

President's Message

As we start the new year, the board is working hard planning the 2014 annual meeting to be held 24-26 February at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, SD. We've had a great response to our call for abstracts. The theme of this year's Monday afternoon special session is "Building Public Support for Wildlife Conservation". The line-up of speakers President-elect Mark Norton has put together is diverse. Representatives from SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Izaak Walton League of America, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, South Dakota State University (SDSU), the agriculture industry and our parent society will be on hand to discuss their efforts to garner public support for conservation. Please visit (<http://www.sdwildlife.org/SDTWS%202014%20program.pdf>) to view the complete meeting program.

As I write this, I can't help but ask how can we as individuals help build public support for wildlife conservation? Convincing outdoor enthusiast of the importance of wildlife conservation is not the pressing issue. Sportsmen and women have been supporting (financially and otherwise) conservation as early as the 1930's. The more difficult task is convincing those that don't understand the importance of our environment. I think back to my undergraduate education and the "unusual" emphasis that was placed on communication skills, especially for a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. The importance of how we write and speak, not just technically with our peers, but with the general public, was stressed. However, this skill set may be one of the most challenging for a wildlife professional to develop and maintain. Interacting with just one family member, friend or member of the general public on topics of conservation concern provides the opportunity to inform.

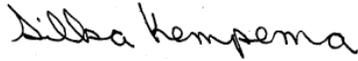
Technology has diversified the ways in which we can communicate: websites, Facebook, YouTube, etc. Each of these has a strong visual component. Images of nature can be visually striking and the use of visual media can be a powerful way to spark interest in and generate support for conservation. Joe Riis, wildlife photojournalist, has used visual art to increase awareness of wildlife conservation issues from all over the world.

Don't miss Joe's presentation as our banquet speaker on Tuesday night. You will also have the chance to flex your photography and videography skills



while helping to raise funds for the chapter with this year's raffle item. We will be raffling a GoPro, touted as the world's most versatile camera. For more details on the camera and accessories that will be raffled, please refer to the article below.

I hope to see you all at Oacoma!



Silka L. F. Kempema, 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?

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.

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!

SDTWS – Executive Board Meeting Minutes September 17, 2013

Attendance: Silka Kempema, Mark Norton, Casey Heimerl, Nathan Baker, Travis Runia, and Troy Grovenburg

Silka called the meeting to order at 10:25 AM (Camp Lakodia)

Minutes from previous meeting were reviewed. Mark will resend google drive access information to Grovenburg. Mark made motion to approve minutes, Grovenburg seconded — motion carried.

Grovenburg provided treasurers report. Board discussed format and amount of detail to be provided in reports. Decision was made to leave amount of detail to the Treasurer. Casey made a motion to accept the report, Travis seconded — motion carried.

Silka provided thank you letters from Dave Steffen and Paul Mammenga for the board to review. Additionally, Silka provided the response of Representative Noem to the Conservation Compliance letter for the board to review. The board also reviewed action on issues that were addressed over email (providing comments on the Bureau of Land management (BLM) Resource Management Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Ft Pierre National Grassland southwest fence relocation and waterline project Environmental Assessment).

No new funding requests were received by board members.

Discussion on emails from current TWS president via budget. Norton commented that this does not really affect us as a state chapter.

Conservation grazing position statement – Pete Bauman sent a position statement on conservation grazing from MN TWS. The board discussed whether we should have a position on conservation grazing. Norton commented that this may be something we should forward to grassland conservation committee as well as the position statement committee. Board will forward to both committees.

The board discussed the use of member email list. What should it be? Disseminate CMPS TWS as well as national TWS information. Other information (such as sharing MNTWS workshop announcement) will be used for newsletter filler.

