



South Dakota Chapter The Wildlife Society



A Prairie Voice December 2015

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A Message From the President



As I sit and write this the snow is falling and blowing around here in Rapid City and across much of the state. I hear complaints, but how can we complain when we have enjoyed such a warm mild fall and early winter. The snow and subsequent melting will bring much needed moisture across the region. And besides, doesn't everyone want a white Christmas??

I am excited about the upcoming annual meeting celebration. The SDTWS Board and in particular, President Elect Nathan Baker, have been putting much time into planning this event. I hope to see the usual crowd, but I am also hoping to see many new faces and faces of those who have not attended for some time. We have a great agenda planned. As mentioned in a previous letter, we will have some excellent presentations from Shane Mahoney, Jed Meunier and the Green Fire Film showing and many others. We hope to have some presentations and discussion on the use of drones in wildlife and habitat management. We will also be taking it up a notch and having a band at the social (The Sidehackers) to celebrate 50 years of SDTWS! Please help us spread the word and make this a great celebration with record attendance.



Please enjoy the rest of this newsletter and be sure to see the call for papers and award nominations! I hope some of you will share your photos for the photo contest as well.

John Kanta

President - South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society



2016 Annual Meeting

February 29—March 3, 2016

Cedar Shores Resort—Oacoma, SD

Call for room reservations : 605-734-6376

2016 SDTWS Award Nominations

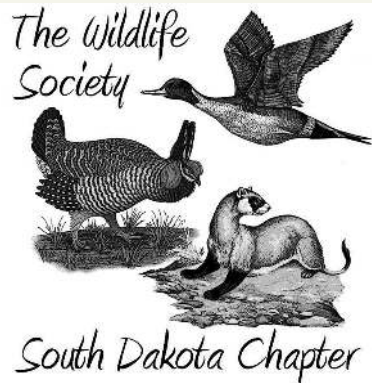
The Awards Committee is currently soliciting nominations for the 2016 awards. The awards include the Wildlife Professional of the Year Award, Citizen's Wildlife Award, and one M.S. graduate student award for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Each year SDTWS recognizes one wildlife professional and one state citizen for their outstanding contribution in the arena of wildlife resource management. If you would like to nominate an individual for either of these awards, please submit a letter of nomination to the Awards Committee **no later than December 31, 2015**. This is a great opportunity to recognize those who go the extra mile in their stewardship of South Dakota's wildlife resources.

SDTWS also recognizes academic and/or research excellence achieved by graduate students. This year there will be one (1) M.S. scholarship student award for the 2015-2016 academic year. If you would like to nominate a student(s) for this award, please complete and submit the nomination form to the Awards Committee **no later than December 31, 2015**.

Information regarding the nomination process for these awards and the student Award Nomination form are attached.

If you have any questions regarding the nomination process or the formulation of nomination letters, please contact Nathan Baker.



**SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER
OF THE
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

Call for Abstracts

50th Annual Meeting

February 29th - March 2nd, 2016

Cedar Shore Resort - Oacoma, South Dakota

Abstracts Due: December 31st, 2015

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society 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 Nathan Baker
Nathan.Baker@state.sd.us

If you have any questions, please contact Nathan by email or phone at 605-223-7709.



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 2016 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 2017 annual meeting.



Check it out...

- SDTWS has a new website..

<http://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/>



- 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

The Wildlife Society News

Popular Articles on the TWS website

- [FWS looks to Revise Outdated oil and Gas Development Regulations](#)
- [New Discoveries About Farthest Migrating Warbler](#)
- [Are Bison Adopting Sedentary Eating Habits?](#)



For the latest TWS News Center

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



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

Save the date!

Central Mountain and Plains Annual meeting
Steamboat Springs, Colorado
August 8-11, 2016.



Photo credit Sheraton Steamboat Springs

It's a great time of year to be in Steamboat Springs and we are going to be on the mountain so easy access to hiking, mountain biking, wildlife, and a great scientific program ☺

We are looking for suggestions for workshops so if you have any suggestions, please contact Mindy Rice at mindy.rice@state.co.us.

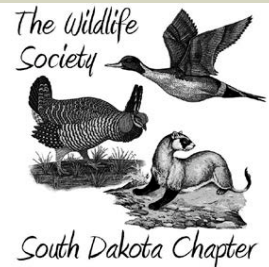
Put it on your calendar now!

