

South Dakota Chapter **The Wildlife Society**



A Prairie Voice



What's Inside...

- **President's Message**
- **2019 Annual Meeting Details—Register Online—available now!!**
- **SDTWS Executive Board Candidates**
- **2018 Annual Meeting Minutes**

A Message From the President

The annual SD TWS meeting is about a month away. I hope everyone is excited to learn more about conservation efforts in our state, do some networking, and most importantly see some familiar faces and catch up with old friends. As the executive board prepares for this meeting in Oacoma, I'm reminded of a quote from Aldo Leopold that demonstrates the practical application of our annual meeting's theme, **Together in Conservation**:

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land"

Differences in the social, economic, and environmental value of wildlife make this harmony difficult to achieve at times. However, it's a common goal that wildlife professionals and other entities strive for; it takes everyone's cooperation and willingness to make it work. We are lucky to have a number of agencies, organizations, and many people in this state that value wildlife and its associated habitat enough to foster partnerships to reach this goal. We hope to exemplify this notion at the meeting. To do this, President-elect, Eric Magedanz, has worked hard putting together an impressive agenda and list of speakers that we hope you enjoy. One agenda item we think embodies this theme is the partnership between the SD Corn Growers Association and Pheasants Forever. Their partnership is a perfect example of how conservation can be a win-win for two different user groups, particularly with their conservation efforts on saline soils. In addition to this, I am excited to announce that Dave Nomsen, VP of Government Affairs for Pheasants Forever, will deliver the keynote speech at our annual banquet. Dave is an advocate for improving legislative policies that benefit conservation; undoubtedly, his message will resonate with this meeting's theme.



Last year we had a successful game/networking night and everyone seemed pleased with the how the new format went. I'm sure most of you will be just as delighted this year because we hope to keep up with last year's success. But to continue with tradition, we will still have a live auction for a few select items like the Gay Simpson print. Every year we are fortunate to receive donated items and we will graciously accept any of these items to add to our auction this year. However, a majority of our auction items will be sold via silent auction. We hope the games we have planned and the auction format gives everyone an opportunity to network and visit without distractions.



Registration for the meeting is now open and can be completed online through our website at: <http://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/annual-meeting/>. If you would prefer to register in person, we will continue to offer registration to attendees on-site at the meeting. As mentioned in previous newsletters, our chapter is offering student travel grants to those who need help paying expenses associated with attending our annual meeting. The application

A Message From the President

for this student travel grant can be found on our website under our grant opportunities section: <http://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/>. Also, if you are a student registering online please notice SD TWS is waiving your chapter membership fee. I have mentioned in previous newsletters that the executive board has chosen to waive the \$6 student membership fee in hopes of recruiting more student members. If you would like to decline becoming a student member of SD TWS, please let us know at the annual meeting and we can remove you from our membership list.



We will be continuing the annual photo contest. Over the past couple of years, we have displayed a wide variety of wonderful photographs. I encourage every one of our members to look back on the photos you've collected throughout the year and submit them for the contest. We will again feature last year's winning photograph printed on a canvas during our silent auction for our members to bid on. We plan on doing the same

thing next year with the winner from this year's group of photos! Details of this contest are featured later in this newsletter.

I have been actively involved with SD TWS for the last 4 years serving as an Executive Board Member, President-elect, and now President. Eric Magedanz will be taking over the role as President of the chapter as I transition to Past-President. With that said, this will be my last President's message. I can say my involvement in TWS has helped me grow professionally more than I ever thought it would. I've been able to network with other chapter's members and learn about topics I was unfamiliar with. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to serve in a leadership role for South Dakota's Chapter of the Wildlife Society. I encourage all of you reading this to get more involved with SD TWS. Please take a look at our committee vacancies

(<http://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/leadership-governance/>) and try to find a role that would suit your strengths. If you are looking for involvement on a different level, consider running for an executive board member position at our next annual meeting.

I hope to see you all at the annual meeting!

Alex Solem

President - SD TWS



SDTWS 2019 Annual Meeting

(Wed.) February 27- (Fri.) March 1, 2019
"Together in Conservation"



Arrowwood Cedar
Shores Resort
Oacoma, SD

**Call (888) 697-6363
for room reservations**

Register for the Annual Meeting ONLINE!!

Click [Here](#) to register

(credit cards accepted)



Please note: After selecting each registration item and selecting "Add to Cart", the PayPal page shows what is in your cart. You will need to select "Continue Shopping" in the upper right hand corner to add the next registration item, i.e. Thursday lunch, Thursday banquet, and Membership Dues.

There is a dropdown menu for registration fees - there are discounts if you are a student, retiree, or only staying one day. If you have any questions or issues, please contact [Jacquie Ermer](#) at (605) 345-3381

South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting

Registration and Receipt
Arrowwood Resort, Oacoma SD
February 27- March 1, 2019

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Meeting Registration

General	\$100	_____
General 1-Day	\$ 50	_____
Student/Retiree	\$ 35	_____
Student/Retiree 1-Day	\$ 25	_____
Wednesday Luncheon (paid for by sponsors)	\$	<u>FREE</u>
Thursday Luncheon	\$ 11	_____
Thursday Awards Banquet	\$ 15	_____

Annual Dues - South Dakota Chapter Membership

Regular	\$ 10	_____
Student (<u>FREE</u> if attending SD college/university)	\$ 6	_____
Life	\$	_____

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.

Central Mountains and Plains Section Membership \$ FREE (SDTWS Pays \$1/Member)

Total Paid \$ _____

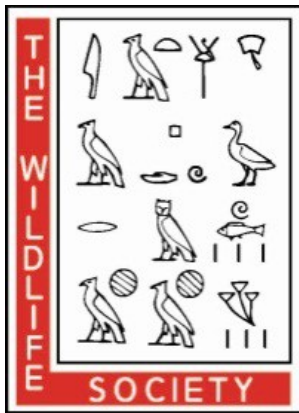
☐ (check box) **By becoming a member of SD TWS, I support the Chapter's bylaws and objectives:**

- 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.