CMPS meeting. Silka has document to send to board. Active issues (CMPS conservation affairs network):

- Missouri River Confluence Area DEIS – Draft letter was written by Paul Coughlin. Nick's name was spelled inconsistently; Silka will correct and send letter.
- Buffalo Gap land exchange – Letter was forwarded to Public Lands Committee and thought we should respond to it. Will give Lands Committee official go

ahead to respond. Travis inquired if they can do some sort of conservation easement on land being given up. Silka would ask Dennie Mann.

- Nebraska National Forest (NNF) Outfitters and guides – NNF initiated an assessment of need for authorized outfitting or guiding activities. During board discussion, Travis stated that we have sent letters in past in protest to same issues. Present to Public Lands and Fee Hunting and Ownership of wildlife committees. Board consensus was to let them draft letter referencing our position statement.
- Sharing Comment letters
 - BLM comment letter – had a request for a copy of Chapter’s comment letter from SDTWS member. Silka provided a copy.
 - Board also received a request for Chapter’s comment letter from a non-member. This initiated discussion on use of letters. Mark commented that all letters are public record once submitted. Prior to submission we should be more cautious. The Board has no issues sharing published letters. Could even place letters on website. Silka will respond to non-member letter request and have them placed on the website.

Awards Committee – Board discussed upcoming call for professional and citizen awards for 2014.

Travis asked if we should have a position statement on wind energy. Possible limited involvement by USFWS-employed members? Maybe have a draft ready for next business meeting to stimulate discussion. Silka will visit with Dr. Kent Jensen.

Mark gave an update on the 14 August NRCS Tech Committee meeting.

Update on conservation compliance. Travis attended town hall meeting with Representative Noem at the SD State Fair. Half of the meeting was non-farm bill related. Noem stated her support for sodsaver. Frank Lucas (House Ag. Chairman) was against linking compliance to crop insurance.

2014 meeting theme and banquet speaker. The board talked about guest speaker requests and costs. Mark proposed the theme of educating the larger public on conservation work beyond the tip of a fishing pole or barrel of gun. Focus on different ways of generating funding and awareness. Focus more on general public and not just hunters and anglers. Mark will do the meeting agenda.

No additional business.

Grovenburg made motion to adjourn. Casey seconded. Silka adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Next Board Meeting

Next Executive Board Meeting will be held on 23 February at Cedar Shore Resort.

SD Grassland Coalition new listserve

SDSU Extension has recently created an email 'list serve' to better distribute information related to grassland management in South Dakota and the region. This service will allow for improved information sharing for seminars, trainings, speaker events, tours, educational articles, videos, etc. related to grasslands, grazing, and habitat. This information will be distributed directly to your email and will include links and attachments that you can easily click on to view the information.

This service WILL NOT replace the general communications you receive from TWS regarding members-only materials such as newsletters. Rather, it will be an opportunity for you to receive information from a larger group of organizations offering information on grasslands and education (SDSU, SDGC, SRM, NRCS, USFWS, TWS, and others).

Although the Board of the SD TWS see the value in this service, they feel the decision to have emails placed on the list serve should be up to individual members. **If you want to have your email added to the listserve, email Pete Bauman with SDSU directly and request to be added. peter.bauman@sdstate.edu**

Here is an example of what you'd receive in your inbox: Messages should be short and to the point.

From: sdgrassinfo

To: you

Subject: David Pratt workshop

Message: The SDGC will be hosting David Pratt seminar "The Other Side of Disaster" on Jan 15-16. Click here for more info.

http://www.sdgrass.org/uploads/1/8/6/5/18654664/the_other_side_of_disaster_flyer_12.15.13.pdf

South Dakota Ag Conservation Coalition Luncheon

In September 2012, in the midst of all the work that was going on at the national and local levels to include satisfactory wildlife and natural resource provisions in the Farm Bill, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) offered a way to more efficiently coordinate South Dakota conservation organization efforts in the political process. Collectively, the TRCP helped to form the South Dakota Agriculture Conservation Coalition. The Coalition is now composed of every conservation organization operating in South Dakota, several businesses, landowners, agriculture interests and individuals. The Coalition has been instrumental in producing and circulating conservation issue briefings, reports, sign-on letters, news articles and action alerts for such major concerns as; Sod-saver, Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Crop Insurance/Conservation Compliance, water quality issues,

wetland draining, grassland conversion and partnership proposals. The Coalition has met directly with Senators Johnson and Thune and with Representative Noem on a number of these issues and coordinated Congressional field visits to SD, while carrying the messages on conservation for the membership.

