



# South Dakota Chapter The Wildlife Society



## A Prairie Voice



### What's Inside...

- President's Message
- 2019 Annual Mtg Minutes
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Your Voice Matters—Click [Here](#) to find out!



# President's Message

As I have begun composing my first President's message, what is currently on many minds is the imminent, potentially strongest winter storm of at least the last few years. This is hard to imagine after the last few days of temperatures in the 60's and 70's and the resultant first few sprigs of fresh green grass emerging. But this is South Dakota after all, and we never know with certainty what the next day will bring. But that volatility is what makes it an interesting place to live, right? I digress.

With astronomical spring upon us, we all have the same general notion in mind. To be outside. Whether its conducting prescribed burns, prepping and planting food plots, commencing field data collection, or meeting onsite with landowners, it is undoubtedly an exceedingly busy time of year. Moreover, this is a time of year that many of us enjoy the most and for good reason. We have patiently waited and waited ....and waited (ok maybe not so patiently) with visions, sometimes do I dare say daydreaming, of returning birds to the breeding grounds, last years' grass plantings, wetland restorations, and prescribed fires hoping that our efforts and visions will result in some sort of semblance of what we envisioned. Now that that time is arriving and concurrently schedules are filling up, I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone to always "plan" to take just a few minutes to soak it all in. Listen to the grassland songbirds in that grassland restoration, observe that mallard breeding pair joust for position on the restored seasonal wetland, and appreciate the great work you have accomplished. There is nothing more motivating and inspirational.

We had a very successful annual meeting with 112 registered attendees. A chief goal of this year's meeting and especially the theme was to bring all of us together who work for this state's invaluable resources and celebrate accomplishments, achieve a greater level of understanding of that group's efforts and roles, and foremost learn where partnerships can be garnered and bolstered. I think we gained some of this but our work isn't complete. It will be our responsibility to follow up with those leads and conversations. A big thank you to all that took time out of their schedules to attend, present, sponsor, and that helped out in any way. Without your devotion, these meetings wouldn't be as successful.

One of the most prominent suggestions that came to the forefront was recruiting, retaining, and reactivating our membership base. SDTWS has made this a priority. Our first step is obtaining valuable insight from our membership. The Board has formulated a very short survey that will assist in future meeting planning efforts. Please, take just a couple minutes to complete the survey. We also ask that if you have any comments to include those as well. We value this information and all surveys are kept anonymous. The link to the survey is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BFYFWNN>

As a board, we are already planning for our 2020 Annual Meeting. As always, we are open to hearing suggestions for meeting venues and locations. President - elect Casey Heimerl will be in charge of developing the agenda. If you have any ideas or suggestions, feel free to contact Casey at [casey.heimerl@state.sd.us](mailto:casey.heimerl@state.sd.us).

I hope you all have a wonderful spring!

Eric Magadenz

SDTWS Chapter President





# The Wildlife Society News

## Popular Articles on the TWS website

- [TWS and AFS comment on Clean Water Act rule](#)
- [Bolder coyote parents rear bolder pups](#)
- [Women's prison helps butterflies fly free](#)

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!

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.



# 2018 Annual Meeting Photos



**2019 Wildlife Professional of the Year  
Emmett Keyser**



**2019 Citizen Award  
Mary Wipf Zimmerman**

# 2018 Annual Meeting Photos



**2018 Best Student Presentation**  
**Erica Anderson**

**2019 Best Open Presentation**  
**Pete Bauman**  
SDSU Extension  
(No Photo)



**2018 Outstanding Wildlife**  
**M.S. Student**  
**Austin Wieseler**

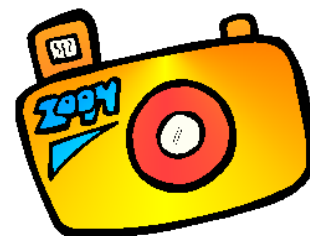


# 2018 Annual Meeting Photos





## PHOTO CONTEST



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 2018 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 2019 annual meeting.





# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

*South Dakota Chapter*

895 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SW, Huron, SD 57350

(605) 353-7319

## **Executive Board Meeting, 7 January 2019**

**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (CST), Cedar Shores of Oacoma, Oacoma, SD**

*Solem Call to Order at 10:20am. Meeting started as conference call with Solem, Magedanz, Markl, Ermer, and Pauly present. Stafford not present.*

- Secretary/Treasurer's Report
  - Approval of minutes from last executive board meeting (11/20/18)
    - *Ermer reviewed draft minutes from November board meeting*
    - *Motion to approve by Magedanz; second by Markl*
    - *All in favor. Minutes approved.*
  - Approval of Treasurer's report
    - *Ermer reviewed treasurer's report (11/20/18-1/4/19)*
    - *Motion to approve by Pauly; second by Markl*
    - *All in favor. Treasurer's report approved.*
- Old Business
  - 2019 Annual Meeting Planning
    - Registration fees- *decided to keep same as previous year*
      - *Modified registration form to waive student membership fee if attending annual meeting*
    - Keynote – Rooms/Travel- *Magedanz will double check with speaker on needs and will reserve room*
    - Speakers – Rooms/Travel- *none need at this time*
    - Students- Room- *Solem reserved 2 rooms for SDSU Club members*
    - Photo contest- *Solem will add announcement to Newsletter; Ermer arrange to get display board*
    - Registration/Online registration- *reviewed updated registration form; Ermer will work on updating online registration form; will be available for next Newsletter*
    - Gay Simpson Print- *Ermer contact Lisburg*
    - Donations
      - *Millborn Seeds – received (\$250)*
      - *DU –verbal commitment*
      - *PF – verbal commitment*
      - *Truax – received (\$600); Solem will reserve room for representative*
      - *Safari- received (\$250)*



- Crop Production Services-verbal commitment
- Winter newsletter items – *to be sent to Briggs*
  - Annual meeting minutes- *Ermer will send Briggs draft 2018 annual business meeting for membership to review (minutes to be approved at upcoming 2019 business meeting)*
  - Executive board meeting minutes- *Ermer will send approved November minutes to Briggs*
  - Candidates biographies- *received 2 of 4 so far; Solem send all bios to Briggs*
  - Meeting registration- *Ermer send online link and registration form to Briggs*
- Executive Board Candidates
  - President-elect – *one candidate so far; keep looking for one more candidate*
  - Board member
    - Randy Johnson – GFP
    - Chad Carlson - USFWS
  - Secretary/Treasurer
    - Bruce Toay - DU
- New Business
  - Student Travel/Membership Sponsorship Grants
    - *Board received application for student travel grant to SDTWS annual meeting; (NOTE: this grant provides up to \$200 to a student wanting to attend an annual state or national wildlife society meeting)*
      - *Motion by Pauly to approve student travel grant for \$200 pending documentation of registration/lodging; second by Magedanz; all in favor*
      - *Solem will notify applicant and Ermer will send check once meeting documentation is received*
    - *Board received application for student membership grant; (NOTE: this grant reimburses student's membership to national TWS that are members of a student chapter executive board attending a college or university in SD); as required proof of membership payment was received with the application*
      - *Motion by Ermer to approve reimbursement of \$37 for student membership to TWS; second by Pauly; all in favor.*
      - *Ermer will send reimbursement check to applicant*

*Conference call suspended at 11:05am*

*Meeting re-convened at 12:00N at Cedar Shores with Solem, Magedanz, Markl, and Ermer present. Stafford and Pauly not present.*

- Meeting Agenda Update
  - *Magedanz distributed draft meeting agenda; only few more presentation needed; need to adjust a few time slots*
- Meet with Kathi (Cedar Shores)
  - Final arrangements and menu
    - *Board met with Kathi and finalized menu and snacks*

