

President's Message

There is no doubt the past several years have presented many challenges to wildlife and wildlife professionals in South Dakota. Issues like brutal winters, drought, disease, loss of habitat, and unfavorable policies have plagued many wildlife populations. There is indication that many of these challenges will be with us in the future. While we can't control the weather, there are many actions we as wildlife professionals and members of The Wildlife Society can do for wildlife. Our membership includes people from many different specific disciplines. I believe our passion for wildlife and wildlife habitat will help each of us carry out our duties at an even higher level when the outlook sometimes looks grim. Looking back at our annual award winners and our nominees for this year's awards reminds me of how dedicated many of our members are.

One issue that sometimes feels "untouchable" to many of us is how some Farm Bill policies are incentivizing the conversion of our grassland/wetland habitats to cropland at the tax payers' expense. When the Farm Bill was being debated in Washington this past year, our board and several committees worked extremely hard to make sure the voice of our membership was heard. Our representatives were informed on what changes have to be made to help preserve our disappearing wildlife habitat. Our organization endorsed and signed on to numerous other letters sent to many members of congress. Not surprisingly, a new Farm Bill did not get passed this year, but our voice will be heard when talks resume on the issue in Washington. As the squeaky wheel gets the oil, you can count on our board being quite squeaky next year when important issues are up for debate.

I welcome you to the 2013 chapter meeting in Oacoma next month. The theme, wildlife disease, should be very informative with many experts presenting during the plenary session. Our profession's knowledge and understanding of wildlife disease is rapidly progressing which should make for an informative session. I look forward to seeing you in Oacoma and appreciate your dedication to this organization.



Travis Runia, President
SD Chapter of The Wildlife Society

MEMBERSHIP

Know anyone who is a wildlife professional, who is in a field related to wildlife conservation, or anyone with an interest in South Dakota wildlife? Have you noticed co-workers or someone you know that has been missing at annual meetings?

Since 2010, we have listed annual memberships on the SDTWS website (contact information will remain confidential). If you see someone who is not on the list, take some time to share with those individuals what the SDTWS has to offer.



Membership is \$10/year for a regular membership and \$6/year for students. You can renew a membership by using the membership form included at the end of this newsletter.

Please make your payment to SDTWS. Please give Nora Kohlenberg a call at 605-222-9408 or an email at Nora.Kohlenberg@state.sd.us if you have any questions.

Life Members: The full list of members is available on the website.



SDTWS can now be found on Facebook!

SDTWS is now on Facebook! Facebook is a social networking website and it is free! If you are currently not signed up for Facebook, you can use the following link and it will direct you to a page to sign up. If you are already a member, the link below will take you the SDTWS Facebook page, where you can join the group!

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=375605397459>

Facebook is a great way to share information. Facebook can be used to post events, such as the upcoming Outdoor Expo, and to stimulate discussions on environmental issues or other topics of interest. The SDTWS Facebook page is also another way that we can reach out to recruit more individuals in the wildlife conservation field in South Dakota. We are very excited about this new tool and we hope as members that you will benefit from it too!

If you have any questions about the page or have some suggestions or ideas to post, please contact Nora Kohlenberg, nora.kohlenberg@state.sd.us.

SDTWS – Executive Board Meeting Minutes September 19, 2012

Runia called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM at Camp Bob Marshal. In attendance were Rocco Murano, Mark Norton, Nathan Baker, Silka Kempema, and Casey Mehls, the newly appointed fund raising committee chair.

Minutes from the last meeting were distributed and reviewed. Travis noted that the thank you letters for meeting sponsors were completed and sent. Mark made a motion to accept the minutes, Rocco seconded. Without any further discussion, Travis called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

No treasures' report was prepared as the position is currently vacant. Silka and Travis will set up a meeting with Nora, the previous treasurer, to discuss the duties of the position.