The Coalition is interested in strengthening its grassroots constituency and making sure that we are working on the priority things that matter in South Dakota. To that end, we are inviting all participants in the upcoming South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting on February 24th, 25th and 26th at Cedar Shores Resort in Oacoma, SD to join us for a free luncheon on Feb. 26th at the Resort from 12:30 PM until 2:00 PM. The goal is to enjoy lunch before you head back home, learn more about the Coalition, and help to discuss agriculture conservation issues of mutual interest as we establish Coalition working priorities for 2104.

If interested in attending the SD Ag Conservation Coalition please indicate on your SD TWS registration form.

Tim Kizer,
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Auctioneers Needed

If you know of anyone who would be willing to serve as auctioneer for the live auction fundraiser on Monday night, please contact a board member.

Room Reservations for the Annual Meeting

A block of rooms have been reserved at Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, and will be held until **January 24** 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 January 24 if rooms are still available.

A program 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
Annual Meeting Program
Cedar Shore Resort & Convention Center
Oacoma, South Dakota
24-26 February 2014**



MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY

11:00a 1:00p **Registration and Lunch**

1:00 1:05 **Welcome and Introductions**

Special Session: *Building public support for wildlife conservation, thinking beyond the tip of the fishing pole and the end of the gun barrel.*

1:05 1:35 **NRCS's Role in Informing the Public about Wildlife Conservation**
Jeffrey Zimprich, State Conservationist, South Dakota Natural Resources Conservation Service

1:35 2:05 **TRCP Efforts to Build Wildlife Conservation Support**
Tim Kizer, Private Lands Field Representative, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

2:05 2:50 **Farming and Ranching Holistically in the 21st Century**
Lyle Perman, Rancher

2:50 3:05 **BREAK**

3:05 3:35 **How to Tell Wildlife Stories in a Publicly Understandable Way**
Lisa Moore, Director of Publishing and Communications, The Wildlife Society

3:35 4:05 **How to Use the Media to Influence Public Support of Wildlife Conservation**
Paul Lepisto, Regional Conservation Coordinator, Izaak Walton League of America

4:05 4:35 **Current Highlights of Conservation Education in South Dakota**
Dr. Charles Dieter, Department of Natural Resource Management, South Dakota State University

4:35 5:05 **Teaming with Wildlife - Bridging the User Gap for Wildlife**
Eileen Dowd Stukel, Senior Wildlife Biologist, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks

5:15 6:15 **Student-Professional Mixer**

6:00 **Social**

7:00 **Fundraising Auction**

TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY

8:00a 8:30 **Committee meetings** (This is scheduled time to allow for standing and special committees to meet if desired.)

8:30 12:00p **Annual Chapter Business Meeting**

12:00p 1:00 **Luncheon**

Session One: Contributed Papers

1:00 1:20 **Migration of Ospreys Released in Southeastern South Dakota**
Wayne Melquist*, Eileen Dowd Stukel, and Chelsea Krause

1:20 1:40 **Nutrient Dynamics of Pre-breeding Blue-winged Teal in Eastern South Dakota**
Adam Janke*, Michael Anteau, and Joshua Stafford

1:40 2:00 **Migratory Small Owl Banding in Western Dakotas**
Nancy Drilling

2:00 2:20 **Thinking Outside of the Standard Sage Grouse Box: South Dakota's Success with NRCS's Sage Grouse Initiative**
Gillian Bee*, Mitch Faulkner*, and Kevin Luebke