- Award Nominations – *no nominations received yet; deadline was extended to January 31st; nomination request was re-distributed*
  - Wildlife Professional of the Year
  - Citizens Wildlife Award
  - M.S. Wildlife student Scholarship
  - Ph.D. Student Scholarship
- 2019 Annual Meeting Assignments –
  - Moderator – *Solem and Magedanz*
  - Registration - *Ermer*
  - Auction/Games – *Lardy, Pauly*
    - *New game ideas: name that plant/bird/roadkill; guess length of pheasant tail*
  - Photo Contest – *Ermer get display board*
  - Compile and print agendas – *Solem; 125*
  - Registration and auction forms – *Ermer*
  - Rooms for undergrads – *Solem reserve 2 rooms*
  - Print raffle tickets – *Solem (Boyd Schulz printed in previous years)*
    - *Other raffle prize ideas: kayak, fish finder*
  - Presentations/Evaluations – *need to solicit 3 evaluators for student and open presentations- Solem/Magedanz*
  - Banners - *Solem*
  - Cash box – *Ermer*
  - Gun for raffle – *follow up with Lardy*
  - Awards – *Baker*
  - Name tags – *Solem; Ermer send pre-registration names to Solem for printing*
- Other new business
  - *Discussion on student travel grant: currently \$200/person but no maximum amount identified to be distributed each year. Should there be a cap (e.g., Board can award up to \$2000 worth of student travel grants per year) or leave up to discretion of current board and budget? Will this be first come first serve or an application deadline for all? Need to consider national and state meetings are at different time so one deadline is difficult; all applications need to be approved by board; need to consider adding verbiage to student travel grant that receipts/documentation is required. Idea will be brought up to membership about the possibility of offering this grant to professionals.*
  - *Discussion on waiving of student membership fee to SD TWS. Fee will be waived during the registration period for the meeting to encourage student attendance. This period encompasses the time from which online registration opens through the annual meeting. All other times of the year, students would have to pay their own membership fee. This would prevent the hassle of reimbursing students throughout the year and writing numerous \$6 checks.*

Motion by Ermer to adjourn meeting; second by Magedanz

Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm

# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

## South Dakota Chapter

895 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SW, Huron, SD 57350

(605) 353-7319



**Executive Board Meeting, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, SD**

7:23pm Call to Order by Solem

In attendance: Magedanz, Pauly, Stafford, Ermer. Absent: Markl

- Secretary/Treasurer's Report
  - Approval of minutes from last board meeting (1/7/19)
    - *Stafford moved to approve with correction of spelling error; Second by Solem; All in favor: Minutes approved*
  - Approval of treasurers report
    - *Pauly moved to approve with correction of savings credit (0.79 to 0.41); Magedanz second; All in favor: Treasurer Report approved*
- Old Business
  - Review Draft Annual Meeting Agenda
    - *A speaker requested to be switched to an earlier time on second day*
    - *A poster was added*
  - Final arrangements for Annual Meeting at Cedar Shores
    - *Solem emailed Kathi to ask about meeting room fee; will be removed at final bill; added a microphone*
  - Awards- Baker has awards and will be presented at Awards Banquet
    - *Life Member -1*
    - *Wildlife Professional of the Year*
    - *Citizens Wildlife Award*
    - *M.S. Wildlife Student Scholarship*
    - *Ph.D. Wildlife Student Scholarship*
      - *No nominations submitted*
  - Bald Eagle Awareness Days funding request
    - *Board approved funding request for event*
  - New Wildlife Restoration Award
    - *This is a new award for national TWS; Each state picks final nominee, then goes to region, then national; eligible projects are those research projects paid for with Pittman-Robertson restoration dollars; Solem will discuss with membership at upcoming annual business meeting*



