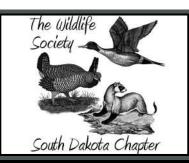
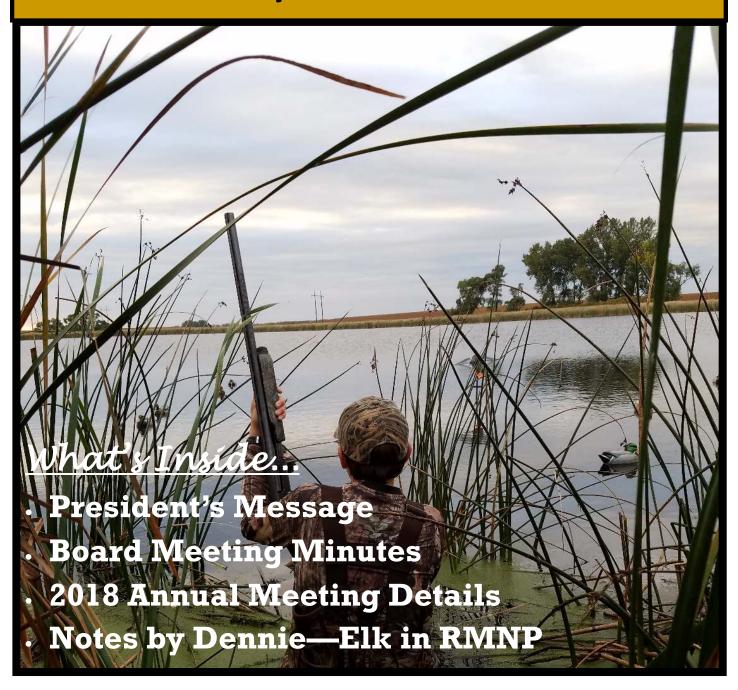


South Dakota Chapter The Wildlife Society



A Prairie Voice Fall 2017





A Message From the President



Mark

Who doesn't love the onset of fall? Everyone seems to notice and appreciate the changes in temperature, the changing of colors, the absolute overload of pumpkin spice on everything. Okay, maybe not the last thing so much. Over time I've come to a greater appreciation of the little things that fall brings: opening windows to air out the house, good "sleeping" weather, the way my dog is just generally happier, and being able to wear long sleeves. And, of course, the things that have drawn many of us to the profession, such as *zugunruhe* (migratory restlessness, especially in birds), the start of hunting seasons, rutting deer and elk, and the slow fade of summer insect serenades. I'm from Oregon originally, and my family doesn't understand the pull of the prairies, but fall is truly a special time here in South Dakota, and I'm sure all of you also feel blessed when you feel the first chill on your collar.

The Board of the South Dakota Chapter of TWS had a produc-Your tive summer. We have set the dates and venue for our annual meet-Calendar ing. No surprise I imagine, but it will once again be held at the Cedar Shores Resort in Chamberlain, SD during 26-28 February 2018. I'm especially excited about the theme of this year's meeting: Natural History: Back to Basics with Backpacks and Binoculars. As an organization we celebrate our science, new technologies, and the power of quality research and analytics. But the root of our profession has always been keen observation of the world around us and describing what we see. I worked for the Illinois Natural History Survey for 7 years before coming back to South Dakota, and I have an especially keen appreciation for this aspect of our discipline. In the constant technological age we live in we thought this would be an excellent time to reflect on the work that remains the foundation of the profession. To this end, we anticipate having several invited speakers at this year's meeting that will address relevant topics, such as observational science, wildlife photography and writing, and art. If you've not been able to attend in the past, or perhaps found previous meetings not your speed, I encourage you to register and attend this year - it's going to be a great conference. The call for abstracts will be going out in about the next month, so please look for this and please submit your work for presentation at the meeting. It certainly need not be on the topic of natural history, but if you have work relevant to our theme it would be particularly welcomed!