We are looking for suggestions for workshops so if you have any suggestions, please contact Mindy Rice at mindy.rice@state.co.us.

Executive Board Meeting

November 30, 2015

Call to order 14:06 PM CST



On Conference Call

President: John Kanta ,President Elect: Nathan Baker, Past President: Mark Norton
Treasurer/Secretary: Julie DeJong, Board Members: Alex Solem and Lee Erickson

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

- ♦ Approval of minutes from last meeting. Motion to approve: Baker Second: Norton
- ♦ Approval of treasurers report. Motion to approve: Norton, Second: Solem

Old Business

Annual Meeting Planning Update

- Meeting Date – Feb. 29 to March 2, 2016
- Meeting Gift – Kanta. Purchased coolers and on hand. Has been reimbursed for charges on credit card.
- Agenda/Speakers – Baker

Preliminary schedule Day 1:

- Dave Swanson – bird reporting changes over the years
- Drones – PHD student from Ontario, may need to pay for travel, etc.
- Rocco – Canada goose restoration
- History of the Chapter – who presents? pictures available?
- GFP – Sec. Hepler ? – forecast of future of wildlife
- 50 years to now – how has conservation changed, habitat, wildlife populations, landscape changes –

Student papers?

Preliminary schedule Day 2:

committee mtgs, business mtg, Green Fire presentation with audience engagement, Student papers,

- Key Note Speaker – Baker

Bob Lanka– annual update on CMPS and parent society, plans on coming, talking on why WL matters, should send an email to confirm – Baker/Kanta

Old Business (cont'd)

Photo Contest – DeJong

- ◆ No updates, no photos sent in yet. Will arrange equipment – display boards, double stick tape, numbers, voting slips
- ◆ Kanta: bulletin boards with pictures arranged by category (Flora, Fauna, Landscape) at parent society meeting
- ◆ Need someone to man the table – taking votes? We will need to decide on prize amounts.

Funding – Kanta

\$750 SDGFP

\$500 SCI

Other funding sources? – outreach started last January so we will need to get started soon

Awards – Baker

Do we need to send out requests for nominations? – Yes – typically at this time. Will include with next newsletter in December and email announcement

Annual meeting checklist will be distributed at next meeting

Fundraising Committee Chair – Kanta will work on setting up a conference call to discuss

New business

- Election of new board member/president
- Will announce coming vacancies in newsletter
- Lee Erickson coming off board
- Mark Norton –going off as past president
- Nathan Baker - coming on as president
- John Kanta - going to past president
- Julie DeJong – no change to Secretary/Treasurer

- Call for papers – Baker – will send out with newsletter and email
- Funding request from graduate students – graduate students submit application for funding if they missed the first round of grants. Jarrett Pfrimmer was the only applicant. We will award \$200 to [him](#). - DeJong
- Section Awards – no action needed at this time
- Next board meeting at Cedar Shores in January TBD

Adjourn meeting – 15:12 PM CST Motioned by Solem, Seconded by Baker, all approved.

Public Lands Committee Comments—Submitted by Dennie Mann, Chair

Deadman Trail Addition and Sturgis BAM

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SDTWS) submits comments concerning expansion of 15 miles of non-motorized trails on Black Hills National Forest (BHNF), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and City of Sturgis Watershed. Our organization has an interest in this project and we appreciate the opportunity to comment. The Wildlife Society is an international non-profit scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. The South Dakota Chapter achieves this mission in part by evaluating the principals involved in proposed public actions that affect wildlife and habitats. Our Chapter goals and objectives are more clearly outlined at: <http://sdwildlife.org/>

The scoping notice for Deadman Trail offered very limited information to give the public a starting point for responses. Basic biological information was lacking, the map was difficult to interpret and did not outline land ownership, and the suggestion that analysis could be conducted with use of Categorical Exclusion authority is premature. We encourage a range of alternatives beyond the obligatory "No Action" and "Proposed Action" alternatives to allow various publics more inclusive information to re-

view. We offer some suggestions to improve this trail proposal and until such critical information is properly analyzed, we find it difficult to support the proposed location of parts of the trail. Better disclosure of trail design, placement and maintenance need to be detailed.

In the review of your preliminary proposed action:

1. The Deadman trail expansion proposes to place a non-motorized trail next to Davenport Cave which is on the boundary between BHNF and City of Sturgis watershed land. We presume the existing but not readily accessible dirt trail/roadbed near Davenport Cave is the proposed location of the hiking trail but that was not disclosed in the scoping notice.