Please make check payable to: **SD TWS**

Form of payment (circle one): CHECK CASH CREDIT CARD

To preregister, send form and check to: Jacquie Ermer, 42924 140th ST, Webster, SD 57274



2019 SDTWS Annual Meeting
Cedar Shore Resort and Convention Center
Oacoma, South Dakota
27 February - 1 March, 2019
Tentative Agenda



WEDNESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY

11:00 1:00 **Registration and Lunch (Free lunch sponsored by Truax)**

1:00 1:15 **Welcome and Introductions**

Special Session Day 1: *Together in Conservation*

1:15 2:15 **South Dakota's Opportunity for Profitable Agriculture and Wildlife to Thrive in the Future; with ideas on how NRCS can assist in a Partnership role - Jeff Zimprich, SD NRCS**

2:15 2:40 **SD Grassland Coalition - Rex Johnson and Brett Nix**

2:40 3:05 **Conservation Delivery Using Partnership Positions - Paul Coughlin, SD GFP**

3:05 3:15 **BREAK**

3:15 3:45 **Outreach to Non-Operating Landowners to Achieve Conservation Benefits - Angela Ehlers, SDACD**

3:45 4:05 **SD Partners for Fish and Wildlife - Boyd Schulz, USFWS**

4:05 4:35 **Cooperative Efforts to Manage Wildlife and Increase Public Safety in Sioux Falls, SD - Julie DeJong, City of Sioux Falls Animal Control**

4:35 5:00 **Increasing Fire Capacity with Limited Options - Joe Blastick, The Nature Conservancy**

5:00 6:00 **Social**

6:00 7:00 **Supper (Free with registration)**

7:00 8:00 **Evening Festivities (Games, Auction, Networking)**

THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY

8:00 9:00 **Committee meetings** (This is scheduled time to allow for standing and special committees to meet if desired.)

9:00 12:00 **Annual Chapter Business Meeting** (*Rolls and coffee provided*)

12:00 1:00 **Luncheon**

Special Session Day 2: *Together in Conservation*

1:00 2:00 **SD Corn and Pheasants Forever** - Jim Ristau SD Corn Growers Association and Matt Morlock SD Pheasants Forever



BEFORE: Saline soils, which are often marked by patchy white-caked areas devoid of plant residue, are a growing threat across much of South Dakota.



AFTER: Here's a photo of the same patch of ground six months after being planted with a typical perennial seed mix.

2:00 2:30 **SDSU's Natural Resources Law Enforcement Program: Preparing a Fledgling Program for a Grown-up World** - Don McCrea, SDSU

2:30 3:15 **South Dakota's Cooperative Grassland & Wildlife Outreach to Landowners**
Pete Bauman, SDSU Extension

3:15 3:30 **BREAK**

Session One: Contributed Papers

- 3:30 3:50 **Nutrients, Pesticides and Selenium in Agricultural Tile Discharges into Public Wetlands, Madison Wetland Management District, South Dakota** - Matt Schwarz, USFWS
- 3:50 4:10 **Monitoring wildlife populations with noninvasive genetic sampling, capture-recapture methods, and dynamic occupancy analyses: an example with two elusive carnivores** - Robert Lonsinger, SDSU
- 4:10 4:30 **American Dippers in the Black Hills** - Nancy Drilling, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
- 4:30 4:50 **Pheasant response to very high experimental doses of lead** - Travis Runia, SD GFP
- 5:00 6:00 **Social**
- 6:00 7:00 **Supper**
- 7:00 8:00 **Keynote Speaker – Partnerships in an Evolving Conservation World**
Dave Nomsen, Pheasants Forever



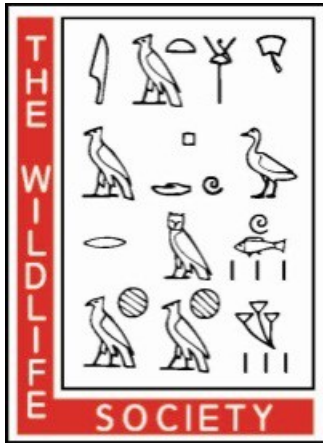
- 8:00 8:30 **Award Presentations**

FRIDAY, 1 MARCH

Session Two: Contributed Papers

- 8:00 8:40 **Profitability Analysis Utilizing Conservation Programs** - Becky Watkins,
Cole Berkley, Katelin Frerichs, SDSU Senior Capstone
- 8:40 9:00 **Analyzing the effect of temperature on caribou forage quality using an experimental approach and natural variation in northern Alaska** - Heidi Becker
- 9:00 9:20 **Hitch Hiking Through Eastern South Dakota: Density and Distribution of Grasshopper Mites** - Erica Anderson
- 9:20 9:40 **BREAK**
- 9:40 10:00 **Modeling the density, abundance, and distribution of pheasants across heterogeneous landscape configurations** - Hilary Syverston
- 10:00 10:20 **Assessing Multiple Methods of Defining Priority Areas: Using Greater Sage-Grouse in South Dakota As An Example** - Lindsey Bischoff
- 10:20 10:40 **Assessing survival and mortality of bighorn sheep in Badlands National Park**
Austin Wieseler
- 10:40 11:00 **Grasland Bird Use of High and Low Diversity Native Plantings in Eastern South Dakota** - Jackie K. Krakow
- 11:00 12:00 **Present Student and Open Presentation Awards**
- Gun Raffle Drawing**
- Closing Comments and Adjourn Meeting**

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

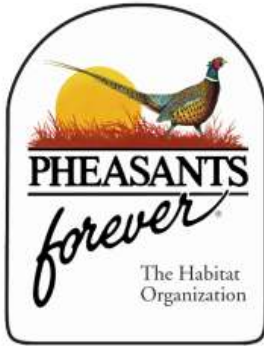


The South Dakota Chapter of TWS (SDTWS) was initiated on February 19, 1966 with 56 charter members. SDTWS is affiliated with the Central Mountains and Plains Section, one of eight subdivisions of TWS. The full membership of SDTWS meets annually in the spring to exchange scientific information through 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.

2019 Meeting Sponsors

We Greatly Appreciate Your Continued Support!!!



South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

2019 Executive Board Elections

Information on candidates for President Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and Executive Board Member are presented below. If you are not able to attend the 2019 SDTWS annual meeting at the Cedar Shores Resort, an absentee ballot is included in this edition of *A Prairie Voice*.

****Candidate for President Elect—Casey Heimerl**

Personal Info: I originate from Chippewa Falls, WI the land of good beer and cheese. I currently live in Pierre, South Dakota with my husband, yellow lab, English setter and English pointer.

Education: I received my BS degree at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point and my Master's Degree at South Dakota State University where I studied ruffed grouse habitat selection in the Black Hills.