Travis indicated he had received two funding requests. One request was from the student chapter at SDSU for \$1,000 for expenses related to sending 11 students to the National TWS meeting in Oregon. Travis indicated this request is consistent with previous requests from the student chapter that were funded. Rocco motioned to approve, seconded by Mark. Travis called for a vote and the funding request was unanimously approved. Travis will get the \$1,000 paid.

The second request was from Jordan Kitts (SD GFP) for \$250 to sponsor the upcoming federal aid coordination meeting in spring 2013 which the SD GFP is hosting. The sponsorship would go towards a meal or small gift for attendees. The meeting is attended by state federal aid coordinators and delegates for the USFWS' Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. The goal of the meeting is to make sure the grant process continues to go smoothly. Discussion among the group followed. Silka motioned to table the request so the board can determine whether the request fits in our guidelines. Rocco seconded. The group agreed to act on this request via email in the coming weeks after further discussion. Travis called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion followed about the vacant secretary/treasurer position. Silka emailed Nora to schedule a meeting to discuss the position. Travis suggested making it two positions with alternating terms so there is always an experienced person to teach the position to the new person. Travis will check the bylaws about splitting the position. Mark decided to take on the secretary/treasurer position in the interim.

Travis discussed the Google Drive site that he and Silka have been working on. Many documents have been uploaded. The goal is to have all documents on this site. The board was encouraged to view the progress and review as necessary.

Silka indicated she had signed the UBS investment account document that would allow for the money to be transferred from the account to our Wells Fargo account. She will get it faxed ASAP, then work with Wells Fargo and Susan to put her name on the Wells Fargo account, and drop Susan's name.

The new meeting handbook that Silka put together was briefly discussed. All good feedback.

There was discussion about the gun raffle for the 2013 meeting. Travis will look up how many tickets were sold last year to help determine how much we should spend on a gun and still make money. Travis suggested spending around \$200 on a gun or a print. The rest of the board liked the idea of a gun raffle. Casey will look into finding a gun by first soliciting the membership for a donated or reduced price gun, or look into new guns.

Silka indicated she will send out first call for abstracts in the beginning of December. Silka indicated she would take suggestions on a keynote speaker if anyone has any ideas.

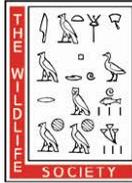
Rocco moved to adjourn meeting, motion seconded by Silka. Travis called for a vote and motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Room Reservations for the Annual Meeting

A block of rooms have been reserved at Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, and will be held until **February 1** so please make your reservations as soon as possible. For room reservations call (888) 697-6363 or (605) 734-6376. Note: You can still make a reservation after February 1 if rooms are still available.

A draft agenda is on the following pages, any updates or changes will be added to the Chapter website at www.sdwildlife.org



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY South Dakota Chapter



Second Call for Abstracts

Annual Meeting
25-27 February 2013
Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, South Dakota

Due: 11 February 2013

The South Dakota Chapter invites submission of contributed papers and posters concerning wildlife-related research and management. All wildlife-related topics will be considered.

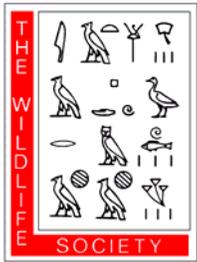
Presentations will be 15 minutes in length with 5 minutes for questions. In addition, a limited number of posters will be selected for display.

For both papers and posters, please provide an abstract that includes information on a project's background, objectives, methods, results, and interpretation in 300 words or less. Provide a title, author(s), and author affiliation. Indicate which author will be presenting and if presenter is pursuing a master's degree.

Submit abstracts in Microsoft Word as an email attachment to Silka Kempema (Silka.Kempema@state.sd.us). Abstracts are due 11 February 2013. Questions? Please contact Silka by email or at 605-773-2742.

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Be sure to make your room reservations at Cedar Shore in Oacoma before January 26th by calling 1-888-697-6363.