A Message From the President

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge one particular accomplishment from the summer. I'd wish to thank the SDTWS Public Lands Committee, and Mark Norton in particular, for developing and submitting comments to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) regarding the Stony Butte Project Environmental Assessment (EA). The project area is located on the Fort Pierre National Grassland north of Vivian, SD, and the EA regards proposed changes to recreational and vegetation management of the project. Details of the letter sent to the USFS are too many to list here, but briefly they addressed support for: 1) access for public recreation; 2) use of prescribed fire; 3) protection of playa wetlands (a rare wetland type in SD); 4) improving plant diversity and controlling exotic plant species; 5) rest-rotation grazing, and; 6) continued monitoring during- and postproject. We should be proud of our committees within SDTWS who address and comment on issues important to South Dakota wildlife, often behind the scenes, but that nonetheless require considerable thought, time, and effort. Thank you again to the Public Lands Committee for weighing in on SDTWS's behalf on this important issue.

If you've read this far, I'm grateful for your attention because, at least for me, this is the time of year my attention tends to wane and I find my eyes drifting to the window, wishing I was outside. I hope everyone has a fun and productive fall in whatever you pursue. Take care, be safe, and thanks for being a part of our Chapter. It's your every-day work that helps make this state the gem that it is and why so many of our constituents look forward to this time of year.

"Bummer of a birthmark, Hal."

Sincerely, Joshua D. Stafford, Ph.D. President - 2017-2018 South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society



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

Entry fee: \$5 per photo—no limit on num-

ber 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 2018 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 2019 annual meeting.





Notes From Dennie Mann

Fall is just around the corner and the beginning of hunting seasons. This is the time of mating season for many mammals with antelope and elk leading the way. When you add the mix of fall colors you have hunters dream whether hunting with a camera, rifle, or bow. This is my favorite time of the year to be in the field.

Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) is a great place to photograph elk with elevations

beginning at 7500 feet and going to 12,000 you have many options in



September. My favorite lens for big game photography is the 200-400 F4 which is fast enough for action and low light shooting. Now that these lenses have vibration reduction you can hand hold and still get sharp images even down to about a 30th of a second.

RMNP receives a lot of visitors in Sep-

tember for viewing elk and the rut. Photographers need to get out early and stay late to have the best chance of success just like any hunter. You will have lines of cars "elk jams" and the best opportuni-

ty is to park your vehicle. Because of the elk and the viewing public (in 2016 RMNP had 4.5 million visitors) you are limited to getting off the road more than about 50 yards, they really focus on visitor safety and minimizing impacts with the elk.

The best



time is mid-September just like anywhere else in the west and we have had up to a foot of snow at the higher elevations in September.

Elk management in RMNP has been focused on native plant communities and core winter range in and around





Estes Park. The peak population in the park was 3500 elk which occurred in 2000. Elk management strategies have included culling, elk exclosures, and native plant community restoration projects.

Between 2008 and 2011 131 elk were harvested in the park to reduce the population and for CWD monitoring, culling has not been used since as the wintering population has been below the 800-animal target level.

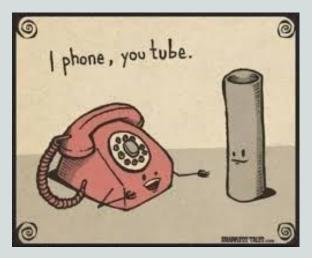




If you didn't draw an elk tag this year try photography. Enjoy the fall hunting seasons and thanks for all you do for wildlife conservation.



2018 SDTWS Annual Meeting



February 26-28, 2018 Cedar Shores Resort Oacoma, SD

"Natural History: Back to the basics with backpacks and binoculars"

Check it out...

- Renew your membership online at SDTWS website
- SDTWS is on Facebook!





Click <u>here</u> to join the group! Facebook is a great way to share information, post events, to stimulate discussions on environmental issues or other topics of interest.