Employment: I have been employed with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks for eight years as a Wildlife Biologist in the Wildlife Diversity Program. My position primarily involves the survey, monitoring and conservation of nongame wildlife in the state, particularly rare, threatened and endangered species.

Memberships/Affiliations: I have been a member of the SD Chapter of the Wildlife Society for 10 years and served on the board for two years. In my free time I enjoy big game and upland game bird hunting, horseback riding, dog training and playing my banjo.

****Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer - Bruce Toay**

Personal Info: I grew up in Grand Forks, ND, and moved to South Dakota back in 2006. I currently reside in Ipswich, SD, with my two sons and our yellow lab. I take any opportunity I can to get us out to enjoy the outdoors together.

Education: I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from the University of North Dakota in 2000. I strive to continue my education focusing on wetland ecology and restoration, soil health, and grassland management.

Employment: I am currently a Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited in South Dakota. My primary duties focus on enhancing, restoring, and protecting wetland and upland habitat across eastern SD, developing conservation plans with private landowners, working with partners, grant writing, fundraising, etc.

Memberships/Affiliations: Ducks Unlimited, Ipswich Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance (Treasurer), SD Chapter of The Wildlife Society, SD Grasslands Coalition, SD Soil Health Coalition, SD Wildlife Federation, The Wildlife Society.

****Candidate for Executive Board – Randy Johnson**

Personal Info: I am originally from Canby, MN and currently live with my wife in Sioux Falls, SD. My hobbies include hunting, trapping and fishing, as well as camping, kayaking and hiking with my wife. I also enjoy Minnesota Vikings football and Wild hockey.

Education: I earned both my Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences (2014) and my Master's Degree in Wildlife Sciences (2017) from SDSU. During my undergrad years, I enjoyed a variety of technician positions with SDGFP and SDSU, including a wildlife damage internship, a summer studying several species of hawks, and a summer studying white-tailed deer. My Master's project took me to the Badlands of western North Dakota, where I captured and collared mountain lions to study the population dynamics and resource selection patterns of that population.

Employment: I currently work as the Wildlife Resource Biologist for SDGFP based in Sioux Falls, covering 20 counties across southeast SD. My primary responsibilities include performing and coordinating a variety of wildlife surveys and research across our region, including working with white-tailed deer, Canada geese, turkeys, and more. I'm also involved with disease surveillance, season recommendations, river otter monitoring, and waterfowl surveys, as well as assisting with wildlife damage management as I can.

Memberships and Affiliations: The Wildlife Society (South Dakota Chapter and National member), Wild Felid Association, Mule Deer Foundation, and Great Plains Natural Science Society.

****Candidate for Executive Board – Chad Carlson**

Personal Info: I was actually raised in Aberdeen, WA but moved to Aberdeen, SD when I was in high school and am now back in the area. In my free time I enjoy waterfowl hunting, ice fishing, and adventures with my wife Katie and two children, Cade (3) and Sarah (2).

Education: I earned my degree in Environmental Science from Northern State University.

Employment: I currently work at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge as a Biological Science Technician. I've been with USFWS for the last seven years. Prior to working for the USFWS, I was employed by Ducks Unlimited in North Dakota.

Memberships and Affiliations: While in North Dakota, I was a member of the ND Chapter of the Wildlife Society and served on the fundraiser committee. I've been a member of South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society since 2011.

SDTWS Board Officer Ballot—2019 Board

President-elect—Vote for one:

☐

Casey Heimerl

☐

Secretary/Treasurer—Vote for one:

☐

Bruce Toay

☐

Executive Board Member—Vote for one:

☐

Randy Johnson

☐

Chad Carlson

☐

If you are unable to attend the SDTWS Meeting, please complete this absentee ballot and return it by February 19th, 2019 to: Alex Solem, SD Game, Fish & Parks, 895 3rd Street SW, Huron, SD 57350

Fundraising Event ANNOUNCEMENT



The Executive Board made some changes to the fundraising portion of the meeting last year and will be continuing with that format once again. We will only have a few items that will be auctioned live, but will have many silent auction items, will have more games this year, and a couple of surprises that should be exciting.



As always, feel free to bring items to donate, but please know that unless you desire otherwise they will be placed in the silent auction.

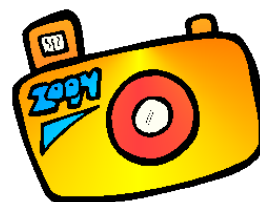
Thank you in advance for supporting our fundraising efforts!



thank you!



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 2019 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 2020 annual meeting.



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Executive Board Meeting, 20 November 2018

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (CST)

Conference Call



Solem Called to Order at 10:05am

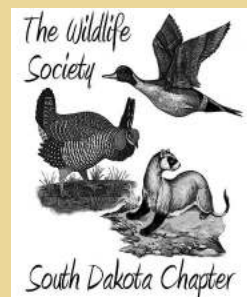
Present: Solem, Magedanz, Pauly, Markl, Ermer, Stafford

- Secretary/Treasurer's Report
 - Approval of minutes from last executive board meeting (8/31/18)
 - *Motion to approve by Magedanz, Second by Markl, All in favor*
 - Approval of Treasurer's report
 - *Motion to approve by Pauly, Second by Stafford, All in favor*
- Old Business
 - 2019 Annual Meeting Update
 - Award Nominations- *Solem will work with Nathan Baker for announcement to solicit nominations*
 - Attendance and Recruitment- *continue to reach out to conservation groups and others*
 - Contact potential meeting sponsors-
 - *Truax- Solem, Safari Club- Solem/Pauly, Crop Production Services- Solem/Pauly, Millborn- Pauly, Ducks Unlimited- Stafford, Pheasants For-ever- Magedanz, Great Plains Manufacturing- Magedanz*
 - Agenda update
 - *Need to send out Call for Abstracts; deadline for last year was December 15. Deadline was extended.*
 - *Invited speakers confirmed; special session speakers confirmed; keynote confirmed*
 - *Confirm rooms needed for special speakers – will reserve rooms next board meeting at Arrowwood*
 - Fundraising – Ben Lardy Raffles
 - *working on prizes, donations, if possible get list of prizes listed in winter newsletter*
- New Business
 - Annual Conference report to board
 - *Solem attended annual TWS conference*
 - *First TWS he ever attended; good experience; great talks; lots diversity in topics; a few other SD folks attended*
 - *2019 will be joint TWS and AFS*