2:20 2:40 **Availability and Ingestion of Spent Lead Shot by Wild Ring-necked Pheasants**
Travis Runia*, Alex Solem, Rocco Murano, Paul Mammenga, and Mark Grovijahn

2:40 3:00 **BREAK**

3:00 3:20 **Public Perceptions of Mountain Lions and Their Management in South Dakota (2002 – 2012)**
Larry Gigliotti

3:20 3:40 **Determination of River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) Distribution and Evaluation of Potential Sites for Population Expansion in South Dakota**
Wayne Melquist*, Silka Kempema, and Eileen Dowd Stukel

3:40 4:00 **Disease and Predation: Sorting out Causes of a Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) Decline**
Joshua Smith*, Jonathan Jenks, Troy Grovenburg, and Robert Klaver

4:00 4:20 **South Dakota Prairie Butterfly Garden**
Charlene Bessken

4:20 4:40 **Agricultural Tile Drainage Discharges to Public Wetlands within the Madison Wetland Management District**
Mathew Schwarz*, Drew Davis, and Jacob Kerby

* indicates presenter

5:30 **Social**

6:30 **Dinner**

7:00 **Award Banquet and Guest Speaker**

Joe Riis, Wildlife Photojournalist
"Conservation Photography"

WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY

Session Two: Contributed Papers

- 8:00a 8:20 **Genetic Structure of Cougars in the Black Hills, South Dakota.**
Rebecca Juarez*, Jonathan Jenks, Michael Schwartz, Kristy Pilgrim, and Daniel Thompson
- 8:20 8:40 **Status and Distribution of Franklin's and Richardson's Ground Squirrels in Eastern South Dakota**
Tait Ronningen
- 8:40 9:00 **Red Wolves' Behavioral Patterns at the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls, South Dakota**
Kylee Shotkoski* and Charles Dieter
- 9:00 9:20 **Determining Cause-specific Mortality, Disease Prevalence, and Survival Rates of Bighorn Sheep Inhabiting the Elk Mountain Region of South Dakota and Wyoming.**
Brynn Parr*, Jonathan Jenks, John Kanta, Joe Sandrini, and Daniel Thompson
- 9:20 9:40 **Cause-Specific Mortality and Survival of Rocky Mountain Elk in the Black Hills, South Dakota**
Benjamin Simpson*, Jonathan Jenks, Troy Grovenburg, Andrew Lindbloom, and John Kanta
- 9:40 10:00 **West Nile Virus and Ferruginous Hawks (*Buteo regalis*): Additional Threat to Grassland Obligate Raptors**
Shubham Datta*, Jonathan Jenks, David Knudsen, Kent Jensen, Will Inselman, Christopher Swanson, and Troy Grovenburg
- 10:00 10:20 **BREAK**
- 10:20 10:40 **Utilizing Winter Grazing to Increase Habitat Heterogeneity for Grassland Birds**
Christina Kohler*, Patricia Johnson, Kent Jensen
- 10:40 11:00 **Buteo Ecology: An Intensive Study of Swainson's Hawks (*Buteo swainsonii*) on the Northern Great Plains**
Will Inselman*, Shubham Datta, Jonathan Jenks, Kent Jensen, Christopher Swanson, and Troy Grovenburg
- 11:00 11:20 **Evaluation of Anthraquinone as a Deterrent to Canada Goose Damage on Soybeans with Possible Application to Other Crops.**
Matt Gottlob* and Charles Dieter
- 11:20 11:40 **Evaluation of Five Herbicide Treatments to Control Yellow Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)**
Randy Johnson*, Troy Grovenburg, Lora Perkins, Jonathan Jenks, Will Inselman, and Christopher Swanson
- 11:40 12:00 **Determining Optimal Movement of Ring-necked Pheasant Broods in Various Vegetation Structures**
Wyatt Mack* and Mandy Orth

12:00 **Wrap Up and Adjourn the Meeting**

12:30 2:00 **South Dakota Ag Conservation Coalition Luncheon**

* indicates presenter



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.

