

# South Dakota Chapter

## The Wildlife Society



# A Prairie Voice



Spearfish Canyon

Photo Credit: Mary Ann Mann

## What's Inside...

- President's Message
- 2021 Annual Meeting Survey—Please take a moment to share your thoughts on how to proceed with the annual meeting
- **NEW SECTION**— Professional Accomplishments and Awards/Honors of our members
- Notes From Dennie Mann (Photos by Mary Ann!)
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Spotted Skunk sightings needed!!



# President's Message

The temperatures are dropping, leaves are changing, and migrating birds are passing through. There is no doubt that fall is here. Looking back to spring, I for one am shocked at how fast summer flew by considering all we have been going through. I commend all the parents out there that have been able to balance your work lives with taking care of your family's health and education needs. Hopefully an end to this chaos will be in sight soon. In the meantime, we need to take advantage of these cool temperatures to get outdoors and enjoy hiking, birdwatching, hunting or whatever it is that helps us unwind.

Given everything going on, one major item that needs to be addressed is how our Chapter would like to proceed with our annual meeting that was scheduled to take place on February 24-26th. Several other Chapters and Sections have decided to either cancel their annual meetings, go to an online/virtual option, or to postpone their meeting until the spring or summer and hold them in an outdoor venue. Our board would like to gather input from our members to help us plan how we should proceed with our meeting. We ask that you please take the time to fill out an online survey by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W3Y7KKV>. This survey will be open until October 16th.



In other news, our Chapter committees have been busy providing comment letters on a variety of topics including:

- The USFWS proposed rule regarding a new definition of habitat in the Endangered Species Act.
- The SD Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks' revision to their Sage Grouse Management Plan.
- Fort Pierre National Grasslands scoping letter for proposed prairie restoration research project.

Our Chapter has also had great success with our student mentorship program. Over the past few months several students have signed up and been matched with wildlife professionals that are able to provide guidance in career directions and opportunities, and to provide professional and academic advice. We have received great feedback from students and professionals that have participated in the program. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee, please contact [Eric.Magedanz@state.sd.us](mailto:Eric.Magedanz@state.sd.us). The board also encourages members to get more involved with the Chapter by signing up for a committee position. We are currently still looking for a member to chair the vacant Fundraising and Grassland Issues committees. If you interested in chairing a committee or have any questions on the committee roles, please feel free to contact me.

Finally, our board decided to add a new section to our newsletter that recognizes our member's professional accomplishments, where we announce awards of honors that have been received. If you know of any individuals that should be acknowledged in our next newsletter, please contact one of the board members.

I wish everyone a happy and safe fall season,  
Casey Heimerl  
SDTWS Chapter President



# Please take the Survey... We need your voice...

## 2021 SDTWS ANNUAL MEETING

The SD Chapter of The Wildlife Society is currently discussing how to proceed with our annual meeting given the ongoing Covid-19 situation. Several other TWS Chapters and Sections have opted to go to an online virtual meeting instead of meeting in person. We ask that you please take the time to fill out a survey by clicking on the link below to help us determine how we should proceed with our planning. The survey will remain open until October 16th.

**CLICK HERE**

### CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS



#### TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist

TWS recently hosted a webinar explaining the process of becoming a certified wildlife biologist. Here is the link to the [webinar](#).

Click [Here](#) to learn more about TWS certification programs.



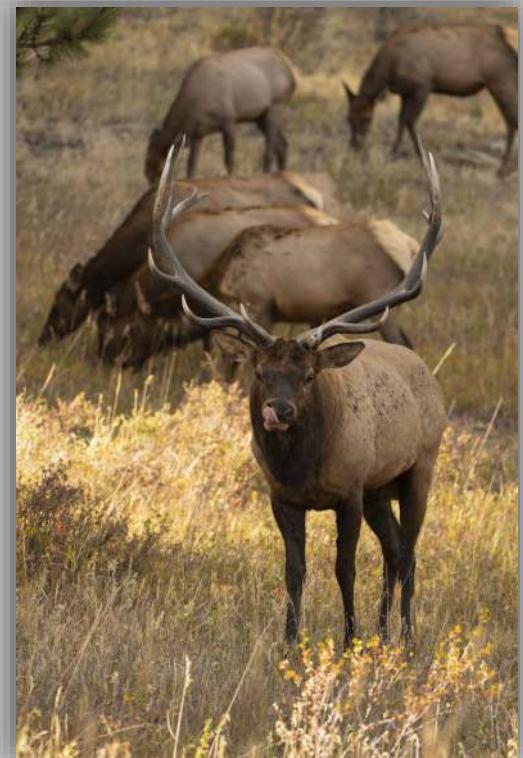
## Notes from Dennie...