**South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
2013 Annual Meeting Program
Cedar Shore Resort & Convention Center
Oacoma, South Dakota
Feb 25 - Feb 27, 2013**



Monday, February 25

11:00 am – 1:00 pm Registration and Lunch
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Special Session: Wildlife Health
5:00 pm Student Mixer, Social and Fundraiser

Tuesday, February 26

8:30 am – Noon SDTWS Business Meeting
Noon – 1:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Contributed Papers
6:00 pm Social
7:00 pm Awards Banquet

Wednesday, February 27

8:30 am – Noon Contributed Papers
Noon Announcements and Meeting Adjournment



Founded in 1936 as The Society of Wildlife Specialists, The Wildlife Society (TWS) has evolved into an international nonprofit organization of professional wildlife ecologists and managers. Members number over 9,000 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.

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 7 subdivisions of TWS.

Chapter Meetings and Activities

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 do not require full chapter approval. The chapter also communicates with its membership through a newsletter, *The Prairie Voice*, published within 30 days of Executive Board meetings. The newsletter includes board meeting minutes, committee activity reports, a summary of chapter correspondence, updates on professional conferences, and profiles of chapter members.

Committee Reports

If a committee isn't listed here, it means there was no activity to report for this newsletter.

Resolutions and Public Statements Committee

If you have a resolution for the Chapter to consider you may send it to the Committee Chair at any time. In order to be considered, a resolution only needs to be sponsored by two voting Chapter members. You can send it, preferably as a Word attachment to an email, to the Chair, Dan Hubbard at daniel.hubbard@sdstate.edu. You needn't worry too much about format. As long as the draft has the appropriate background and facts, Dan can put it in the correct format.

If you have any questions, contact Dan (Phone: 605-688-4780). Additionally, if you have an idea for a resolution but aren't sure that you have enough of the "facts" to put one together, contact Dan anyway and perhaps the appropriate committee or person can be identified to help put together a credible resolution.

Submitted by Dan Hubbard

Grassland Issues Committee

One highly significant item that requires everyone's immediate attention is **HB1007** in the current legislative session. **HB1007** would limit conservation easements to a period of no more than 30 years. There was a similar bill introduced last year which took considerable time and effort by many individuals and organization to defeat. There have been bills introduced in 2011, 2005, and 2004 with the comparable intent. As the South Dakota landscape continues to change, perpetual conservation easements will play an increasingly important role in habitat protection. In addition to habitat protection, donated permanent easements afford tax incentives for landowners whereas any duration less than permanent does not. Every TWS member needs to follow this bill and be prepared to contact their representative in opposition to it. A good way to keep apprised of this bill and other bills is to utilize the South Dakota Wildlife Federation Camo Coalition website <http://www.sdwfcamo.net/>. Sign up for daily updates and do your part as a South Dakota voter to let your voice be heard.

Submitted by Boyd Schulz, Jim Madsen, and Lee Erickson – Grassland Issues Committee Members

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is now accepting 2013 membership dues. Dues can be submitted to SDTWS Treasurer, Mark Norton, via the mail using the Membership form on the last page of the Newsletter or membership can be paid when registering for the 2013 SDTWS Annual Meeting at the Cedar Shores Resort in Oacoma. A reminder about Membership renewal will be sent out in April via email, and will be sent to 2012 members who have not renewed their membership at that time.

Submitted by Nora Kohlenberg

Wildlife Diseases Committee

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): From July 1, 2012 to January 1, 2013 a total of 209 samples (111 elk, 21 mule deer, and 77 white-tailed deer) were collected from southwestern South Dakota, northeastern South Dakota, and the Black Hills of South Dakota. As of January 1, 2013 all results are in, and we have found 2 CWD positive elk, 6 CWD positive white-tailed deer, and 1 CWD positive mule deer. Since testing began in 1997, South Dakota has documented 226 cases of CWD (69 elk and 157 deer) in free ranging deer and elk. Wind Cave National Park accounts for 52 of these animals (42 elk and 10 deer). Custer State Park has found five elk and one deer. A total of 24,839 wild deer and elk have been tested for CWD since 1997.