To preregister for the meeting, please use the form on the next page.

South Dakota TWS Annual Meeting

Registration and Receipt

Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, SD

February 24–26, 2014

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Meeting Registration

General \$50 _____

General 1-Day \$25 _____

Student \$20 _____

Student 1-Day \$10 _____

Tuesday Luncheon \$ 9 _____

Tuesday Awards Banquet \$12 _____

Wednesday Luncheon \$0 _____

(SD Ag Conservation Coalition)

2014 Dues

South Dakota Chapter Membership

Regular \$10 _____

Student \$ 6 _____

Life \$ _____

Central Mountains and Plains Section Membership \$FREE

Total Paid \$ _____

Special accommodations request _____

Check payable to SD TWS

To preregister send registration form and check to:

Troy Grovenburg

SDSU NRM

Box 2140B

Brookings, SD 57007

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

The Resolutions Committee needs a Chairperson. Please consider filling this position.

Grassland Issues Committee

We added a few new faces to the Grassland Issues Committee this past year. We are glad to welcome both Joel Murano and Pete Bauman.

The Grassland Issues Committee continues to monitor grassland issues and will report as necessary. We are currently watching the State House Bill 1006 during the current legislative session. We are also watching the development of the next Farm Bill.

South Dakota HB 1006 – Provide for the assessment and taxation of land based on its actual use.

-There is a possibility that this bill might be amended. The potential amendment would keep any land with a conservation easement at the higher tax rate and no adjustments will be made.

Submitted by: Lee Erickson, Boyd Schulze, Jim Madsen, Joel Murano, and Pete Bauman.

Public Lands Committee

Fort Pierre National Grasslands-SW fence relocation installation, and waterline establishment – No information has been received concerning TWS comments

Buffalo Gap National Grasslands Kelly Exchange – No follow up information has been received concerning our comments

Nebraska National Forest and Grasslands Guiding and Outfitting – No follow up information requested from TWS

Niobrara Confluence and Ponca Bluffs Conservation Areas – No further follow up received or requests for added information on the DEIS proposals

Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan – No updates and no other information requested

Submitted by Dennie Mann

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is now accepting 2014 membership dues. Dues can be submitted to SDTWS

Treasurer, Troy Grovenburg, via the mail using the Membership form on the last page of the Newsletter or membership can be paid when registering for the 2014 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 2013 members who have not renewed their membership at that time.

Submitted by Nora Kohlenberg

Wildlife Diseases Committee

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): From July 1, 2013 to January 15, 2014 a total of 169 samples (122 elk, 8 mule deer, and 39 white-tailed deer) were collected from southwestern South Dakota, northeastern South Dakota, and the Black Hills of South Dakota. As of January 15, 2014 all results are in except for 9 pending results, and we have found 7 CWD positive elk, 6 CWD positive white-tailed deer, and 2 CWD positive mule deer. Since testing began in 1997, South Dakota has documented 251 cases of CWD (86 elk and 165 deer) in free ranging deer and elk. Wind Cave National Park accounts for 66 of these animals (56 elk and 10 deer). Custer State Park has found seven elk and one deer. A total of 25,066 wild deer and elk have been tested for CWD since 1997.

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: The State of South Dakota experienced another substantial die-off of white-tailed deer during September-October 2013 due to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Blue Tongue (BT). South Dakota started receiving reports of sickly and deceased white-tailed deer during the late summer and early fall, and as in previous years, we suspect EHD, and move towards documentation of the virus through our Diagnostic Lab at South Dakota State University. Through laboratory testing, we confirmed that both the EHDV and BTV virus was present in mainly white-tailed deer, but also confirmed in elk, and pronghorn. South Dakota continued with documentation of sick and dead wildlife until the middle of October when most of the state experienced its first killing frost and thus the end of the biting flies.