- TWS Student Chapter Board Membership Dues
  - *There was support from state chapters to pay for student officer dues*
  - *CMPS also requested that state chapters consider paying student dues. SDTWS approved this concept and implemented fall of 2018*
- Student Travel Grant update/discussion
  - *We've had interest and received 5 requests for student travel grant; all were approved pending receipts and documentation. Further discussion: should we increase the amount offered per grant? Should we provide more for national meeting vs chapter meeting? Or should we have a maximum total amount to be distributed and be competitive? Solem will discuss with membership at annual business meeting*
- Student annual membership fee update/clarification
  - *Starting with 2019 Annual Meeting, SDTWS board is waiving student membership dues (with consent from student to become a member) for any student attending annual meeting; idea is to improve student attendance*
- Meeting sponsors update
  - *Recently received check from Nutrien (formally Crop Production Services)*
  - *Invoice was sent and awaiting sponsorship check from PF, DU (verbal commitment)*
- New business
  - Final Annual Meeting Preparations
    - *Solem went through to-do list*
    - *Moderators: Solem Day 1, Magedanz Day 2, Pauly Day 3*
    - *Ermer get \$700 cashbox*
    - *Need Presentation Evaluators- 3 for open; 3 for student*
    - *Raffle tickets printed*
    - *Magedanz and Solem- Live Auction*
    - *Silent Auction open through 7pm Thursday*
      - *Donated items to Pauly and Lardy*
    - *Solem and Stafford- Elections*
    - *Photo contest set up*
    - *Grassland Coalition will be setting up table/booth*
    - *Dennis Larson Fen poster will be on display*
    - *Nancy Drilling- book and signing available*
    - *Solicit Committee Chairs to fill vacancies*
    - *Annual Audit completed by Stafford*
  - Recognition of new members:
    - *Robert Lonsinger, Owen McElroy, Brett Blank, Mike Bush, Joel Bich, Hilary Meyer, Eric Pulis, Erica Anderson, Dylan Riedl, Anna Kopp, Cole Driskill, Paul Roghair, Liam O'Connor, Dan Morrison*
    - *Silka Kempema (life member #46)*

Stafford moved to adjourn at 8:47pm, second by Magedanz



## Notes From Dennie Mann

I think spring is here at least the turkeys and the grouse think so.

A few bison calves are showing up in the park.

The badger was trying to dig up a prairie dog in the badlands but all he

got was dirt. Spent last Saturday in Custer State Park and the needles photographed 15 different marmots, and a couple of mountain goats.

The sharptails were photographed out of a blind that Ron Tietzsort sets up in CSP.

The vulture was resting on a fence post observing a prairie dog town.



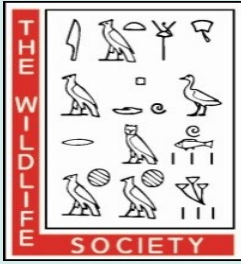
This has been a cool wet spring and visiting with biologists in South Dakota and Wyoming it has been a challenge getting lek counts completed for sharptails, prairie chickens and sage grouse. Have a great spring season!



# Notes from Dennie, Cont'd



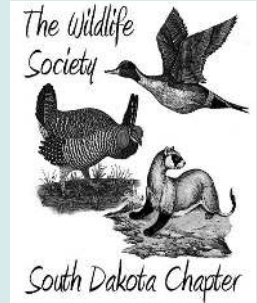




**SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**  
**Annual Business Meeting Agenda & Minutes**

**28February, 2019**

**Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, SD**



- ♦ 9:10 am Call to order – President Alex Solem
- ♦ Recognize a quorum; recognized Parliamentarian – Paul Coughlin
- ♦ Minutes from 2018 Annual Meeting – Jacquie Ermer
- ♦ Moved to approve by Jay Peterson; Second by Corey Huxoll; All in favor
- ♦ Annual Treasurer's Report – Jacquie Ermer
- ♦ Moved to approve by Joshua Stafford; Second by Julie DeJong; All in favor

**Old Business**

**Standing Committee Reports:**

Nominations and Elections – Alex Solem

\*Comments from the Candidates

-Board member candidate- Chad Carlson, Randy Johnson

-President-elect candidate- Casey Heimerl

-Secretary/Treasurer- Bruce Toay

\*Casting of the Ballots

Audit – Josh Stafford

reviewed bank accounts after 2/26/19 executive board meeting; found to be in good standing

Awards – Nathan Baker

One nomination was received for the Wildlife Professional Year Award and one nomination was received 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 offered this year, however no nominations were received. 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.

We also have two new SDTWS Life Members

#46 Silka Kempema; #47 Julie DeJong

*NEW: 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

Nomination process and criteria for this award: Completed projects or current projects with defined completion dates are eligible.