This fiscal year marked a change in our surveillance with the ending of USDA APHIS funding for CWD surveillance. We are collecting all 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.

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease: In the late summer and fall of 2012, we experienced the largest die-off of in recent history of white-tailed deer in South Dakota. A few mule deer were also reported, and a couple of elk were diagnosed with EHD. Mortalities were reported in 51 counties of South Dakota with large die-offs in the southeastern, central, and western parts of South Dakota. Approximately 3,714 total deer were found dead, with more that were probably unreported. A total of 15 counties had laboratory confirmed cases of EHD with 2 cases of confirmed Blue tongue. It was an historic year for this disease all across the country this year with large die-offs reported in many states.

Pneumonia in Bighorn Sheep: SDGFP is concluding research through SDSU on bighorn sheep. We have captured bighorn sheep lambs over the last 3 years, and have wrapped up that portion of the study. Preliminary data continues to show that lamb recruitment is low in all of our herds in the Rapid Creek, Spring Creek, and Hill City herds. We are experiencing some early predation on our lambs, but pneumonia is a very large factor in lamb survival. We have documented the pneumonia complex in our adult bighorns, and have experienced some adult mortality due to pneumonia. We look forward to the final report and analysis.

Tuberculosis: Bovine TB was found in a Hutchinson county cattle herd in 2011. We have been working with the State Veterinarian to monitor for the disease in wild cervid populations. Samples were collected from deer in 2011, and an attempt was made again in 2012, but EHD reduced our deer populations, and with the reduction in tags, we did not collect many samples. Staff knows what to look for, and we are looking for any abnormalities in harvested cervids to monitor for the disease in our cervid populations. We have not found anything in our deer or elk that would suggest that TB is in the wild cervid populations in any area around these cattle operations.

Other: Diseases that we are aware of and monitoring for in South Dakota include White Nose syndrome in bats, plague in prairie dogs, rabies, and west nile virus. A lot of this monitoring is done through the South Dakota Department of Health, and we work well with the Animal Industry Board on other disease issues.

Submitted by Steve Griffin

Wildlife Diversity Committee Report

Bald Eagle Awareness Days

Our chapter has been a long-running supporter of this educational event. The 2013 event will mark the 21st annual event, first held in Pierre on January 30, 1993. This year, raptor educators from The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota will present 4 programs for the general public in Sioux Falls and Pierre and 2 school programs in Madison:



Free programs for the general public:

- February 21, 2013; program begins at 7:00 p.m. at the SD Game, Fish and Parks' (SDGFP) Outdoor Campus East, located at 4500 S. Oxbow Avenue, Sioux Falls (registration is required for this program: <http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/outdoor-campus/east/classes-and-events/default.aspx>)
- February 23, 2013; 3 programs for the public, beginning at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. at Theatre II at the Ramkota RiverCentre Hotel, 920 W. Sioux Ave., Pierre

In addition, SDGFP's Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City (4130 Adventure Trail) will host a raptor-themed open house on Saturday, February 23, 2013.

This event has grown in popularity over the years. It offers a rare opportunity for people to enjoy close-up views of raptors while learning about species' success stories and remaining challenges.

To learn more about Bald Eagle Awareness Days, please visit: <http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/bald-eagle-awareness-days/default.aspx>

Wildlife Diversity Small Grants Program

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks is currently accepting proposals for funding through the Wildlife Diversity Small Grants Program. This program provides funding for researchers, educators and naturalists to carry out projects focused on native wildlife.

In 2013, the Small Grants Program will focus on education and outreach projects. Native wildlife species and their habitat should be the emphasis of the proposed project. Project awards are limited to \$5,000.00 per applicant or organization. A total of \$35,000.00 is available.

Applicants may submit proposals in word processed, typewritten, or handwritten format. A panel of wildlife and education professionals will evaluate projects.

