinger

-President-elect candidate: Julie DeJong

*Casting of the Ballots

- Motion to approve all unopposed candidates by Chuck Berdan; second by Zac Hook; All in favor

Audit – Alex Solem

- Reviewed bank accounts after 2/25/20 board meeting; found to be in good standing

Awards – Nathan Baker

Two nominations were received for the Wildlife Professional of the Year Award. There were no nominations submitted for the Citizens Wildlife Award. We also received a nomination for the M.S. student of the year award. The Ph.D. student award is offered every other year and was not offered this year. Awards will be presented tonight during the Awards Banquet. Student and open presentation award plaques were again procured, as was one for our outgoing chapter president. As I was updating the SDTWS Wildlife Professional of the Year name plates, I thought it would be worth sharing a photo of this plaque with membership, that recognizes the SDTWS Wildlife Professional of the Year Award recipients. This plaque is displayed in the SD Game, Fish and Parks State Office in Pierre.

We also have two new SDTWS Life Members:
#48 Larry Gigliotti
#49 Paul Coughlin



- *The Wildlife Society Wildlife Restoration Awards* <http://wildlife.org/wildlife-restoration-awards/>
- The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Restoration Awards recognize outstanding projects supported by Wildlife Restoration funds (also known as Pittman-Robertson funds) and associated non-federal matching funds. Established in 2018, the annual awards highlight the importance and effectiveness of the United States' Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program and recognize excellence in wildlife management and research.

Two Wildlife Restoration Awards will be given each year, one in each of the following categories:

- Wildlife Management (restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild bird and mammal populations)
- Wildlife Research and Surveys

AWARD NOMINATIONS PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Completed projects or current projects with defined completion dates are eligible.

Award Criteria and Nomination Procedures can be found here: <https://wildlife.org/wildlife-restoration-awards-nominations/>

Nominations must be submitted by May 1, 2020 at 11:59 PM EST.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION AWARDS RECIPIENTS

The recipients of these awards will be recognized at the TWS Annual Conference. Funds for travel to the conference will not be provided.

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.
- 2019 Conservation Review Committee Activities:
In 2019, the conservation review committee worked with wildlife diversity committee to draft a letter of support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act that the board sent to Congressman Johnson in August. 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. This remains a high priority for TWS at all levels.
 - The US Department of Interior's interpretation of the words "take" and "kill" in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that only intentional taking or killing is unlawful instead of the longstanding interpretation that incidental taking or killing was unlawful.
 - Federal budgets and appropriations, including the Department of Interior reorganization plan.
 - State and Tribal Wildlife Grants
 - Endangered Species Act regulation changes
 - Gray Wolf delisting from ESA
 - CWD legislation to address the spread of CWD
 - Proposed modifications to the 2015 definition of the Waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act.
 - Permanent reauthorization of the Land & water Conservation Fund
 - Reauthorization of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act & several multinational species conservation funds.

- In 2020, the conservation review committee also reviewed a draft comment letter on BLM proposed grazing regulations for the TWS Council to review, consider, and send to BLM to utilize in their planning process for grazing management on public lands. This letter was sent to us for review by the Central Mountain Plains Section CAN representative.
- 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 – **Vacant**

- o Please consider chairing this committee

Membership – Chuck Pyle

- o 2 new life members: Larry Gigliotti and Paul Coughlin

Program – Casey Heimerl

- o Tried to promote diverse speakers and ideas for this year's agenda

Resolutions and Public Statements – **Vacant**

- o Please consider chairing this committee

Special Committee Reports:

Arrangements – Alex Solem (for Eric Magedanz)

- o Cedar Shores is a good, central location requiring minimal effort for planning, etc.; but open to suggestions for other locations

Certification – Eileen Dowd-Stukel

- o Noted that Certified Wildlife Biologist designation is not difficult to achieve and recommended those present become certified

Chapter History – Corey Huxoll

- o Organized photos and historical materials at the Pierre office

Energy – KC Jensen

- o No report

Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife – Andy Lindbloom

- o No report

Fundraising – Ben Lardy

- o Solem reported for Lardy; continued to substitute live auction with silent auction to promote conversation
- o Heimerl noted reduced interest in Gay Simpson print at the live auction with newer generation of members not familiar with the legacy, perhaps donate print back to John Simpson and consider other circular raffle item

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

- o No report

Missouri River Issues – Nathan Baker

- o The Missouri River Natural Resources Committee Conference will be held in Nebraska this year from June 22nd – June 24th at the Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City.