- New members
 - *Ermer acknowledged recent new members: Chad Switzer and Cheryl Mandich*
- 2019 Annual Meeting Planning
 - Registration fees
 - *2018 Fees: \$100 general, \$50 1-day, \$35 student or retiree, \$11 lunch, \$15 banquet; will keep same fees for 2019 meeting*
 - *Ermer to get new registration printed; add "FREE" student membership if attending a SD college/university*
 - *Remove T-shirt and Cooler costs from registration due to only a limited number of items remaining; will just sell items at meeting*
 - *Any suggestions for improving online registration?*
 - *Need registrants name included on online form, Board will look into various options, Online registration will be available sometime in January*
 - Menu and accommodations
 - *Meet with Kathi- Magedanz set up for middle January*
 - Gay Simpson print
 - *Ermer will contact Jesse Lisburg to bring to annual meeting*
 - Banners, name tags, woodduck box game, etc.
 - *Solem has these and will bring items, Contact Julie DeJong (or someone from GFP office in Sioux Falls) for photo display board*
- Executive Board Candidates
 - *Everyone be thinking of and soliciting candidates*
 - *President-elect- So far one possible candidate*
 - *Board member- So far one possible candidate*
 - *Secretary/Treasurer- No candidate yet*
- Upcoming TWS Newsletter
 - *TWS Conference review*
 - *Highlight Keynote and Special Session for 2019 annual meeting*
 - *Photo contest submissions*
 - *Highlight fundraising format; list of prizes for Game night*
 - *Call for candidates (President elect, Board, Secretary/Treasurer)*
 - *Call for abstracts*
 - *Online Grant application opportunity*
 - *Distribute to SDSU and mailing list*
- *Ermer will email Mariah Simmons to add upcoming annual meeting dates to website*

Motion to Adjourn by Markl; Magedanz second.

Meeting adjourned 11:20am

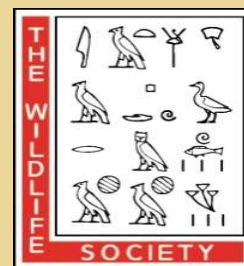


SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Annual Business Meeting Agenda & Minutes

27 February, 2018

Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, SD



9:00 am Call to order – President Joshua Stafford

Recognize a quorum; recognized Parliamentarian – Paul Coughlin

Minutes from 2017 Annual Meeting – Jacquie Ermer

Mark Norton motion to approve as amended with edits to Other New Business “sharing member info with TWS”; second by Corey Huxoll; all in favor

Annual Treasurer’s Report – Jacquie Ermer

Julie DeJong motion to approve; second by Chuck Berdan; all in favor

Old Business

Standing Committee Reports:

Nominations and Elections – Alex Solem

*Comments from the Candidates

-Board member candidate- Nick Markl

-President-elect candidate- Eric Magedanz

*Casting of the Ballots

-Motion by Mark Norton to cast unanimous vote of the ballots since there was only one candidate for each position; second by Eddie Childers; all in favor; motion passed

Audit – Nathan Baker

• Reviewed bank accounts after the 2/25/18 executive board meeting; found to be in good standing
Awards – Nathan Baker

- One nomination was received for the Wildlife Professional of the Year Award and two nominations were 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 will not be 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.

Conservation Review – Paul Coughlin

- 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.

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.

2017 Conservation Affairs Network Activities:

- In 2017, no specific issues or topics for review were brought to the Conservation Review Committee by the Chapter's Executive Board or its membership. The Committee continues to participate in regular parent Chapter led CAN conference calls and webinars related to a variety of national issues.
- Topics on the Conservation Affairs Network's radar over the past year include:
 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act - The Conservation Affairs network, along with numerous other TWS chapter and section units, has become fully engaged in support and advocacy for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The Committee participated in several conference calls and webinars related to this topic. Obviously this remains a high priority for TWS at all levels.
 - Federal budgets and appropriations, and along with it the proposed reorganization of the Department of Interior
 - The American Prairie Conservation Act - a sign on letter was distributed in 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
 - Forest Management Reform - The severity of the 2017 wildfire season has put forest management and fire funding reform at the center of many discussions on Capitol Hill, and a number of relevant pieces of legislation are making their way through Congress
 - 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.
 - Finally, I'll be stepping down as chair of this Committee, and Mark Norton has graciously agreed to assume the chair position.

Submitted by: Paul Coughlin, Chair

Education and Information – Laura Hubers

- Nothing to report; Laura would like to step down as chair and is looking for replacement

Membership – Chuck Pyle

- No report

Program – Alex Solem

- Gave update on agenda; natural history roots

Resolutions and Public Statements – Vacant

Special Committee Reports:

Arrangements – Nathan Baker

- Accommodations and facilities have been sufficient at Cedar Shores

Certification – Vacant

Chapter History – Corey Huxoll

- Nothing to report

Energy –KC Jensen and Silka Kempema

- No report; Silka stepping down as co-chair

Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife – Andy Lindbloom

- No report

Fundraising – Ben Lardy

- Game night instead of live auction; positive feedback

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

- Currently looking for new chair; No report

Missouri River Issues – Nathan Baker

- No updates on Missouri River Issues at this time.

Newsletter – Jennifer Briggs

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

Public Lands – Mark Norton / Dennie Mann / Tom LeFaive / Eddie Childers

- Committee Members: Mark Norton (Chair), Dennie Mann, Tom LeFaive, Chuck Berdan, Eddie Childers, Greg Schenbeck, Paul Coughlin, Bob Hodorff, and Shelly Deisch
- The public lands committee submitted comments to the US Forest Service on the Eastern Pennington Waterline project in March of 2017. Our letter pointed out that the waterline project Environmental Assessment failed to fully consider the 2009 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands and its rangeland and wildlife objectives, standards and guidelines. We received a notification that a draft decision notice and finding of no significant impact was completed on May 5th. This means they are proceeding without implementing any of our recommendations.
- The public lands committee also submitted a letter of support in March to the US Forest Service on the Limber Pine restoration project in the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve on the Black Hills National Forest. We supported the project to restore a rare native tree species which will enhance the habitat diversity within the preserve and enhance the preserve's ability to fulfill its purpose.
- The public lands committee submitted comments to the US Forest Service on the Stony Butte Project Environmental Assessment on the Fort Pierre National Grassland in September. Our letter was supportive of many of the proposed actions to increase public recreational opportunity and to manage for increased biodiversity and the reduction of invading cool-season exotics. We did express concern over the Environmental Assessment not considering the impact of increased water development on site specific pastures and the potential for homogenization of grassland structure and decreased biological diversity.
- In the fall of 2017 members of the public lands committee attended a couple of meetings held by SD Game, Fish & Parks of the Rushmore Connector Trail working group. These meetings developed a couple of route options for a trail connecting Mount Rushmore to the Mikkelson Trail. The optional routes were then sent to the U.S. Forest Service for consideration.
- Just this month, the public lands committee sent another letter to the US Forest Service in response to the draft decision notice and finding of no significant impact on the Stony Butte Project. This letter thanked the Forest Service for their consideration and responses to earlier public comments and questions.
- All of the comment letters mentioned in this report are available on the SD TWS website.
- Paul Coughlin recently joined the public lands committee.
- Mark Norton will be stepping down as committee chair after the 2018 annual meeting.
- Eddie Childers and Chuck Berdan will be new co-chairs