We had planned on being in Rocky Mountain National Park the 3rd week of September but with the 60,000 acre fire on the west side and the Park Service closing the meadows to the public during the elk rut we decided to spend this fall photographing wildlife in the Black Hills. Since it was Mary Ann's week off I was the tripod carrier and didn't touch a camera.

It wouldn't be summer in SD without the bison rut this bull and cow were photographed in Wind Cave NP end of August.



Photographed antelope in Wind Cave NP and Custer SP, this young buck was practicing on a thistle plant along with leaving his scent.



Finding elk was pretty slow this year but in the prairie units there were some huge bulls harvested up to a 411 bull in the Cheyenne River unit, a friend of ours shot a 350 plus bull up there 100 yards from where the 411 was taken.

Mary Ann and I spent a day in Spearfish Canyon at the peak of color trying to find the mountain goats, the color was what you would expect and we did find number "45".



The last day of vacation for Mary Ann was the best, She found a bobcat in a prairie dog town lying by a prairie dog mound that was extremely cooperative, we haven't photographed a bobcat since we were stationed in Murdo, which was way before digital. One last vacation parting shot from Mary Ann.

We had a great late summer and early fall photographing SD wildlife.

Can't wait until mid-October when the bighorn rams show up in the Badlands, we hope to find the 11 year old ram that we have photographed since 2015 here is the last image we have from December 2019!



Thanks for all you do for TWS and conservation!!!  
Have a great fall season!  
When you are out in Rapid give us a call!

Thank you,  
Dennie Mann

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Professional Accomplishments Awards & Honors



Dr. Jonathan Jenks will be retiring in January 2021 after nearly 30 years at South Dakota State University. Dr. Jenks is a Distinguished Professor of wildlife ecology and Life Member of the SDTWS. Dr. Jenks served as President of SDTWS from 1995-1996 and has made significant and lasting contributions to wildlife management in South Dakota and across the country.



SOUTH DAKOTA  
STATE UNIVERSITY

### Noteworthy Honors and Research Briefs

The TWS Executive board discussed including a section in the newsletter for announcements - related to "Professional Accomplishments" or something similar, where we could announce awards or honors that members have received, significant accomplishments, or other noteworthy announcements.

Second, we discussed potentially including student or professional research briefs—to include an abstract, with a link to more information (e.g., a report, a poster, images, etc.)

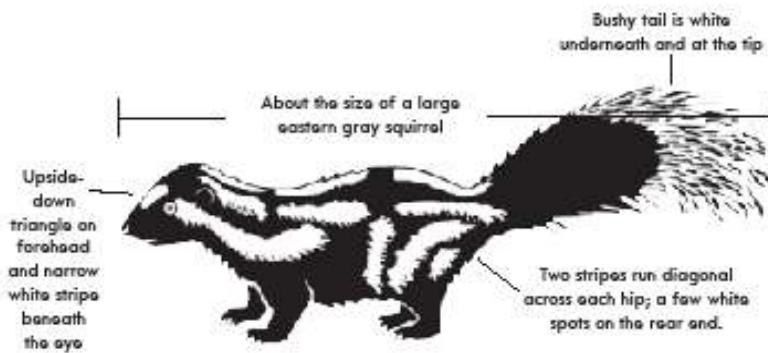
If you have something to share, please let the TWS Executive Board know and we will get it into the newsletter.

**SDSU & SDGFP are looking for your help.....**

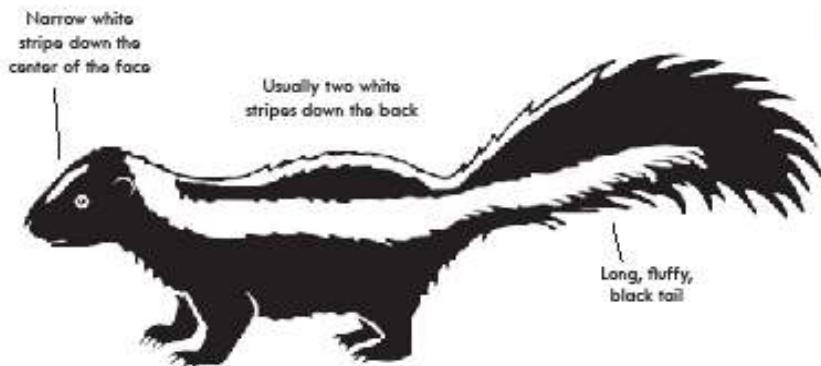
# **EASTERN SPOTTED SKUNK**

## **HAVE YOU SEEN ME?**

### **EASTERN SPOTTED SKUNK**



### **STRIPED SKUNK**



**SOUTH DAKOTA  
STATE UNIVERSITY**



South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks and South Dakota State University are looking for sightings of **EASTERN SPOTTED SKUNKS**.