PROPOSAL DUE DATE - February 15, 2013

For more information, including application material, please visit: <http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/funding/wildlife-diversity-small-grants.aspx>

State Wildlife Grants – Project Spotlight

Determination of river otter distribution and evaluation of potential sites for population expansion in South Dakota

The river otter is a state threatened species in South Dakota. SDGFP recently completed a five-year management plan for the river otter: <http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/management/plans/docs/OtterPlan2012.pdf>. Based on accidental captures by beaver and wildlife damage management trappers, road kill records, and observations of live animals, the population is increasing in the state. To better determine current status and distribution, SDGFP has partnered with Dr. Wayne Melquist, a furbearer expert with extensive river otter experience. Dr. Melquist is updating river otter occupancy status of sites with evidence more than 5 years old, determining occupancy of additional drainages, and evaluating sites for suitability as reintroduction or translocation sites. SDGFP does not delist a species from state protection without an abundance of defensible data. Results from this effort will help the agency design a responsible management course of action for this furbearer. This project began in October 2011 and concludes in December 2014.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service image by Jim Leopold

To learn about other South Dakota projects made possible with State Wildlife Grants funding, please visit: <http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/docs/wildlife-restoration-conservation-program.pdf>



Submitted by Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema

Newsletter Submissions and Schedule

If you have an announcement, information item, or committee activity report that should be included in the next edition of *A Prairie Voice*, or if your email or mailing address has changed, send the information to: Charlene “Charlie” Bessken at ladyhawk155@hotmail.com or call 605-222-9445. Thanks.

The newsletter is published four times a year in February, June, September and December.

Special Note: If you change your mailing or email address please let Charlie or Nora know. Thanks.

Fund-Raising Auction

The fund-raising committee is once again asking members to either solicit or donate an item for the auction at the annual SDTWS meeting. Over the past few years we have had some great items donated that have assisted that chapter in sponsoring several events throughout the year, such as student scholarships, Bald Eagle Awareness Days, educational programs, supporting national programs, and to help keep meeting costs and associated fees to a minimum.

To continue this trend, if you have items you would be willing to donate, please bring them to the meeting. In addition, if you know of an individual or business that would be willing to donate an item, we would appreciate your assistance in obtaining those. Home-made items are encouraged. Thanks again for your help in supporting SDTWS.

2013 Gun Raffle

Here is a little sneak peak at the gun to be raffled at this year's annual meeting. The simply designed Thompson/Center Impact Weather Shield/Realtree Hardwoods HD® .50-Caliber Muzzleloader offers features like a break-open action, an adjustable length-of-pull, and adjustable fiber optic sites making it a great choice for hunters of all ages. Also included in the package is a starter kit which contains just about every accessory you need to begin muzzleloading. Raffle tickets will be sold during the meeting for \$10.00 each or 3 for \$20.00.



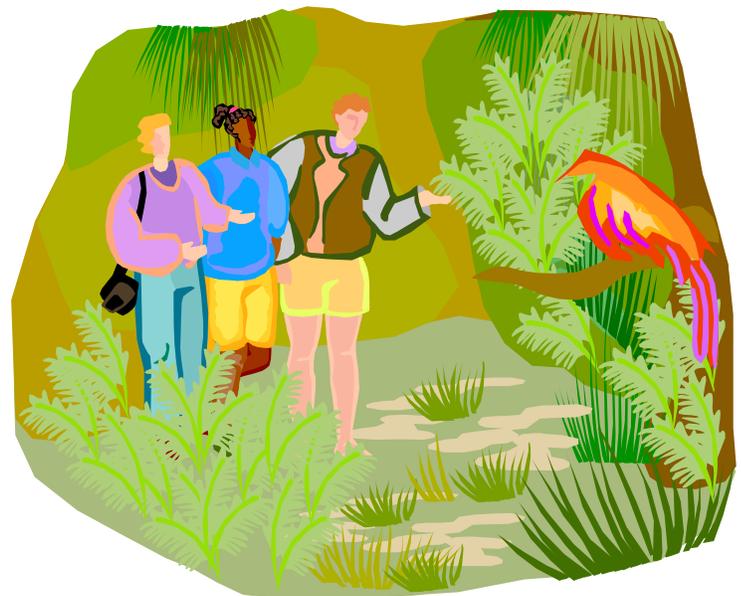
TWS Student-Professional Mixer!
Monday Evening, February 25
Opportunities to Mentor New Wildlife Professionals