Nominations must be submitted by May 1, 2019 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 – Report submitted by Mark Norton

Also Liaison to Conservation Affairs Network

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.

*2018 Conservation Review Committee Activities:*

In 2018, 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

Senator Rounds, Senator Thune, and Congresswoman Noem in August. The conservation review committee also continues to participate in the Conservation Affair Network.

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.

Passage of the 2018 Farm Bill

Federal budgets and appropriations, including the Department of Interior reorganization plan.

The American Prairie Conservation Act - a sign on letter was distributed in of support of this legislation that would adopt a nation-wide "sodsaver" program

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants - a "Dear Colleague Letter" was circulated to express support for these grant programs

The 2015 "Waters of the United States" rule, which would have clarified the definition of the types of water bodies covered under the Clean Water Act

Endangered Species Act reform attempts.

Land and Water Conservation Fund permanent reauthorization

P-R Modernization – the "Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act" The bill allows states to use Wildlife Restoration Account funds to build and maintain shooting ranges, and for communications and marketing efforts aimed at recruiting and retaining hunters and recreational shooters.

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-**

please consider chairing this committee

Membership – Chuck Pyle-

2 new life members- Silka Kempema and Julie DeJong

Program – Alex Solem/Eric Magedanz

gave update on agenda and how speakers on first day especially tied together and partner in the field

Resolutions and Public Statements – **Vacant-**

please considering chairing this committee



## Special Committee Reports:

Arrangements – Eric Magedanz

accommodations and facilities have been sufficient at Cedar Shores

Certification – **Vacant**

Eileen Dowd Stukel volunteered to chair

Chapter History – Corey Huxoll

No report

Energy –KC Jensen

no report; Chapter did submit comment letter regarding wind farm project in Clark County

Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife – Andy Lindbloom

no report

Fundraising – Ben Lardy

game night, silent auction, live auction; no objections to format

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

-no report

Missouri River Issues – Nathan Baker

There will be a Missouri River Natural Resources Committee Conference on March 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> at the Ramkota Conference Center in Pierre. <http://mrnrc2019.com/index.html>

Potential Sessions at this meeting are:

Restoration Opportunities

Floodplain Flora and Fauna

Riverine Flora and Fauna

Reservoir Flora and Fauna

Historical Natural Resource Perspectives

Riverine and Floodplain Ecological Processes

Invasive Species

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Endangered Species

Missouri River Recovery Program

Newsletter – Jennifer Briggs

-please send Jennifer pictures, news, stories, etc to be included in newsletters

to share with membership

Public Lands – Chuck Berdan / Eddie Childers

-no report; Eddie needs to step down as co-chair; if you are interested in being part of this committee, please consider co-chairing

Tribal Fish & Wildlife – Mike Gutzmer

-no report

Wetlands – Randy Meidinger

-no report

Wildlife Diseases – report submitted by Steve Griffin

*Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)*: Surveillance for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in South Dakota during the period of July 1, 2018 through March 1, 2019 resulted in the testing of 217 elk, 52 mule deer and 438 white-tailed deer, for a total of 707 samples. Most of the elk sampling involved collection of heads at drop off locations from hunter-killed animals from the Black Hills. A total of 325 white-tailed deer samples were collected through city deer reduction programs in Rapid City, Custer, Sturgis, and Whitewood. Additional samples were collected from Sioux Falls, but data is not analyzed yet and is not included in these figures. Overall, the majority of samples were obtained from the Black Hills and extreme southwestern part of the state, with sick surveillance testing occurring statewide. South Dakota GFP asked hunters to voluntarily submit all elk heads for sampling, and offered to sample deer heads for anyone submitting samples to the Game, Fish, and Parks Regional Office in Rapid City, SD.

Testing of deer was also extended to hunters from anywhere in the state who wanted to submit samples to SDSU ADRDL with South Dakota Game, fish and Parks paying for the sampling cost.