- » The ecology, status, and distribution of spotted skunks (a.k.a. polecat, civet cat) in South Dakota are not well known.
- » Please help us understand the status of the species in the state.
- » Report any past or present locations from sightings, roadkills, game cameras, or traps.

#### **WAYS TO REPORT**

- » Upload your information to the South Dakota Spotted Skunks project at: [inaturalist.org/projects/south-dakota-spotted-skunks](https://inaturalist.org/projects/south-dakota-spotted-skunks), or use the iNaturalist mobile app.
- » Email photographs with GPS coordinates (enable location services for photos on your smart phone) to: [southdakotaspottedskunks@gmail.com](mailto:southdakotaspottedskunks@gmail.com). Location information from trappers will not be shared publicly.
- » Call 605-651-0978.

# The Wildlife Society News

## Popular Articles on the TWS website

- [Lawsuit challenges decision not to list bi-state sage-grouse](#)
- [Beavers create fire-resistant forest patches](#)
- [Tracking devices decrease survival of migratory birds](#)

For the latest TWS News

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



# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation



## Membership Renewal

- 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.

South Dakota Chapter



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



# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

South Dakota Chapter

523 E. Capitol Ave, Pierre SD 57501

(605) 773-4345



## Executive Board Meeting, June 17th, 2020 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM (CST)

*Heimerl called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm. Meeting conducted via Zoom conference call with Heimerl, Lonsinger, Magedanz, Carlson, DeJong, and Toay present.*

### ⇒ Secretary/Treasurer's Report

- Approval of minutes from last executive board meeting (3/23/20)
  - ◆ *Lonsinger motion to approve minutes, second by DeJong*
  - ◆ *No discussion; all in favor, minutes approved*
- Approval of Treasurer's report (3/21/20-6/15/20)
  - ◆ *Toay noted outstanding credit from Millborn Seeds for conference sponsorship, Magedanz to follow up*
  - ◆ *Magedanz motion to approve report, second by Carlson*
  - ◆ *No further discussion; all in favor, Treasurer's report approved*

### ⇒ Old Business

- 2021 Annual Meeting Date and Location
  - ◆ *Discussion on potential impact of COVID-19 on annual meeting*
  - ◆ *DeJong has reached out to NDTWS chapter about a potential joint conference, no further details*
  - ◆ *Membership survey indicates some interest in rotating annual conference location*
  - ◆ *Due to potential impact of COVID-19, the board decided to forego joint meetings in 2021 and keep same location with Cedar Shores in Oacoma to maintain flexibility of scheduling*
  - ◆ *Keep same time frame with meeting dates February 24-26, 2021*
  - ◆ *DeJong to follow up with Cedar Shores for meeting dates and cancellation policy*
- 2021 Annual Meeting Planning (Update from Julie)
  - ◆ Theme
    - *DeJong discussed possible opportunities for meeting theme*
    - *“Technology” an appropriate fit*
    - *Seek opportunities for workshops or other types group engagement*

- ◆ Speaker ideas
  - *Board to identify potential speakers/presenters to DeJong by July 17*
- ◆ Venue
  - *Cedar Shores at Oacoma*
- ◆ Raffle Items
  - *Lonsinger noted fundraising success in other TWS chapters by auctioning big-ticket items like guns, travel, guided hunts and fishing trips, etc.*
  - *Board agreed to seek opportunities for donations in SD to increase engagement at Annual Meeting*
- ◆ Gay Simpson Print
  - *Heimerl discussed potential opportunities for permanent placement of Gay Simpson print*
  - *Heimerl reached out to Chapter History Chair Corey Huxoll to summarize success of long-standing annual auction*
  - *Heimerl to reach to Gay Simpson family to determine preferred placement of print*
- ◆ Empty committee positions
  - *Board discussed potential members to Chair the vacant Education and Information, Grasslands Issues, Fundraising, and Resolutions and Public Statements Committees*
  - *Board discussed the potential to consolidate the Resolutions and Public Statements Committee with the Conservation Review Committee*
    - \* *Would likely require a vote by membership at Annual Meeting*
    - \* *Table for now and discuss the potential at the next Annual Business Meeting*
- ◆ Funding Requests
  - *Previous request for sponsorship of 29<sup>th</sup> Biennial Pronghorn Conference has been postponed due to COVID-19*
- ◆ Letters of Support
  - Recovering America's Wildlife Act
    - \* *Board reviewed and signed SDTWS letter of support for RAWA via email prior to this Board Meeting*
- ◆ SDTWS Google Access
  - *DeJong and Lonsinger noted difficulties accessing SDTWS documents via Google Drive*
  - *Heimerl to review verification process and update accordingly*

⇒ New Business

- Working with TWS SDSU student chapter
  - ◆ Collaborating with student chapter
    - *Board discussed opportunities to engage SDSU chapter with South Dakota projects*