Eleven counties from across South Dakota had confirmed EHD virus (14 cases) or Bluetongue virus (11 cases) in white-tailed deer, elk, or pronghorn. Most cases were found in western South Dakota with a total of 678 deer, elk, pronghorn reported. In the eastern side of the state, a total of 169 reports of dead or sick deer were recorded. A total of 847 dead or sickly deer, elk, or pronghorn were recorded in South Dakota during 2013. Totals included 825 deer, 19 pronghorn, and 3 elk.

Pneumonia in Bighorn Sheep: SDGFP has concluding research through SDSU on bighorn sheep and the dissertation is being completed. We continue at a reduced level to monitor bighorn sheep for health issues, and documented 2 lambs with pneumonia again this year. We believe that we continue to loose bighorn lambs to the disease as we have only documented 7 lambs that survived to our fall survey period. 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 cow from the Hutchinson/Turner County area in late 2013. The Animal industry board is testing other cattle herds in the area and we are waiting for some results. We continue to work with the State Veterinarian to monitor for the disease in wild cervid populations. 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. Raptor educators from The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota will once again be presenting the programs, which include 2 school programs in Lower Brule and 4 programs for the general public.

Free programs for the general public will include:

- February 20, 2014: 6:30 p.m. at the SD Game, Fish and Parks' Outdoor Campus East, located at 4500 S. Oxbow Avenue, Sioux Falls (registration is typically required for this program <http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/outdoor-campus/east/classes-and-events/default.aspx>)
- February 22, 2014: 3 programs beginning at 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 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 22.

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

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 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.

2014 Camera Raffle

This year we decided to mix things up a bit and will be raffling a GoPro Hero3+ Black Edition camera. This edition has improved image quality, longer battery life, and includes a Wi-Fi remote so you can set up and record from a distance. With this camera you can capture all of your outdoor experiences from your hunts to wildlife encounters in the field.

Also included in the raffle package is a clip on bendable mount and head strap mount.



TWS Student-Professional Mixer!
Monday Evening, February 24
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 24-26 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 24**, 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 2014 Executive Board Elections

Information on candidates for President Elect and Executive Board Member is presented below. If you are not able to attend the 2014 SDTWS annual meeting at the Cedar Shores Resort, an absentee ballot is included in this edition of *A Prairie Voice*.

Candidate for President Elect – John Kanta

Personal Data: John Kanta has lived in Rapid City most of his life. John has three boys that he loves to spend time with and is very proud of.

Education: He has a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and fisheries Sciences from South Dakota State University.

Employment: John has worked for South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks for a total of 15 years as a seasonal, resource biologist and as the Region One Wildlife Manager for the last 7 years.

Interests & Hobbies: John enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time in the outdoors. John's career goal is to make a difference in wildlife management.

Candidate for President Elect – Nathan Baker

Personal Data: I grew up in the small town of Loup City, Nebraska.

Education: I attended South Dakota State University, where I obtained a B.S. Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in 2007. I obtained a M.S. Degree in Biology in 2010, where I evaluated the reproductive success of colonial tree-nesting waterbirds in Prairie Pothole wetlands and rivers of northeast South Dakota.

Employment: Upon completion of my M.S. Degree I worked for a brief period in the Pine Ridge area of Nebraska with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and then worked as a Wildlife Biologist with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' (SDGFP) Wildlife Diversity Program, serving as the Natural Heritage Database Manager. In 2011, I transferred into the Regional Wildlife Manager Position with SDGFP, stationed at the Ft. Pierre District Office.

Memberships & Affiliations: In regards to The Wildlife Society (TWS), I am an Associate Wildlife Biologist® through TWS since May of 2009. I served on the Wildlife Diversity Committee in 2011, and have been serving on the SDTWS Awards Committee since 2011 and the Missouri River Issues Committee since 2013. I have also served on the SDTWS Executive Board for the past two years. Other current membership affiliations include Pheasants Forever.

Interests & Hobbies: My interests and hobbies consist of training my yellow lab, Gunner, and spending time outdoors enjoying all of what nature has to offer.