Newsletter – Jennifer Briggs

- o The SDTWS newsletter is generated quarterly (as best I can!). If you have any news that you would like to share - please let me know. Thanks again to Dennie Mann for providing awesome photos and info from his adventures out west. I am always open to new ideas for the newsletters.

Public Lands – Chuck Berdan

- o No report

Tribal Fish & Wildlife – Mike Gutzmer

· Tribal update

- o Standing Rock Indian Reservation conducted ground and spotlight surveys in January and February 2020. Tribal biologists prepared 2020 hunting season recommendations for the upcoming hunting seasons. Staff observed the 3rd highest whitetail deer/hour ground count since 2013 (5th since 1992). We observed the 5th highest mule deer/hour ground count since 2013 (2nd highest since 1992). Biologists propose 950 non-member buck/doe tags to control deer #'s. Spotlight surveys show consistent data across the reservation. All game season dates are very close to last year season. Deer and elk are at some of the highest levels seen for some time. CWD concerns are also looming for tribal big game managers at this time.
- o Standing Rock Tribal biologists are also working on a proposal with USFWS to re-introduce black footed ferrets on Standing Rock in North and South Dakota in the coming years. 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.
- o We propose:
 1. To conduct surveys sufficient to evaluate and rank order the ferret and prairie dog habitat on Standing Rock and re-introduce BFF's into their historic ranges.
 2. To conduct surveys for black-footed ferrets on Standing Rock.
 3. To develop a self-sustaining plague monitoring system on Standing Rock, with re-introduction in both states going forward. Our proposal is currently being revised.

· Santee Sioux Tribe (above Yankton SD on Nebraska side of Missouri River)

- o Enclosed is a brief summary of our small mammal and bat findings during Year 1 of the Tribal Wildlife Grant entitled "Representative Small Mammals in Minimally Disturbed Habitats Of the Santee Sioux Indian Reservation, Nebraska". Snap traps were deployed from the beginning of the study (December 2018) through December 2019. Deer mice, northern short tailed shrew, meadow jumping mouse, meadow vole, hispid pocket mouse and least shrew were sampled and 54 individuals comprised the total catch for a catch rate of 4.05 % in Year. Eleven species of bats were documented in 2019. Townsend's Big-Eared Bat: *Corynorhinus townsendii*, (not likely), Big Brown Bat: *Eptesicus fuscus*, Eastern Red Bat: *Lasiurus borealis*, Hoary Bat: *Lasiurus cinereus*, Silver-Haired Bat: *Lasionycteris noctivagans*, Little Brown Bat: *Myotis lucifugus*, Western Small-Footed Myotis: *Myotis ciliolabrum*, Long-legged Myotis: *Myotis Volans*, Evening Bat: *Nycticeius humeralis*, and Tri-Colored Bat: *Perimyotis subflavus* are all considered likely on the reservation. The Townsends Big-Eared bat is not likely.
- o Two potential significant findings are the northern long-eared bat, *Myotis septentrionalis* and the Mexican Free-tailed Bat, *Tadarida brasiliensis*. Further analysis through *Sonobat* will assist in confirming our confidence in the presence of these species as well as additional sampling in 2020. We are anxious to announce the discovery and presence of these species.