Contact Chuck Pyle at goosemansd@hotmail.com if you have events, pictures, or topics you would like posted to the site.

Wildlife Disease Committee Report

<u>Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)</u>: From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 a total of 522 samples (384 elk, 56 mule deer, and 82 white-tailed deer) were collected from southwestern South Dakota, northwestern South Dakota, and the Black Hills of South Dakota. As of July 2017 all results have been returned, and we have documented 16 CWD positive elk, 5 CWD positive white-tailed deer, and 0 CWD positive mule deer. Since testing began in 1997, South Dakota has documented 360 cases of CWD (169 elk and 191 deer) in free ranging deer and elk. Wind Cave National Park accounts for 128 of these animals (118 elk and 10 deer). Custer State Park has found 18 elk and one deer. A total of 26,058 wild deer and elk have been tested for CWD since 1997.

Additionally, Wind Cave National Park conducted an elk population reduction program from November 2016 to March 2017 utilizing trained sharpshooters/hunters. A total of 262 elk were removed from the park at this time and CWD sampling was conducted on removed elk. A total of 34 elk were found with CWD.

SDGFP continues to collect all voluntary hunter harvested elk samples as we have in the past, but only sample deer heads from CWD units that are submitted to the Rapid City Regional Office. We continue to test any suspect animals from across the state.

<u>Hemorrhagic Disease</u>: The State of South Dakota experienced a substantial die-off of white-tailed deer during late July-November 2016 due to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and/or Blue Tongue (BT). The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP) started receiving reports of sick and deceased white-tailed deer during the early summer of 2016. As in previous years with substantial mortality in the summer months, EHD was suspected and efforts were made to document the virus through the Diagnostic Lab at South Dakota State University. Through laboratory testing, confirmation was received that the EHD virus was present in white-tailed deer, and confirmation was received about cases of the BT virus in a pronghorn and a bighorn sheep. The SDGFP continued to document sick and dead ungulates until late November when a substantial frost ceased EHD/BT disease transmission in most areas of the state.

Twenty-one counties from across South Dakota had confirmed EHD virus (26 cases) or BT virus (2 cases) in white-tailed deer, pronghorn, or bighorn sheep. Most cases were found in eastern South Dakota with 2,040 deer reported. West of the Missouri River, 222 reports of dead or sick deer, 5 reports of pronghorn, and 1 report of a sick bighorn sheep were recorded. Statewide, a total of 2,268 dead or sick animals were recorded in 2016, which included 2,262 deer, 5 pronghorn, and 1 bighorn sheep.

Due to the large number of white-tailed deer that were being lost to the disease, the SDGFP removed all or some unsold licenses (1,251 licenses; 2,005 tags) from Aurora, Brule,

Buffalo, Douglas, Hand, Hughes, Jerauld, Miner, Sanborn, and Sully counties for the East River Deer Season. In addition, SDGFP offered refunds to hunters who previously received a deer license for any East River Deer Season hunting unit including archery, youth, or muzzle-loader licenses. Refunds were also offered to hunters from Lyman County for the West River Deer Season if they voluntarily returned their licenses before the season started. License returns totaled 1,803 which equated to 2,547 tags in all hunting units.

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

<u>Bovine Tuberculosis in South Dakota:</u> Information below is from the South Dakota AIB website accessed September 19, 2017. http://aib.sd.gov/BovineTB.html.

June 28, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

Molecular characterization of Mycobacterium bovis, the causative agent of bovine tuberculosis, from the infected animals has identified this strain as being very similar to a strain identified in Queretaro, Mexico in 1997. This strain is new to the U.S., and it's pathway of introduction into the Harding County herd is as of yet unknown.