Candidate for Executive Board – Lee Erickson

Personal Data: I was born and raised in SW Minnesota. I currently live in Sturgis, SD where I have been enjoying life in the northern Black Hills.

Education: I earned a Bachelor's Degree from SDSU in 2006. I'm also working on a Master's Degree from SDSU.

Employment: Soil Conservationist – Natural Resources Conservation Service (2010 to Present).
-Biological Science Technician, USFWS Partners Program, Windom, MN, (2002).
-Biological Science Technician, USFWS, Waubay NWR and WMD, Waubay, SD, (2003-2005).
-Biological Science Technician, USFWS, Columbia FWCO, Columbia, MO, (2006-2008).
-Graduate Research Assistant, SDSU, Brookings, SD, (2008-2010).

Membership and Affiliations: SD Chapter of the Wildlife Society, currently the Grasslands Committee Chairman, Northern Great Plains Joint Venture, and National Outreach Strategy Team member for NRCS.

Candidate for Executive Board – Brent Jamison

Personal Data: I am a native of northwestern Missouri where I gained an appreciation for wildlife through hunting and fishing. After working in several states around the country over the past 10+ years, I moved to Huron, South Dakota in 2011.

Education: I earned an M.S. Wildlife Biology from Kansas State University (2000) and a B.S. Biology at the University of Missouri (1996).

Employment: I am currently a wildlife biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. My responsibilities include monitoring, research, biological evaluations of potential grassland wetland easements, developing management recommendations for public lands, and supervision of seasonal employees. Over my career, my work experience has focused on migratory passerines, prairie grouse, and sage grouse. Research interests include assessing the effectiveness of management practices in meeting habitat quality goals for resident and migratory birds. Current research focusses on linkages between habitat characteristics and prey resources (i.e. invertebrates) in native grasslands.

I have previously worked as a graduate student, research biologist, or habitat management biologist for state, federal and tribal agencies in Montana, Missouri, Kansas, Washington, North Dakota, and now South Dakota. Seemingly unable to hold a job, my travels have given me a unique perspective on the differences in agency approaches to conservation and research, as well as broad experience with successes and failures.

Memberships and Affiliations: I have not served as an active member of SDTWS since my move there three years ago, but would welcome the opportunity to make contributions to the Society and the wildlife resources of South Dakota. State chapters serve a vital role in maintaining local networks of professionals, providing a forum for discussion of conservation issues, and developing and proposing solutions to ongoing conservation challenges.

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

For President Elect:
(Vote for One)

John Kanta

Nathan Baker

_____ (Write in)

For Executive Board Member:
(Vote for One)

Lee Erickson

Brent Jamison

_____ (Write in)

If you are unable to attend the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2014 Meeting, please complete this absentee ballot and return it by February 13, 2014 to Mark Norton.

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Executive Board

President

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

Past-President

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

President-Elect

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

Secretary-Treasurer

Troy Grovenburg
SDSU, Dept Natural Resource Mgmt
Box 2140 B, NPS 143
Brookings, SD 57007-1696
(605) 688-5064

Board Member

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

Board Member

Casey Mehls
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-4345

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 – Mark Norton, 773-3096

Nominations and Elections – Mark Norton, 773-3096

Resolutions & Public Statements - Vacant

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Special Committee Chairs*

Arrangements – Travis Runia, 353-8477 & 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 - Lee Erickson, 347-4952

Missouri River Issues – Nathan Baker, 223-7709

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

Public Lands -, Dennis Mann, 939-8156, Eddie Childers, 433-5263

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

Wetlands - Ben Bigalke 352-1203

Wildlife Diseases - Steve Griffin, 394-6786

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* _____ 2014 Dues Renewal

* If you did not pay your dues in 2013, 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:

Troy Grovenburg
South Dakota State University
Dept Natural Resource Management
Box 2140 B, NPS 143
Brookings, SD 57007-1696
(605) 688-5064

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.