2

2. The US Fish and Wildlife Service recently determined that the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis* or MYOSEP) should be listed as a federal threatened species. BHNF is aware of this listing and that this bat and other FS sensitive species occupy habitats within the project areas. Has the USFWS been contacted? What role does USDI Bureau of Land Management have with its portion of the trail connected to MYOSEP habitat in Davenport Cave?

3. The only comment we have on the permit renewal for the Stur-

gis BAM bike races is that the scoping notice appears to have made a pre-decisional decision that the races in July 2016 could be conducted on the Deadman Trail, a trail that has yet to be fully analyzed and properly planned. Events of this caliber and the people it would attract should not be allowed near Davenport Cave

4. Prior to this trail proposal, the City of Sturgis and other area private land owners generally did not allow public access through their lands onto BHNF. Davenport Cave was somewhat out of easy access to the public. With the City of Sturgis opening its lands to public use and the BHNF expanded trail system, the existing "non-system" dirt trail will have a substantial increase in human access and use regardless of whether this dirt trail will be converted to a hiking trail. BHNF needs to plan how it will protect this cave regardless of creation of the Deadman trail.

5. Davenport Cave is critical year-round habitat for seven and possibly eight bat species, including MYOSEP. Reproductive female MYOSEP have been captured at this cave per Batworks, L.L.C. communications (J. Tigner).

6. Davenport Cave has been gated but repeatedly vandalized when access was limited. Unlimited opportunity for greater human access to the cave logically predicts increased intentional and unintentional disturbances to

Public Lands Committee Comments—continued

bats and other biota that depend upon this cave environment. We strongly recommend that BHNF take appropriate time, planning and biological considerations to relocate the proposed trail well away from Davenport Cave. Cave habitat is finite and it seems appropriate that BHNF would now increase its commitment to protect this cave from vandalism and human disturbances, including increased human activity with the proposed trails.

7. Proposed use of CE Authority is inadequate and level of analysis must be elevated to meet the identified issues brought forth to BHNF. Occupancy of FS sensitive bat species and a federal threatened bat within the project area preclude use of ineffective CE analysis processes. We have identified extraordinary circumstances and viability issues for multiple bat species (36 CFR 220.6(b)).

8. The project proposes to construct 90% of the 12-mile trail system on BHNF using cattle trails, old roadbeds and user-created paths. CE Authority is an insufficient level of analysis for nearly 11 miles of newly constructed hiking trails. Cattle, humans and motorized users that forged these older forest paths did not consider hydrology, soils, sensitive plants, caves and big game winter range (MA 5.4). Constructed hiking trails need to be fully evaluated for proper placement at all levels of resource im-

pacts.

9. Connected actions and reasonable foreseeable future actions within the project area include the current Congressional legislation HB3839 and SB2223 to convey approximately 200 acres of BLM lands (Ft. Meade) to the National Cemetery for

3 needed expansion. These BLM lands are within known big game critical winter range. The Deadman trail project area is within BHNF designated big game winter range (Management Area 5.4) and adjacent to Sturgis. There are conflicts with urban wildlife within the greater Sturgis area and I-90 / Vanocker Canyon corridors. Additional loss of BLM lands and higher human uses on the Sturgis and BHNF lands should be considered in the project analysis.

We look forward to BHNF attention to identified issues that have room for improvement, reconsideration and elevated level of analysis to an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. Please continue to send correspondence to our Chapter.

Bat Species Known to Occupy Davenport Cave
Corynorhinus townsendii (Townsend's Big-eared Bat) - FS R2 Sensitive Spp.
Eptesicus fuscus (Big Brown Bat)
Myotis lucifugus (Little Brown Myotis)
Myotis septentrionalis (Northern Myotis) - Federal Threatened
Myotis thysanodes pahasapensis (Fringed Myotis) - FS R2 Sensitive Spp.
Myotis ciliolabrum (Western Small-footed Myotis)
Myotis volans (Long-legged Myotis)
Myotis evotis (Long-eared Myotis) is known to be in the vicinity of Davenport