- BIA invasive species assessment on the reservation
 - o Santee Sioux Tribe received a 2-year grant (in summer 2019) to assess flora and fauna invasive species found on the reservation. The immense colonies of *Phragmites spp.*, are well known, however, in Year 1 almost 100 new flora records have been reported for the county. Fauna species issues are also being investigated for the reservation for presence absence. This study will continue through 2021.
- The language below can be converted for state use.
- Standing Rock Tribal Scientific Area [this could be adopted into the Tribal Administrative Code in March and the Wildlife Commission meeting in Bismarck, March 20-21, 2020- where I will present our recommendations]
 - o Developed by Dr. Michael P. Gutzmer , February 1, 2020
- What is a TSA?
 - o The Standing Rock Game & Fish program with support from tribal & regional constituents, would like to adopt a rule designating a portion of the reservation as a *Tribal Scientific Area* to protect black-footed ferrets and its habitat. Under tribal (and state? law), SRGFD may establish a Tribal Scientific Area for the purpose of education, scientific research, and preservation of flora and fauna of scientific or educational value. For the Standing Rock black-footed ferret State Scientific Areas, SRGFD will conduct an awareness program to educate the public about the unique resources of these areas and the animals that occupy them and the need to protect their habitats. TSA' can encompass other unique areas with other plant and animal species as we find them.
 - o Under the SRGFD rule, persons are prohibited from disturbing ferrets and their habitats within the Tribal Scientific Area. Under severe weather conditions, plague infestation, poisoning, overgrazing or where the habitats may be stressed, SRFGD may limit access to some fragile areas inhabited by ferrets, while continuing to allow recreational activities throughout the designated area on an as needed basis. Prairie dog towns are extremely rare nationwide, and the Standing Rock Indian Reservation contains some of the last in-tact dog towns that can support the highly endangered black-footed ferret and associated biome.
- Part of a Bigger Plan
 - o The idea of designating a segment or a portion of the reservation as a Tribal Scientific Area grew out of thoughts preparing the larger study proposal written by our tribal biologists (primarily Master Kurt & I) in January, my work in Texas, and then funding intent initiated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (February 2020). This study allows the SRGFD an opportunity to identify and develop management plans with a potentially diverse group of stakeholders to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan for black-footed ferrets on the reservation and in the state of North Dakota in general based on our protection concept. The plan seeks to protect portions of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation and all of its threatened and endangered residents: the black footed ferret, the northern long eared bat, various small mammals, golden eagles and other unique fauna, not mention rare plants., In a two-pronged approach, the TSA Habitat Conservation Plan provides restoration and mitigation measures for the survival and enhancement of the endangered species while the Tribal Scientific Area designation provides a tool to physically protect the ferrets and their habitats.
 - o A healthy reservation ecosystem is good for the environment, people, and the local economy. As the state's population grows and human interference continues, demand for land and increases along with competition for its many uses. With appropriate management and conservation, Tribal members can balance regional wildlife, livestock foraging and water supply needs with environmental needs and preserve the state's natural resources for the long term.
 - o I think this application can be used by both states in North and South Dakota and I will check through contacts I have through the Wildlife Society for similar or other applicability.

Wetlands – Randy Meidinger

- o Will monitor new potential wetland mitigation bank plan in Hutchinson County recently released for the South Dakota Farm Bureau Ag Wetland Exchange Program