Test results received on 707 samples indicate 22 white-tailed deer, 11 mule deer, and 8 elk were CWD positive. Hunter harvest accounted for 19 of the CWD positive cervids (5 elk, 14 deer), and sick surveillance accounted for 12 of the CWD positive cervids (3 elk, 9 deer). Additionally, 10 CWD positive deer were collected during the deer reduction programs within the city limits of Rapid City (1) and Custer (9). 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 438, including 202 elk, 90 mule deer and 146 white-tailed deer. Wind Cave National Park (WICA) has reported 10 deer and 131 elk as positive for CWD since 2002 and Custer State Park has reported 7 deer and 28 elk as part of these totals.

SDGFP continues to collect all voluntary hunter harvested elk samples as we have in the past, and sample deer heads from CWD units that are submitted to the Rapid City Regional Office or deer heads from anywhere in the state from hunters who submit heads to a regional office or to the lab at SDSU. We continue to test any suspect animals from across the state.

In June of 2018, South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks created an internal working group to work on a CWD Action Plan to be developed within the next year. For more information on CWD in South Dakota visit: <https://gfp.sd.gov/chronic-wasting>

**Hemorrhagic Disease:** The State of South Dakota experienced no reported or documented mortality from Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and/or Blue Tongue (BT). South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP) monitored for hemorrhagic disease starting in early summer and no reports were received. For more information on hemorrhagic disease in South Dakota visit:

<https://gfp.sd.gov/epizootic-hemorrhagic-disease/>

**Rabies in South Dakota:** Rabies is an enzootic fatal, but preventable, viral disease and a public health concern in South Dakota. In 2018, 538 animals were tested for rabies, and 15 animals tested positive for the disease. This is a slight decrease from the 22 positive animals in 2017. The 15 rabid animals included 14 wild animals (8 skunks, 6 bats) and 1 domestic cow. There were 523 animals that tested negative for rabies in 2018. The majority of these included 176 bats, 135 cats, 86 dogs, 57 cows, 29 raccoon, 11 skunk, 6 horses, and 23 other. No human rabies was reported. Skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*) are the primary rabies reservoir in South Dakota.

**Brucellosis Testing in Elk:** In conjunction with a radio-collaring effort of female elk from Custer County in the central Black Hills of South Dakota in February 2019, 50 adult or yearling elk were tested for brucellosis. Serum samples were sent to NVSL in Ames, IA for testing of brucellosis at the request of the South Dakota Animal Industry Board. All results showed no brucellosis in the elk.

Wildlife Diversity – Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema

Committee members: Casey Heimerl, Laura Hubers, Tom LeFaivre, Mike Gutzmer  
Eileen Stukel gave report to membership

**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. Each state, territory and the District of Columbia developed and revised comprehensive plans to provide for the needs of all fish and wildlife species and associated habitats. The legislative effort is called the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife, which resulted in the 2018 introduction of a U.S. House bill titled Recovering America's Wildlife Act. This legislation will redirect \$1.3 billion annually in existing royalties from energy and mineral development on federal lands and waters and renewable energy revenues on federal lands or the outer continental shelf to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to support state-led efforts for the full array of fish and wildlife. A bill introduced in the U.S. Senate in 2018 proposed annual rather than dedicated funding for this purpose. Our chapter sent letters to Senators Rounds and Thune in 2018 asking for their support for this effort but emphasizing the importance of dedicated funding. We expect to see the 2019 House bill introduced soon. South Dakota would receive \$16 million per year if the bill is fully funded.

**Bald Eagle Awareness Days:** Our chapter continues its support for this educational event. The 2018 event was held in late February with the total audience estimated at more than 600 people. The event featured birds of prey programs in Sioux Falls and Pierre by staff from The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota. The SDGFP Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City again held a companion event with a live birds of prey presentation by the Black Hills Raptor Center. The



2019 event was held last week and again included events in Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City.

**South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas2 book and website:** Results of the second South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas are available online on the SDGFP website and in book form. We are hosting a special book signing at this meeting. Copies can be purchased for \$30 each, saving \$8 in shipping.