Tribal Fish & Wildlife – Mike Gutzmer

- No report

Wetlands – Randy Meidinger

- No report

Wildlife Diseases – Steve Griffin

- **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)**: Surveillance for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in South Dakota during the period of July 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018 resulted in the testing of 445 elk, 12 mule deer (MD) and 263 white-tailed deer (WTD), for a total of 720 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 150 WTD samples were collected through the Rapid City deer reduction program and additional CWD samples were collected from Harding and Tripp Counties during TB testing and hunter harvested deer from the Black Hills area. Most other samples were collected from vehicle killed animals that were used for baits during mountain lion DNA research in the Black Hills area. Overall, the majority of samples were obtained from the Black Hills and extreme southwestern part of the state, with sick surveillance testing occurring statewide. SD GFP asked hunters to voluntarily submit all elk heads for sampling, and offered to sample deer heads for anyone submitting samples to the GFP Regional Office in Rapid City, SD.

Test results received on 719 samples (1 WTD pending) indicate 11WTD, 0 MD, and 19 elk were CWD positive. Hunter harvest accounted for 10 of the CWD positive cervids (8 elk, 2 deer), and sick surveillance accounted for 9 of the CWD positive cervids (3 elk, 6 deer). Eight positive elk were collected during a February Wind Cave National Park (WICA) removal program. Additionally, 3 CWD positive deer were collected during the Rapid City deer reduction program within the city limits of Rapid City. 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 390, including 188 elk, 79 mule deer and 123 white-tailed deer. WICA has reported 10 deer and 126 elk as positive for CWD since 2002 and Custer State Park has reported 2 deer and 23 elk as part of these totals.

SDGFP continues to collect all voluntary hunter harvested elk samples as we have in the past, but only sample deer heads from CWD units that are submitted to the Rapid City Regional Office. We continue to test any suspect animals from across the state. For more information on CWD in South Dakota visit: <https://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife-disease/>

WICA has started a new research project studying CWD within the Park. In November 2016, a total of 40 female elk were fitted with radio transmitters and sampled via rectal biopsy for CWD. At this time the results are not available from the rectal biopsy sampling. Additionally, WICA conducted a removal program in the Park and removed a total of 262 elk utilizing shooters guided by Park employees. A total of 261 of these elk were sampled for CWD through this effort. Thirty-four adult elk were found to be positive with CWD for a prevalence rate of 13.8 percent on the adult elk (246 adults). These figures have been included in statewide summaries. In early 2018, an additional 24 female elk were radio-collared and an additional 25 adult elk (24 bulls, 1 cow) were collected during a removal program in WICA. A total of 8 positive elk were found during this recent removal.

Hemorrhagic Disease: The State of South Dakota experienced a mortality event of mainly white-tailed deer during late August-December 2017 due to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and/or Blue Tongue (BT). SDGFP started receiving reports of sick and deceased white-tailed deer during early August of 2017. As in previous years with substantial mortality in the summer months, EHD was suspected and efforts were made to document the virus through the Diagnostic Lab at SDSU. Through lab testing, confirmation was received that the EHD virus was present in white-tailed deer and a pronghorn, and confirmation was received about a case of the BT virus in a white-tailed deer. The SDGFP continued to document sick and dead ungulates until late December after a substantial frost ceased EHD/BT disease transmission in most areas of the state.

Seventeen counties from across South Dakota had confirmed or reported EHD virus (15 cases) or BT virus (1 case) in white-tailed deer or pronghorn. Most cases were found in western South Dakota with 359 deer, 4 pronghorn, and 2 elk reported. East of the Missouri River, 212 reports of dead or sick deer were recorded. Statewide, a total of 577 dead or sick animals were recorded in 2017, which included 571 deer, 4 pronghorn, and 2 elk. Substantially more animals were reported lost to EHD/BT in 2016 than in 2017. For more information on EHD in South Dakota visit: <https://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife-disease/>

Pneumonia in Bighorn Sheep: SDGFP continues working on research investigating the occurrence of pneumonia in our bighorn sheep herds in Custer State Park, Rapid City, Spring Creek, and Hill City. This research is investigating bighorn sheep as potential shedders of the pneumonia complex. Research started in early 2016, and results are being analyzed to determine the benefits of removing chronic shedders of the pneumonia complex. Information is listed below.

Objectives:

- Assess the efficacy of obtaining serial samples for classing free-ranging bighorn sheep as chronic shedders, indeterminate shedders, or negatives (non-shedders) in Custer State Park and Rapid Creek herds.
- Determine if bighorn sheep ewes surviving a past respiratory disease epizootic in Custer State Park and Rapid Creek herds as pathogen carriers exhibit differences in physical appearance and/or behaviors that are correlated with pathogen shedding status.
- Determine if removal of individuals that exhibit pathogen shedding patterns improve survival of free-ranging bighorn sheep lambs within the Custer State Park herd.

Expected Benefits:

- Development of techniques that can be used to enhance survival of bighorn sheep lambs post pneumonia disease epizootic will improve recruitment in bighorn sheep herds in the Black Hills and other regions of the west in bighorn sheep range.