- *Magedanz provided opportunities for field work*
- *Lonsinger noted opportunities for multi-year memberships and increased student attendance at Annual Meetings closer to campus*
- *Magedanz to draft an email to SDTWS membership to expand Student Mentorship Program*
- TWS National Annual Conference
  - *2020 National Annual Conference in Louisville, KY, has been cancelled due to COVID-19*
  - *Virtual conference to be held, with meeting details available soon*
  - ♦ Discussion on SDTWS chapter representation
  - *SDTWS could provide scholarships for students wishing to attend virtual conference workshops*
- Tribal Lands Research Award?
  - ♦ *Heimerl reviewed progress on Tribal Land Research Award*
  - ♦ *The board can add additional awards to our existing slate at Annual Meeting*
  - ♦ *Heimerl to request 1-page summary from Tom LeFaive*
- Upcoming Summer Newsletter
  - ♦ Ideas for content
    - ♦ *Summer Newsletter likely in August*
    - ♦ *Annual Meeting location*
    - ♦ *Student travel grant details*
    - ♦ *Student chapter update*
    - ♦ *Pictures or summaries of projects across South Dakota*
    - ♦ *Non-TWS awards for SDTWS membership*

*Motion to adjourn by Toay; second by Lonsinger, Meeting adjourned at 2:49 pm*

**Interested in hearing more from TWS...**

Sign up [here](#) for our free, monthly edition of the *eWildlifer* — your one-stop shop for the latest wildlife news, Section and Chapter updates, TWS announcements, and more.



The Wildlife Society recently developed a banner ad for the Associate Member edition of the *eWildlifer*. Associate members are individuals that are a member of a Section or Chapter but not of The Wildlife Society at the main, international level.

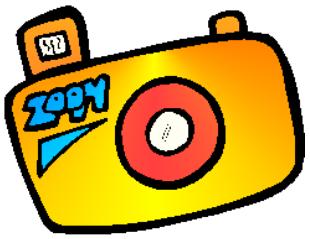
Click here for more information [https://wildlife.secure.force.com/AssociateMember\\_Signup](https://wildlife.secure.force.com/AssociateMember_Signup)

If you have any questions please feel free to contact:

Mariah Simmons  
Unit Services Manager  
The Wildlife Society  
P: 301-897-9770 ext. 310  
[msimmons@wildlife.org](mailto:msimmons@wildlife.org)



## 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 2021 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 2022 annual meeting.



## CMPS is Seeking Your Stories

Central Mountains and Plains Section wants to know more about our seven-state members!

CMPS represents SD, ND, KS, CO, UT, NE and WY. Did you all know that with your paid dues to your state's Chapter of The Wildlife Society, you are AUTOMATICALLY a member of the CMPS? Yep.

Your state chapter pays \$1 to CMPS for every member.

### **Why should you care?**

Because Sections within The Wildlife Society represent a collection of geographic area states that promote and enhance your networking and career development opportunities. Our members foster and support each other in all sorts of matters. And, we share comradery at meetings and joint projects.

We offer opportunities to serve on our executive board, address and respond to critical regional natural resource issues, provide student travel grants and professional recognition awards to name a few perks.

We have a Section Representative to The Wildlife Society who disseminates information over and above that which is in e-newsletters, etc.

Our CMPS is a great regional outlet for the exchange of information among wildlife professionals. To help with the exchange of information, we are seeking your stories and photos on wildlife and natural resource projects, research, and accomplishments. Who knows, maybe the project you've always wanted to accomplish has been completed in one of our sister states! You just made some critical professional connections.

Please submit your networking stories to [aleshia.fremgen@westernalum.org](mailto:aleshia.fremgen@westernalum.org).

Keep your information item to 1 page and include 1-2 photos.

Here is a sample project...



Photo is a joint project between South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks and US Forest Service. The project is gate installation to better regulate motorized travel in an area on Black Hills National Forest which adjoins a SDGFP Game Production Area. These areas are highly important to Rocky Mountain Elk and mule deer.

Photo by S. Deisch

# SDTWS Executive Board 2020

## President

Casey Heimerl

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

## Past-President

Eric Magedanz

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

## President-Elect

Julie DeJong

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

## Secretary-Treasurer

Bruce Toay

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

## Board Member

Chad Carlson

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

## Board Member

Rob Lonsinger

SDSU  
100 Helen Circle  
Brookings, SD 57006



## 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	Paul Coughlin
Warren Jackson	Greg Schenbeck	Chuck Berdan
Jonathan Jenks	Boyd Schulz	Shelly Deisch
John Kelley	Steve Spawn	
Colleen Kolbeck	Cara Staab	

Life Membership dues are prorated by age as follows:

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

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

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

Age 66 to 75:  $12.5 \times$  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**

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### 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

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