Do you remember your first job in the wildlife profession? Perhaps you had some excitement about finally getting out into the “real world” after so many years of school. Maybe you were a bit nervous wondering if you really had the skills to make it in the wildlife profession. Whatever the situation, I’m sure you can look back now and realize, “Wow! I wish I had known that before I began my career!”

Now is your opportunity to pass along your skills and knowledge to a young and upcoming student! A student-professional mixer and other activities are being planned for the upcoming TWS meeting to be held February 25-27 in Oacoma. We are looking for professionals from any agency or background to serve as mentors to our young colleagues. It has become clear in previous years that our student participation is dropping statewide. We hope such activities will encourage students to get involved and start making the professional connections they will use throughout their careers.

Activities currently planned include a student-professional mixer on **Monday evening, February 25**, that will be open to anyone interested. Students will have the opportunity to play a short game during the mixer that will encourage them to interact with professionals that also attend. We will also have booths set up from various agencies at the mixer where the students will be able to get more information about possible careers in the wildlife sciences. Finally, we would like to find people willing to let a student “shadow” them throughout the meeting. This will allow students the opportunity to meet new people the mentor knows and/or ask other questions as they arise.

If you are willing to serve as a professional mentor at one or more of these activities, please respond to either John Kanta (john.kanta@state.sd.us) so they can make notes on possible attendance and assign students to mentors for the shadowing program. We appreciate your willingness to serve!



South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2013 Executive Board Elections

Information on candidates for President Elect and Executive Board Member is presented below. If you are not able to attend the 2013 SDTWS annual meeting at the Cedar Shores Resort, an absentee ballot is included in this edition of *A Prairie Voice*.

Candidate for President Elect – Mark Norton

Personal Data: I live in Pierre with my wife and our 2 sons and a daughter all age 5 and under.

Education: Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Wildlife Management, 2003 and 2005 respectively, from South Dakota State University.

Present Position: Senior Wildlife Biologist – Private Lands, Hunting Access and Farm Bill Coordinator, South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks (2009-Present).

Previous Positions: Contract Wetland Reserve Program Biologist, Ducks Unlimited (2007-2009); Habitat Biologist, South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks (2006-2007); Contract Wetland Reserve Program Biologist, Ducks Unlimited (2006); Graduate Research Assistant, South Dakota State University (2003-2005), Biological Technician, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, (Summers of 2000 through 2002).

Memberships & Affiliations: SD & National Chapter of The Wildlife Society, currently ending my term as a SD TWS board member, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Prairie Grouse Technical Council, Sage Grouse Local Working Group, Northern Great Plains Working Group, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agency Ag Conservation Committee, and the SD State Technical Committee.

Interests & Hobbies: Personal interests include hunting, fishing, camping, all sports, photography, any outdoor activities, and spending time with family and friends. Professional interests include upland game and waterfowl management and research, habitat planning and management issues on private and public land, wetland and grassland issues in South Dakota, and federal farm bill programs and their implementation to benefit wildlife and other natural resources.

Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer – Dr. Troy Grovenburg

Education: He obtained a B.A. degree in Economics from Colorado State University, a M.B.A. in Operations Management from the University of South Dakota, a M.S. in Wildlife Sciences from South Dakota State University, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from South Dakota State University.

Present Position: Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural Resource Management at South Dakota State University.

Interests & Hobbies: His research interests include wildlife biometrics, ungulate ecology, habitat and resource selection, landscape modeling, large mammal population dynamics, and wildlife-alternative energy interactions.

Candidate for Executive Board – Casey Mehls

Personal Data: I am originally from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin and currently live in Pierre.