Results to Date:

- 140 disease tests since January 2016 (81 tests, 59 re-tests)
- 61 animals currently collared (29 in Custer, 32 in Rapid City)
- 28 total positive animals for *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (26 in Rapid City, 2 in Custer State Park), chronic shedders removed in Custer State park.
- Lamb survival: Collared every lamb (20 total) born in Custer State Park (experimental group), 7 mortalities to date, with 5 predations and 2 deaths due to unidentified disease. Collared 27

lambs in Rapid City, and documented 23 mortalities to date (9 pneumonia, 7 other disease, 3 predation, 2 unknown, 1 capture related death, and 1 human caused death).

- Adult survival: 4 adult mortalities in Custer State Park, with 3 due to mountain lion predation and 1 due to Legion Lake Fire. 18 mortalities in Rapid City (9 pneumonia, 1 predation, 2 capture complication, 4 human caused, 2 deaths due to other diseases).

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB):

Harding County, SD: Information below is from the South Dakota Animal Industry Board (SD AIB) website accessed March 27, 2018. <https://aib.sd.gov/BovineTB.html>

Background: Bovine TB was identified in three beef cows during routine slaughter inspection by USDA Food Safety Inspection Service inspectors at two Nebraska slaughter plants in February, 2017. The cows had been in feedlots in Nebraska and SD since November of 2016. Market records were used to identify the herd of origin in Harding County (northwestern SD), which was tested by state and federal animal health officials, revealing additional infected animals.

Update: No cattle remain on the index ranch in Harding County. Test negative animals were sent to inspected slaughter, revealing two additional infected cows. Cleaning and disinfection of conveyances, water tanks, and other potential sources of contamination will be completed. It is anticipated that the ranch may begin restocking soon.

One cow in an adjacent herd was found to be infected. This cow originated from the index herd and was moved to the adjacent herd in May, 2015. The remainder of this herd is quarantined, has tested negative and will undergo a second herd test in late May of 2017. No evidence of infection was found during testing of over 8,000 cattle in 12 other adjacent herds.

State and federal animal health officials continue to track cattle using sales records, official animal identification records, and certificates of veterinary inspection to identify animals that may have originated in the index herd and may now be in other herds.

One Butte County cow purchased from the index herd through a livestock auction market in May, 2016, was found to be infected. The remainder of this herd has tested negative and will undergo a second herd test in 60 days. All neighboring herds have been tested with negative results and the quarantines have been released.

Laboratory Update: March 17, 2017: The National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, IA, has conducted whole genome analysis of the bacteria isolated from some of the affected animals from the Harding County herd. Experts have concluded that this strain of bacteria is nearly identical to a strain that is known to exist in dairy cattle in the Central region of Mexico and that it has not previously been identified in the US. This strain is not related to the recent strain found in Canadian cattle, previous cases identified in SD cattle or in Michigan wildlife and livestock. Additionally, it does not appear to be genetically similar to other strains that are sometimes found in the US, in feeder or rodeo cattle of Mexican origin, nor is it similar to the bacteria identified in captive cervids (deer and elk). Rather, this case appears to represent the introduction of a new strain of *Mycobacterium bovis* into the US. State and federal animal health officials working with the case will continue to attempt to investigate possible pathways of introduction into this herd. Molecular characterization of the causative agent of bovine tuberculosis from the infected animals has identified this strain as being very similar to a strain identified in Queretaro, Mexico in 1997.

This strain is new to the US, and its pathway of introduction into the Harding County herd is as of yet unknown.

SD GFP Testing in Harding County, SD: A public meeting was held on March 23rd, 2017 at the high school in Buffalo, South Dakota. The primary purpose of this meeting was for SDGFP to present a wildlife surveillance plan to the landowners and producers of Harding County in response to the recent discovery of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in cattle. Approximately 100 members of the public attended the meeting and many more watched the presentation over a live video feed. SDGFP staff members and the SD AIB were present and answered many questions. On March 27, 2017, SDGFP initiated its short-term wildlife surveillance effort. A “field laboratory” was established at the U.S. Forest Service Office in Camp Crook, SD. Three days of ground and aerial removal and retrieval of targeted animals near the index cattle herd yielded 55 white-tailed deer, 56 mule deer, 42 pronghorn, 37 coyotes, and 9 raccoon. Samples were collected and submitted for testing from all wildlife removed to NVSL in Ames, Iowa. All results on wildlife were found to be negative for Bovine TB. In November of 2017, approximately 750 letters were sent to deer hunters that had licenses valid in the area of the index herd asking for the heads of harvested animals for TB testing. A total of 18 WTD and 8 MD along with an additional sick WTD head were submitted over a 16 day season. All of these submitted samples were also negative for TB. Future surveillance in this area will be discussed in the future.

Tripp County, SD: Bovine TB was initially identified in October 2017 by meat inspectors at a Texas slaughterhouse. Official records linked the cow to a Tripp County, SD beef herd. Herd testing and laboratory confirmation revealed additional infected animals in the herd. Information from the SD AIB states that 50 additional positive cows of 338 tested were infected with TB. An additional 253 calves were tested with 2 positives found. Over 4,000 cattle were tested from surrounding herds with no positives found.

Trace out shows one positive cow found in NE, one positive cow found in Iowa, and one positive cow found in another SD feedlot and all came from the Tripp County index herd. All adult cows and bulls have been depopulated and approximately 250 calves that were born in spring of 2017 are still at the index property and will be fed until slaughter. The strain of bacteria has been determined to be most closely linked to Mexican-type strains, last seen in a Texas feed yard (untraceable animal) in 2013.

SD GFP Testing in Tripp County, SD: A public meeting was held on November 21, 2017 in Winner, SD. SDGFP staff members and the SD AIB were present and answered many questions with primary discussions related to the finding of TB in the cattle herd, but wildlife questions were also answered. The timing of the reporting of the TB infected cattle herd and the ongoing deer season did not allow SDGFP to conduct an adequate sample of hunter harvested deer in 2017. The season was in its last weekend when the SD AIB press release came out, and SDGFP only had a few days of the season remaining to collect samples. Word of mouth in the community allowed SDGFP to collect 23 deer samples for sampling. All of these were sent to NVSL in Ames, IA and came back negative for bovine TB.

SDGFP subsequently determined that more sampling needed to be conducted, so kill permits authorized the killing of 100 antlerless deer in Tripp County with emphasis for property on and surrounding the TB affected herd. These permits were valid from January 17, 2018 to February 28,

2018. Additionally, small mammal trapping was conducted on the index herd properties and 6 raccoons and 1 opossum was collected. Aerial gunning of coyotes was conducted on January 17, 2018 and 14 coyotes were collected. Due to the timing of collections and staff availability, carcasses and deer heads were collected and frozen until nodes could be sampled on March 26, 2018 at the Rapid City Wildlife Lab.