Public Lands Committee Comments—continued

Mystic Ranger District

MVUM 2016

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SDTWS) submits comments concerning the Mystic Ranger Districts proposed changes to the 2016 MVUM. Our organization has an interest in this project and we appreciate the opportunity to comment. The Wildlife Society is an international non-profit scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. The South Dakota Chapter achieves this mission in part by evaluating the principals involved in proposed public actions that affect wildlife and habitats. Our Chapter goals and objectives are more clearly outlined at: <http://sdwildlife.org/> In the review of your preliminary proposed action:

1. NFSR 263-Agree with proposed changes because of ownership change

2. NFSR 718.1C-Agree with proposed changes because of other access to this area and road reduction

3. Trail 6926, 6927, 6928, 6933-Agree with proposed changes to allow full size vehicle use

4. NFSR 301.1O, 301.1P, 301.1S -Agree with proposed changes to protect sensitive plant communities, and removal of dead end non connected trails

5. NFSR 289.1E, 583.1A, 583.1C, 583.1D, 583.1E- Disagree to yearlong closure but agree to have seasonal closure similar to other Cave, Bat protection areas (May 15th to December 15th which includes big game hunting seasons).

6. NFSR 289.1E, 583, 583.1A, 583.1B, 583.1F, 583.1G, 583.1H, 583.1I, 583.1J-Agree with seasonal closure and open from May 15th through December 15th. NFSR 361, 361.2A, 361.2B, 361.2C, 361.2D, 361.2E-Disagree with closure since this is excellent mountain lion habitat and hunters use this area during the lion season and it appears that this is the only access adjacent to private land. Leave 361 open yearlong and close the 2A, B, C, D, and E trails.

This will allow enough hunter access for the mountain lion season.

7. NFSR 718- Agree with change from yearlong to seasonally open May 15th through December 15 which will allow hunter access for big game seasons.

8. NFSR 173, 197, 603, 199, 199.2A, 199.2B, 199.2D, 603 - Agree with change from yearlong to seasonally open May 15th through December 15th, not many elk in this area but high concentration of white-tail. Again this will restrict access for lion hunting.

9. NFSR 249-Agree with seasonal opening May 15th through December 15th.

10.NFSR 254, 389, 389.1F, 389.1N, 389.1O, 530, 530.1A, 530.1C, 643.1D-Agree with seasonal closure for big game winter range designation.

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. Please continue to send correspondence to our Chapter.

SDTWS Executive Board 2015

President

[John Kanta](#)

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(605) 394-2391

President-Elect

[Nathan Baker](#)

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[Lee Erickson](#)

NRCS
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Huron, SD 57350
(605) 352-1281

Past-President

[Mark Norton](#)

SD Game, Fish & Parks
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Secretary-Treasurer

[Julie DeJong](#)

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Lennox, SD 57039
(605) 214-1779

Board Member

[Alex Solem](#)

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

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

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.

SDTWS—Standing Committee Chairs *

Audit - Mark Norton, 773-3096
Awards - Nathan Baker 223-7709
Conservation Review - Paul Coughlin, 773-4194
Education & Information - Laura Hubers, 947-4521
Membership - Chuck Pyle, 353-5753
Program - Nathan Baker 223-7709
Nominations and Elections - Nathan Baker 223-7709
Resolutions & Public Statements - Vacant

SDTWS - Special Committee Chairs *

Arrangements - Mark Norton, 773-3096 & Tom Kirschenmann, 352-1874
Certification - Troy Grovenburg, 688-5064
Chapter History - Corey Huxoll, 773-4195
Energy - K C Jensen, 688-4781 & Silka Kempema, 773-2742
Fee Hunting & Ownership of Wildlife - Andy Lindbloom, 223-7709
Fund Raising - Casey Heimerl, 773-4345
Grassland Issues - Lee Erickson, 347-4952
Missouri River Issues - Nathan Baker, 223-7709
Newsletter - Jennifer Briggs, 256-2974
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 - Randy Meidinger, 380-0380
Wildlife Diseases - Steve Griffin, 394-6786
Wildlife Diversity - Eileen Stukel, 773-4229, Silka Kempema, 773-2742
Workshop - Travis Runia, 353-8477 & Casey Heimerl, 773-4345

*Please see the Committees webpage at [SDTWS](#) 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* _____ 2015 Dues Renewal

* If you did not pay your dues in 2014, 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:

Julie DeJong
304 North Cherry Street
Lennox, SD 57039
(605) 214-1779

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 Chuck Pyle (605) 353-5753.