**New TWS Award:** I am 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 June 2019. The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) continues to provide a framework for federal, state, tribal and private partners to benefit monarchs in the Midwest. MAFWA completed the "Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy" during 2018. You can view this plan on MAFWA's website. Nearly all states in the Midwest have also completed monarch or native pollinator plans. South Dakota's Monarch Plan, finalized in November 2018, is available on the SDGFP website. The state strategic plan was developed with a variety of partners and built on the results of the South Dakota Monarch Summit, held in October 2017. Matt Morlock of Pheasants Forever recently submitted a grant proposal for NRCS funding for a 3-year Native Pollinator Coordinator in South Dakota. We are awaiting word on that opportunity.

Last year we reported that the FWS announced an initial positive finding for potential listing for tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), which was formerly the eastern pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*). This species has been affected by white-nose syndrome, which was confirmed in South Dakota during the summer of 2018. South Dakota's confirmations to date include Custer and Jackson counties. White-nose syndrome is caused by a fungus called Pd for short. The fungus often causes a white fuzz on the bat's nose and wings. It's thought that the fungus damages a bat's skin, causing the animal to rouse more easily during the winter and waste valuable energy. White-nose syndrome is the disease caused by Pd.

Last year we reported on a SDGFP Wildlife Diversity Program accomplishment in which staff drafted status reviews of all state listed species and delisting and downlisting criteria for species with sufficient information. The full draft document was made available through the Game, Fish and Parks' Commission process, and the document was finalized and is available on the SDGFP website. This document will be updated in 2020 with any new information.

Other Reports:

## SDSU Fish and Wildlife Conservation Club Student Report- Nick Peterson

Thanked chapter for providing student travel grants and TWS membership

Worked with Dr. Jensen on bird banding

Madison WMD- assisted with purple prairie coneflower seed harvest from WPAs

MN Sharp-tail Grouse Society- helped them with brush cutting at end of March

Annual buffalo banquet- 70<sup>th</sup> annual in 2018; no banquet in 2019

### Election Results – Alex Solem and Joshua Stafford

Casey Heimerl- President elect

Chad Carlson- Board member

Bruce Toay- Secretary/Treasurer

### Other Old Business

SDTWS growing account balance

Pay (reimburse) SDSU student officer national dues

Increase PhD and Master's award

\$250 to \$500 and \$200 to \$400, respectively

Student Travel Grant

Application can be found online

\$200 grant to attend national or state annual TWS meeting

5 requests were approved

Other states offer similar grants

Should we have a cap on grant totals? e.g. offer \$1500 in grants

Suggestion to just pay registration fee especially at national TWS rather than have a grant total

Why send students to national? Networking! Expose to research around the nation, encourage to present posters

### Membership

Reminder that SDTWS member is not automatically TWS member

SDSU Club member not automatically a SDTWS member

Increase student involvement in SDTWS

Chapter waived student chapter membership fee if attended annual meeting

Travel grant opportunity

Need to reach out to other universities/colleges- biology club?

Invited other conservation entities in SD to annual meeting

How can we increase or recruit new regular members?

Can we set up automatic recurring membership payment on our website?

### Letters/Statements

Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Senate and House

US COOP Unit funding support

Introduction of SDTWS to the SD GFP Commission

Crocker Wind Farm Environmental Assessment

Various comment letters on projects throughout the state

Donation received from "Fight for the Cause"- Mitchell Senior High English II donation

\$358 donation to SDTWS for making our world a better place

### New Business

#### Approval of New Members

No new member applicants at annual business meeting

#### Meeting site/dates for the 2020 Annual Meeting

2019 meeting was Wed-Fri instead of Mon-Wed due to conflicts with other organizational meetings

consider joint meeting with AFS next time they meet in SD; contact AFS president about next meeting

ever consider weekend meeting instead of during week?