Wildlife Diseases – Steve Griffin

- o No report

Wildlife Diversity – Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema

- Committee Members: Casey Heimerl, Laura Hubers, Tom LeFaivre, Mike Gutzmer
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act: Work continues to identify and secure a dedicated source of federal match dollars to assist state wildlife agencies in implementing state wildlife action plans. Recovering America's Wildlife Act was introduced in the U.S. House and passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee. Current efforts include asking House leadership to bring the bill the floor for a vote and discussions with potential U.S. Senate sponsors. Our chapter and individual members have contacted Representative Dusty Johnson, asking for his support for the bill. This legislation will redirect \$1.4 billion annually from the U.S. Treasury to state fish and wildlife agencies for implementation of wildlife action plans and to tribal agencies for fish and wildlife work on tribal lands.
- In the meantime, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants remain the principal source of funding to states for conservation of rare and declining species. This annual appropriation can't be taken for granted, making annual support and advocacy critical. The annual State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Fly-In to DC is an important advocacy tool, which also offers the opportunity to promote the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Our Chapter's Executive Board has agreed to sponsor a participant at this year's Fly-In.
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act: On January 30, 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would codify the Department of the Interior's recent interpretation that the prohibitions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act ("MBTA") only apply to actions "directed at" migratory birds, their nests, or their eggs. The proposed regulations explicitly state that an incidental taking or killing of a migratory bird is not prohibited by the MBTA. Comments are due by March 19, 2020. National TWS anticipates providing comments.
- Bald Eagle Awareness Days: Because of declining sponsorships and increased costs, the Pierre portion of this event was cancelled for 2020, with programs still scheduled for the SDGFP Outdoor Campus East in Sioux Falls, featuring educators with the The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota.
- New TWS Award: I am again representing our Section on a new national award committee called the Wildlife Restoration Awards Committee. These awards are intended to highlight the impact of the Wildlife Restoration Program, known as the Pittman-Robertson Program, which provides apportionments to state wildlife agencies from a portion of manufacturer excise taxes on guns, ammo, and archery equipment for projects on wild birds and mammals. Two awards will be given each year, one for Wildlife Management and one for Wildlife Research and Surveys. Nominations are due by May 1 of this year. If anyone has an idea for a nomination that I can assist with, let me know.
- Recent endangered species activities in South Dakota:
 - The FWS will make a determination on the potential listing of the monarch butterfly by December 2020. The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies continues to provide a framework for federal, state, tribal and private partners to benefit monarchs in the Midwest.
 - The FWS will make a determination on the potential listing of the regal fritillary butterfly by September 30, 2022. Surveys and data collection are ongoing in parts of the 30-state range of this species, including a State Wildlife Grant project starting this summer in central and western South Dakota.
 - The northern long-eared bat is a federal threatened species with a 4(d) rule, an option with threatened species describing activities allowable in the species' range. A recent court ruling directed the FWS to develop a new rule for listing of this species, not to include the current 4(d) rule. The threatened species determination and 4(d) rule will remain in place in the meantime.
 - The river otter is a state threatened species in South Dakota. The species has met its delisting criteria, as approved by the SDGFP Commission in 2018. The river otter will be proposed for delisting at the March 2020 Commission meeting. Comments on the proposal will be accepted for 60 days prior to the Commission making its determination at their May meeting.
 - The sturgeon chub and sicklefin chub are currently under review for potential listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. A decision is due by September 30, 2023. These are state listed species. SDGFP is currently funding a study on these species in cooperation with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Other Reports:

SDSU Fish and Wildlife Conservation Club Student Report – Bridget Ragan

- Took part in sharp-tailed grouse brush cuttings in St. Croix, MN, and was awarded the Golden Saw award for most attendance
- Continued fundraising on campus
- Held a youth program at Lake Campbell in October 2019
- Group of 8 attending CMPS Utah Conclave in March
- Offered volunteer assistance for wildlife projects in the area

Election Results – Alex Solem and Casey Heimerl

- Julie DeJong – President-elect
- Robert Lonsinger – Board member

Other Old Business

- Membership requests under Survey Monkey (spring winter newsletter)
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BFYFWNN>
- Poor response rate – currently open
- Increase student involvement with SD TWS
 - o Travel grant success
 - o Possible mentorship programs with students and professionals from across the state; Contact Eric Magedanz if interested
- Letters/Statements/Sponsorships
 - o RAWA
 - o State and Tribal Wildlife Grants support letters
 - o Comment letters on projects throughout the state
 - o Sponsorship SRM, Prairie Fest, Grasslands Conference
- STWG Fly-In Sponsor, RAWA Sign-on opportunity
 - o In the process of finding that person