On March 26, 2018, a total of 1 opossum, 6 raccoons, 14 coyotes and 62 WTD were sampled for TB, and the samples were sent to NVSL in Ames, IA for analysis. Results are pending on these samples, and future surveillance will depend on the results.

Rabies: Rabies is an enzootic fatal, but preventable, viral disease and a public health concern in SD. In 2017, 391 animals were tested for rabies, and 20 animals tested positive for the disease. This is a slight decrease from the 27 positive animals in 2016. The 20 rabid animals included 12 wild animals (8 skunks, 3 bats, and 1 raccoon) and 8 domestic animals (4 bovine, 2 cats, 1 dog, and 1 goat). There were 371 animals that tested negative for rabies in 2017. The majority of these included 114 cats, 68 bats, 45 dogs, 53 cows, 32 raccoon, 17 skunk, 8 horses, 3 deer, and 32 other. No human rabies was reported. Skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*) are the primary rabies reservoir in SD.

Avian Influenza:

SDGFP- 2017 HPAI Sampling.

- SD experienced no HPAI outbreaks in 2017
- SDGFP agreed to participate in wild waterfowl sampling as part of the cooperative *Implementation Plan for HPAI Surveillance in Waterfowl in the United States*. This plan was a coordinated effort between the State Fish and Wildlife Agencies, USDA, National Flyway Council, USGS, and USFWS.
- This sampling effort was focused on dabbling ducks with sampling done by watershed (HUC 4).
- SDGFP sampled 132 live dabbling ducks within the Oahe-Missouri River.
- No HPAI were isolated in this testing and no HPAI samples from wild birds have been confirmed in SD.

Brucellosis Testing in Elk: In conjunction with a radio-collaring effort of female elk from Custer County in the central Black Hills of SD in January 2018, 40 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 SD AIB. 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
- Casey Heimerl gave report
- Blue Ribbon Panel: Last year, we reported on the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, formed to identify solutions to long-term wildlife funding needs, particularly related to rare species. The legislative effort is called the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife, which resulted in the recent introduction of a House bill titled Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647). This legislation will redirect \$1.3 billion annually in existing royalties from energy and mineral development on

federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to support state-led efforts for the full array of fish and wildlife. Our committee recently submitted a draft letter to chapter leadership to Representative Noem requesting that she co-sponsor and support the bill.

- Bald Eagle Awareness Days: Our chapter continues its support for this educational event. The 2017 event was held in late February with the total audience estimated at more than 1,000 people. The event featured presentations in Sioux Falls and Pierre, with school programs in Pierre. The SDGFP Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City held a companion event during Bald Eagle Awareness Week. The 2018 event was held last week and again included events in Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City.

Recent endangered species activities in South Dakota:

- The FWS continues to review the status of the monarch butterfly to determine whether listing is warranted. That decision will be made by June 2019. The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is partnering with federal, state, tribal and private partners to develop a scientifically sound conservation plan as an alternative to listing. GFP hosted a Monarch Summit in October 2017 to begin the process of engaging key partners in planning for this species, with the intent to develop a state strategic plan during 2018.
- The FWS published a notice in December 2017 announcing initial positive findings for three species found in the state for further investigation for listing as threatened or endangered species. The species are sturgeon chub, sicklefin chub and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), which was formerly the eastern pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*). The Service will begin status reviews and seek data on these species. The tricolored bat has been affected by white-nose syndrome. This species has been documented in several abandoned mines in the Black Hills of South Dakota and may also occur along riverine corridors with available hibernacula. Within South Dakota, the sicklefin chub is a state endangered species found in the lower Missouri River. The sturgeon chub is a state threatened species that inhabits several western South Dakota tributaries to the Missouri River.
- In October 2017, the FWS announced its determination that the Black Hills population of the Black-backed Woodpecker would not be listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Service determined this population was not a subspecies, and therefore not a listable entity that met the criteria under the Distinct Population Segment Policy.
- The FWS has requested information about the yellow-banded bumble bee (*Bombus terricola*) and is scheduled to make a listing determination during the current federal fiscal year. This species' present distribution in the state is unknown.
- SDGFP recently 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, with a 60-day public comment period. Comments are currently being reviewed, and a final document will be prepared for submission to the Commission in April 2018.
- On 27 September 2017, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Turner Endangered Species Fund, Turner Enterprises and Game, Fish and Parks reintroduced 19 black-footed ferrets on Bad River Ranch in Stanley County. The ferret is a federal and state endangered species and a Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan. Although this is the seventh reintroduction site in South Dakota, it is the first on privately-owned land. To encourage and assist private landowners to become willing participants in ferret reintroductions on their property, the USFWS established a Programmatic Black-footed Ferret Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA). The reintroduction at the Bad River Ranch was made possible by landowner enrollment in the SHA.

Other Reports:

SDSU Student Chapter Report- DJ Reker

- DJ Reker- current student Chapter President; 45 members; about 15 active members
- Members did different activities with kids to learn about environment
- Club asked their student members what they wanted to get out of membership;
 - they want to help “real-life” agencies and programs to gain experience
 - they participated in “brush cut for grouse” with MN DNR- students are actively helping with management and research
- How can SDTWS help get word out? how can we get more interest in job fairs? students want to make money vs volunteer
- Reker says he gets more emails from MN and WY with opportunities than from SD; suggested to use Natural Resources Facebook page more; Natural Resources Dept sends out mass email to all members; send emails to secretary Kate Tvedt

Election Results – Alex Solem and Joshua Stafford

- Unanimous vote of ballots: President Elect Eric Magedanz; Board Member Nick Markl

Other Old Business

- Board agreed to pay national membership for student officers
- Email from Parent society- last business meeting SDTWS agreed to send out email to our members asking if they are ok with us providing TWS name and valid email address so TWS can then send one issue of E-Wildlifer monthly and consider becoming member; members can opt-out within 30 days of SDTWS sending this email request; also members can opt-out at any time even if agree initially
- Trying to reach out to state chapter members to become member of TWS

New Business

Scholarship

- The Chapter has had a growing balance; some ideas is to have scholarship, small research grants, help student chapter; maybe increase current scholarships/travel grant
- Suggested to create a program that if student becomes member of student club, then SDTWS will pay \$6 dues for those students to become student members of SDTWS (note: they are not automatically a member of SDTWS just by being student club member)

Membership

- Discussion on membership- clarification that if you become a member of SDTWS you are not automatically a member of TWS; you need to specifically become a member of TWS by paying those membership dues; Students who pay student member dues are a member of SDTWS but being a member of SDSU Club does not automatically make you member of SDTWS

Approval of new members

- Brian Pauly motion to use checkbox on registration form as approval process for new members applying at annual meeting; no second; motion died
- Ben Lardy motion to approve new members; Corey Huxoll second; discussion- Ermer read list of new members; by show of hands all current voting members voted in favor to approve new members.