Corey Huxoll motion to allow board to decide next year's meeting location; second by Jay Peterson; all in favor; motion passed

#### Other New Business

None



Transfer of Gavel to President-Elect Eric Magedanz

Presentation of Past-President Plaque- Alex Solem

Motion to Adjourn by Joshua Stafford; second by Mark Norton

Meeting adjourned 10:41am

*Respectfully submitted by: Jacquie Ermer*



**SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

**2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**February 23, 2017 - February 22, 2018**

**SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

**2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**February 23, 2018 - February 17, 2019**



CHECKING ACCOUNT

**Beginning Balance (February 22, 2018)**

**\$ 7,387.02**

**2018 Income (February 23 - December 31, 2018) \$ 16,480.11**

raffle, shirts, coolers, photo contest, auction, games, cashbox	\$ 4,247.76
Registrations	\$ 7,630.00
Annual dues at/prior annual meeting	\$ 841.00
Meals	\$ 2,026.00
Annual dues after annual meeting (paid online & direct)	\$ 222.35
Sponsorships/Donations	
2018 meeting Sponsorships	\$ 1,100.00
Donation from Mitchell School- "Fight for the Cause"	\$ 358.00
Donation from individual	\$ 15.00
Cooler sales (after annual meeting)	\$ 40.00

**2019 Income (January 1, 2019 - February 17, 2019) \$ 1,307.53**

Annual SDTWS dues paid to parent TWS online	\$ 192.00
Membership dues (direct & online)	\$ 15.53
Sponsorships/Donations (2019 meeting)	\$ 1,100.00

**2018 Expenses (February 23 - December 31, 2018) \$ 16,169.36**

Annual Meeting (2018)	
Grad Student awards	\$ 200.00
Award/plaque purchases	\$ 284.10
Meeting supplies	\$ 79.95
Speaker fee	\$ 1,000.00
Raffle items	\$ 1,597.49
Cedar Shores Resort	\$ 9,956.20
Cashbox	\$ 700.00
Donations/Sponsorships	
Soil Health Tour	\$ 250.00
Educational Fact Sheets- Fen Wetlands	\$ 500.00
SDTWS President travel to National TWS meeting	\$ 1,402.16
Canvas print for 2019 annual meeting	\$ 34.46
Dues paid to CMPS for members	\$ 165.00

**2019 Expenses (January 1, 2019 - February 17, 2019) \$ 515.00**

Donations/Sponsorships/Scholarships	
Bald Eagle Awareness Days	\$ 200.00
SDSU Student travel grant to SDTWS meeting	\$ 200.00
Student Membership Grant	\$ 37.00
Meeting Registration forms-printing	\$ 58.00
Postage	\$ 20.00



<u>Balance of Checking Account (as of February 17, 2019)</u>		<u>\$ 8,490.30</u>
<u>SAVINGS ACCOUNT</u>		
<u>Beginning Balance (February 22, 2018)</u>		<u>\$ 15,751.87</u>
<u>2018 Income (February 23-December 31, 2018)</u>		<u>\$ 4.32</u>
Interest	\$ 4.32	
<u>2019 Income (January - February 17, 2019)</u>		<u>\$ 0.41</u>
Interest	\$ 0.41	
<u>2018/2019 Withdrawals (February 23, 2018- February 17, 2019)</u>		<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Transfers to Checking	\$ 0.00	
<u>Balance of Savings Account (as of February 17, 2019)</u>		<u>\$ 15,756.60</u>
TOTAL BALANCE CHECKING (2/17/19)		\$ 8,490.30
TOTAL BALANCE SAVINGS (2/17/19)		\$ 15,756.60
Total Balance Checking and Savings (2/17/19)		\$ 24,246.90

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jacquie Ermer  
 Secretary/Treasurer

# 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) 885-6320

## 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

# 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	William Morlock	Paul Mammenga
Troy Grovenburg	Glenn Moravek	Silka Kempema
Bob Hodorff	Jay Peterson	Julie DeJong
Harris Hoistad	Erling Podoll	
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:  $25 \times \text{annual dues}$  ( $\$10 \times 25 = \$250$ )

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,** 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**

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 2017, you will be considered a new member in 2018 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:

Jacquie Ermer  
42924 140<sup>th</sup> ST  
Webster, SD 57274  
605-345-3381

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.