Education: I received my Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point in 2007. I earned my Master's degree in Wildlife Science at South Dakota State University where I researched ruffed grouse habitat use in the Black Hills National Forest.

Present Position: Wildlife biologist and Natural Heritage database manager with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks in Pierre, SD.

Previous Positions: While completing my wildlife Master's degree at SDSU, I was also a GIS research assistant. During my undergraduate degree, I held summer positions as a wildlife technician for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and a wildlife research assistant for a graduate research study on shoreline development in northern Wisconsin.

Memberships & Affiliations: I am currently a member of The Wildlife Society (South Dakota Chapter, Central Mountain and Plains section, and national), Delta Waterfowl, and Missouri Breaks Audubon.

Interests & Hobbies: I enjoy bird watching, horseback riding, triathlons, and all of the hunting and fishing opportunities that South Dakota has to offer.

Candidate for Executive Board – Matt Morlock

Personal: Matt currently lives in Volga, SD with his wife Amber and their 2 children (1 golden retriever and 1 english setter). In his free time Matt enjoys spending time outside hunting, fishing, camping and his new hobby of photography. During the winter months he spends his time restoring/remodeling their home.

Education: Matt is a graduate of South Dakota State University

Professional: Matt has been employed by Pheasants Forever since 2003 first as a Farm Bill Biologist and now as a Farm Bill Biologist 2. Recently Matt took on a volunteer position with The Grouse Partnership (formally The North American Grouse Partnership) as their Conservation Program Specialist. Prior to this work Matt worked various season and volunteer positions with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks. Matt is interested in working on upland habitat conservation and management on both public and private lands. With this work he spends his days working with private landowners to meld wildlife habitat and agricultural production, which can be challenging to say the least.

Memberships & Affiliations: SD chapter of The Wildlife Society, Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, The Grouse Partnership, National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Prairie Choteau Habitat Partnership

Candidate for Executive Board – Jacquie Ermer

Personal Data: I was born and raised on a dairy farm near Albany, MN with 4 other siblings. I've been married to my husband Mark for nearly 10 years. We have 2-yr old daughter named Samantha and by the time you read this we should have either a newborn son or daughter. We also have 2 yellow labs, Adak and Gauge.

Education: I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology in 1996 from Moorhead State University. Also, I earned a Master's degree in Wildlife Sciences in 2000 from South Dakota State University. My graduate research focused on population trends of coyote and fox.

Present Position: Regional Wildlife Manager with SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) in Watertown.

Previous Positions: Resource Biologist with SDGFP, Wildlife Technician with USFWS at Waubay and Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuges, Furbearer and Wildlife Disease Biologist with ND Game and Fish Dept, and various technician jobs with MN Dept Natural Resources, Connecticut Dept of Environmental Protection, and SDSU graduate projects.

Memberships & Affiliations: The Wildlife Society (national, Central Mountains and Plains Section, SD and ND Chapters)

Interests & Hobbies: archery hunting, bird hunting, fishing, gardening, hiking, camping

TWS Participation: I've been a national and SD Chapter member of TWS since 1998 and ND Chapter member since 2001. I served as past Executive Board member with the ND TWS Chapter. Currently, I serve on the Disease Committee and Education Committee with the SD Chapter TWS.

Candidate for Executive Board – Lee Erickson

Personal Data: A native of Holland, Minnesota where I was raised in the small Ag community.

Education: Bachelor of Science and pending Master of Science in Wildlife Management, 2006 from South Dakota State University.

Present Position: Soil Conservationist – Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sturgis Field Office.

Previous Positions:

- Biological Science Technician – USFWS Partners Program - Windom, MN (Summer of 2002)
- Biological Science Technician – USFWS Waubay National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District - Waubay, SD. (Summers of 2003 to 2005)
- Biological Science Technician – USFWS Columbia Fisheries Resources Office – Columbia, MO (2006-2008)

Memberships and Affiliations: SD Chapter of the Wildlife Society – Grasslands Committee, Northern Great Plains Joint Venture, Society of Range Management, and Grasslands Coalition.