New Members (dues paid at annual meeting): Zach Compson, Sean Core, TJ Fontaine, Sprih Harsh, Ryan Wendinger, Nicholas Peterson, Lana Rencountre, Jackie Krakow, Hilary Syvertson, Daniel DeBoer, Isaac Johnson, Clyde Lehr, Jason Muldoon, Cody Rolfes, Jeremy Todorff, Ann Zurbriggen, and Jennifer Lutze

- Suggested that next year we need to explain bylaws for new member approval at start of annual business meeting

Meeting site/dates for the 2019 Annual Meeting

- Mark Norton motion to allow board to decide next year's meeting location; second by Julie DeJong; all in favor; motion passed.

Other New Business

Chuck Berdan- suggested we should send GFP Commission a letter of who we are and continued importance of using science based data to make decisions

- Coughlin- introduce ourselves (SDTWS) to Commission so they become familiar with who we are and what our objectives are, important issues to us; appreciate use of science to base decisions

- Berdan motion to send letter to GFP Commission; Coughlin second; all in favor; motion passed

Bob Lanka- CMPS Section representative to TWS Council; provided update

- State Wildlife Management and Conservation Book now available- Tom Ryder
- 2016/2017 budget- \$60,000 in black
- as of Jan 1, 2017 all members receive electronic access to TWS journals- cost \$125/yr
- 2018 Annual TWS meeting in Cleveland, OH in Sept
- 2019 Annual TWS meeting in Reno, NV- will be joint with AFS
- TWS is working with AFWA (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) to encourage more state employees to become TWS members and getting involved; talking about enhancing state package if state agency becomes a member (e.g., SDGFP becomes a member so then employees have access to TWS)
- TWS Give Back Program- an idea to recruit; current member can nominate someone to get free membership for 6 months with hopes they will continue to be a member
- Virtual conference experience for those that can't physically make it to annual meeting; fee
- TWS stance on Bylaws and Code of Ethics:
 - TWS Bylaw- all members of the society must pledge upon application, renewal, or recertification to uphold and conduct their professional and membership-related activities in accordance with the Code of Ethics
 - TWS Ethics Policy- all members subscribe to the highest standards of integrity and conduct and will proactively promote and address ethical behavior

Transfer of Gavel to President-Elect Alex Solem

Presentation of Past-President Plaque- Joshua Stafford



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

APPLY NOW FOR TWS' LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE CLASS OF 2019

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is currently accepting applications for its Leadership Institute Class of 2019. Leadership Institute is designed to engage participants in a series of activities to develop and expand their leadership skills. The Leadership Institute is geared toward early-career professionals, typically two to three years out of undergraduate or graduate school, who are currently working full-time in a wildlife professional position with demonstrated evidence of leadership potential.

The program begins in May and concludes at TWS's Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada in October. During the conference, the Leadership Institute cohort will participate in various activities, including mentoring and leadership workshop sessions. Participants will receive complimentary registration and a travel grant to attend the conference.

Throughout the 6-month program, participants will engage with Leadership Institute alumni and TWS Council members, work collaboratively to understand a wide array of leadership styles and perspectives, develop stronger written and verbal communication skills, and learn how to better navigate the conservation field.

All applicants must be members in good standing of TWS and a chapter or section of TWS. The selection committee will be seeking to create a diverse group with participants of varying gender, ethnic, and regional diversity. Selection will be based upon:

- An excellent academic record
- Demonstrated leadership capability or potential
- Demonstrated level of excellence in current position
- Commitment to and involvement in TWS

Preference will be given to individuals who are certified as Associate Wildlife Biologists® or Certified Wildlife Biologists®, or who have submitted such an application to TWS.

Applicants must submit (in one PDF, excluding recommendation letters):

- Completed Leadership Institute application form
- Cover letter with evidence of leadership capacity or potential, such as previous leadership in TWS organization units or in other organizations
- Résumé including a list of publications, awards, etc.
- Academic transcript(s)
- An essay (1000 word limit), which succinctly summarizes 1) your concept of leadership, 2) your aspiration for your engagement within TWS and the wildlife profession in 5 to 10 years, and 3) why you are an ideal candidate for the Leadership Institute
- Have two letters of recommendation sent from supervisors, academic advisors, professors, or others with whom you have worked and who are familiar with your previous and potential leadership, history and commitment to TWS, and commitment to wildlife management and conservation
 - Letters should be sent directly to leadership@wildlife.org with subject line "Leadership Institute Recommendation for [applicant last name]"

Application deadline is March 24, 2019. Email all materials to: leadership@wildlife.org. Visit wildlife.org/leadership-institute for more information.

The Wildlife Society News

Popular Articles on the TWS website

- [Western states adopt plan for monarch conservation](#)
- [Climate change creates deadly nest competition](#)
- [Extreme weather creates growing problems for wildlife](#)

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 if you have events, pictures, or topics you would like posted to the site.



SDTWS Life Members

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

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.

SDTWS Executive Board 2018

President

[Alex Solem](#)

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

President-Elect

[Eric Magedanz](#)

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

Board Member

[Brian Pauly](#)

SD Game, Fish & Parks
895 3rd ST. SW
Huron, SD 57350
(605) 353-7185

Past-President

[Josh Stafford](#)

207 Park Ave
PO Box 10
Sinai, SD 57061
(605) 688-5759

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42924 140th St
Webster, SD 57274
(605) 345-3381

Board Member

[Nick Markl](#)

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

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, [Alex Solem](#) (605) 353-7185

Program President, [Alex Solem](#) (605) 353-7185

Resolutions and Public Statements [VACANT](#)

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Arrangements Past-President, [Joshua Stafford](#) (605) 688-5759

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 Landy](#) (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 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:

Jacquie Ermer
42924 140th 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.