New Business

Approval of New Members

- No new member applicants at annual business meeting

Meeting site/dates for the 2021 Annual Meeting

- Eileen Dowd-Stukel noted potential to hold joint meetings with adjacent states
- Wednesday through Friday format has been well received
- Josh Stafford motioned to allow board to decide next year's meeting location; second by Craig Olawsky; all in favor; motion passed

Other New Business

- Shelly Deisch, President-elect of CMPS chapter, reviewed the status of that chapter
 - o Also have travel grants for students to attend the National TWS conference
 - o CMPS can reinforce committee reports and letters with regional significance
- Hilary Morey suggested seeking opportunities to invest savings account balance that is generating minimal interest in the bank

Transfer of Gavel to President-Elect Casey Heimerl

Presentation of Past-President Plaque

- Plaque to be given to President Eric Magedanz at a later date

Motion to Adjourn by Alex Solem; second by Robert Lonsinger

Meeting adjourned 10:33 am *Respectfully submitted by: Bruce Toay*

Annual Meeting Central Mountains and Plains Section The Wildlife Society

NOW HEAR THIS!
SAVE THE DATE!

Each year, CMPS co-hosts a joint meeting with one of our seven State Chapters. For 2021, your Central Mountains and Plains Section will hold our Annual Meeting with the Utah Chapter of TWS.

UT-TWS and CMPS will have a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 situation.

For NOW, please save the dates: **March 16 and 17, 2021**



SDTWS Executive Board 2019

President

[Eric Magedanz](#)

Pheasants Forever
1720 4th St. NE Suite 3
Watertown, SD 57201
(605) 880-2651

Secretary-Treasurer

[Bruce Toay](#)

Ducks Unlimited
PO Box 427
Ipswich, SD 57451
(605) 380-0684

Past-President

[Alex Solem](#)

SD Game, Fish & Parks
895 3rd Street SW
Huron, SD 57350
(605) 353-7319

Board Member

[Chad Carlson](#)

US Fish & Wildlife Service
39650 Sand Lake Drive
Columbia, SD 57433
(605)

President-Elect

[Casey Heimerl](#)

SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-4345

Board Member

[Nick Markl](#)

SD Game, Fish & Parks
12869 140th St.
Roslyn, SD 57261
(605) 345-3381

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	Rolf Kraft	Dave Steffen
Galen Burgett	Thomas Kuck	Eileen Stukel
Eddie Childers	Scott Larson	Joel Tigner
Mary Clawson	Thomas LeFaive	Tom Tornow
Charles Dieter	Tony Leif	Ralph Town
Lester Flake	John Leisner	Spencer Vaa
Kurt Forman	Jesse Lisburg	William Walker
Andy Gabbert	Kevin Luebke	Dave Azure
Dave Gilbert	Carl Madsen	James Headley
Steve Griffin	Will Morlock	Paul Mammenga
Troy Grovenburg	Glenn Moravek	Silka Kempema
Bob Hodorff	Jay Peterson	Julie DeJong
Harris Hoistad	Erling Podoll	Larry Gigliotti
Earl Hyink	Chuck Pyle	
Warren Jackson	Greg Schenbeck	
Jonathan Jenks	Boyd Schulz	
John Kelley	Steve Spawn	
Colleen Kolbeck	Cara Staab	

Life Membership dues are prorated by age as follows:

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

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

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

Age 66 to 75: 12.5 x 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, Joshua Stafford (605) 688-5759

Awards Nathan Baker (605) 223-7709

Conservation Review Mark Norton (605) 773-3096

Education and Information **VACANT**

Membership Chuck Pyle (605) 353-5753

Nominations and Elections President, Eric Magadenz (605) 880-2651

Program President Elect, Casey Heimerl_(605) 773-4345

Resolutions and Public Statements **VACANT**

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Arrangements Past-President, Alex Solem (605) 353.7319

Certification: **VACANT**

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 Ben Lardy (605) 461-8249

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.