Interests and Hobbies: My personal interests include hunting, fishing, shed hunting, dog training, and camping. Professional interests include land management, grazing systems, and wildlife management.



**South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Absentee Ballot**

For President Elect:
(Vote for One)

Mark Norton

_____ (Write in)

For Executive Board Member:
(Vote for One)

Matt Morlock

Jacquie Ermer

Casey Mehls

Lee Erickson

_____ (Write in)

For Secretary/Treasurer:
(Vote for One)

Dr. Troy Grovenburg

_____ (Write in)

If you are unable to attend the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2013 Meeting, please complete this absentee ballot and return it by February 13, 2013 to Silka Kempema.

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Executive Board

President

Travis Runia
SD Game, Fish & Parks
895 Third St SW
Huron, SD 57350
(605) 353-8477

Past-President

Rocco Murano
SD Game, Fish & Parks
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Brookings, SD 57007
(605) 688-4786

President-Elect

Silka Kempema
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-2742

Secretary-Treasurer

Vacant
Mark Norton - interim

Board Member

Nathan Baker
SD Game, Fish & Parks
20641 SD Hwy 1806
Fort Pierre, SD 57532
(605) 223-7709

Board Member

Mark Norton
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-3096

Northern Great Plains Working Group Representative: Rocco Murano, 353-7185

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Standing Committee Chairs*

Audit – Rocco Murano, 688-4786

Awards - Nora Kohlenberg, 222-9408, Nathan Baker 223-7709

Conservation Review - Paul Coughlin, 773-4194

Education & Information - Laura Hubers, 947-4521

Membership – Nora Kohlenberg, 222-9408

Program – Silka Kempema, 773-2742

Nominations and Elections – Silka Kempema, 773-2742

Resolutions & Public Statements - Dan Hubbard, 688-4780

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Special Committee Chairs*

Arrangements – Rocco Murano, 688-4786 & Tom Kirschenmann, 352-1874

Certification - Vacant

Chapter History - Corey Huxoll, 773-4195

Energy Subcommittee - Ad Hoc Biofuels - K C Jensen, 688-4781

Energy Subcommittee - Wind Power - K C Jensen, 688-4781 & Silka Kempema, 773-2742

Fee Hunting & Ownership of Wildlife - Andy Lindbloom, 223-7709

Fund Raising – Casey Mehls, 773-4345

Grassland Issues - Boyd Schulz, 697-6041, Jim Madsen, 882-5250 & Lee Erickson, 347-4952

Missouri River Issues - Cliff Stone, 734-4530 & Greg Pavelka, 402-667-7873 ext 3334

Newsletter/Website - Charlene “Charlie” Bessken, 222-9445

Public Lands - Eddie Childers, 433-5263, Dennis Mann, 939-8156 & Tom LeFaive 223-2316

Tribal Fish & Wildlife - Diane Mann-Klager, 226-7621

Wetlands - Kurt Forman, 692-8359 & Peter Bergmann, 692-9820

Wildlife Diseases - Steve Griffin, 394-2391

Wildlife Diversity - Eileen Down Stukel, 773-4229, Silka Kempema, 773-2742

*Please see the Committees webpage to find the list of Committee members and email contact information.

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) _____

Please Note:

SDTWS's newsletter, *A Prairie Voice*, is all-electronic. Therefore, an e-mail 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).

Please Check One: _____ New Member* _____ 2013 Dues Renewal

* If you did not pay your dues in 2012, you will be considered a new member as per the SDTWS Bylaws.

Employer _____

Sponsor's Name _____

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

Mark Norton
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol Avenue – Foss Building
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-3096

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 (\$10 x 25 = \$250)

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

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

Age 66 to 75: 12.5 x annual dues (\$10 x 12.5 = \$125)

Age 76 and over: Free

For more information on becoming a life member, contact Nora Kohlenberg (605) 222-9408.