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Wildlife Surveillance for Bovine TB:

A public meeting was held on March 23rd, 2017 at the high school in Buffalo, South Dakota. The primary purpose of this meeting was for South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) to present a wildlife surveillance plan to the landowners and producers of Harding County in response to the recent discovery of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in cattle. Approximately 100 members of the public attended the meeting and many more watched the presentation over a live video stream feed. SDGFP staff members and the South Dakota Animal Industry Board (AIB) were present and answered many questions. On March 27, 2017, SDGFP initiated its short-term wildlife surveillance effort. A "field laboratory" was established at the U.S. Forest Service Office in Camp Crook, South Dakota. Three days of ground and aerial removal and retrieval of targeted animals yielded 55 white-tailed deer, 56 mule deer, 42 pronghorn, 37 coyotes, and 9 raccoon (Figure 4, 5). Samples were collected and submitted for testing from all wildlife removed to NVSL in Ames, Iowa. All salvageable deer and pronghorn have been delivered to a processor and will be stored until test results become available. Once test results are received all deer and pronghorn meat that does not test positive for TB will be distributed to community food banks. Other samples collected from wildlife included CWD tissue samples from white-tailed and mule deer, and fetal counts on all deer and pronghorn.

Results obtained from The National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, IA from the SDGFP sampling found no Bovine TB in any wildlife sampled. The next step has been decided to conduct Bovine TB surveillance through the collection of hunter harvested samples in western Harding County during the November 2017 rifle season.

Additional information: The National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, IA, has conducted whole genome analysis of the bacteria isolated from some of the affected animals from the Harding County herd. Experts have concluded that this strain of bacteria is nearly identical to a strain that is known to exist in dairy cattle in the Central region of Mexico and that it has not previously been identified in the United States. This strain is not related to the recent strain found in Canadian cattle, previous cases identified in South Dakota cattle or in Michigan wildlife and livestock. Additionally, it does not appear to be genetically similar to other strains that are sometimes found in the U.S, in feeder or rodeo cattle of Mexican origin, nor is it similar to the bacteria identified in captive cervids (deer and elk). Rather, this case appears to represent the introduction of a new strain of Mycobacterium bovis into the United States. State and federal animal health officials working with the case will continue to attempt to investigate possible pathways of introduction into this herd.

Submitted by Steve Griffin

Public Lands Committee Comments — Mark Norton, Chair

The Public lands committee submitted comments to the US Forest Service on the Stony Butte Project Environmental Assessment on the Fort Pierre National Grassland in September. Our letter was supportive of many of the proposed actions to increase public recreational opportunity and to man-

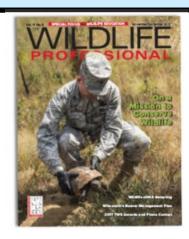


age for increased biodiversity and the reduction of invading coolseason exotics. We did express concern over the Environmental Assessment not considering the impact of increased water development on site specific pastures and the potential for homogenization of grassland structure and decreased biological diversity.

The Wildlife Society News

Popular Articles on the TWS website

- Whooping crane program closes after 51 years
- JWM study: Grazing shows little effect on grouse nesting
- Climate change may be depriving bumblebees of food



For the latest TWS News

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



TWS Student Development Working Group

Greeting Students,

Have you ever heard of the Student Development Working Group? We are a Working Group that promotes increased student awareness of TWS membership benefits, works to expand knowledge and technical capabilities of student members, and helps prepare student members for professional wildlife careers. The working group facilitates networking between students and experienced TWS members by hosting meetings, workshops, poster sessions, a mentoring program, and a student chapter leaders' breakfast. The working group also selects the recipient of The Wildlife Society's Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award.

Our working group features the latest student's news in The Student Chronicles. We actively post on our TWS Student Development Working Group Facebook page. We delivery new topics, current student research and professional skill building.

We look forward to being the voice for students to the Parent Society of The Wildlife Society. We are always here to welcome new student members. We look forward to helping and providing for the next generation of the wildlife profession!

If you have any questions about the Student Development Working Group please contact Chair Kristi Confortin at kaconfortin@bsu.edu.

Please see attached link for the Student Development Working Group Facebook Page, all you have to do is "like" the page to get daily updates! https://www.facebook.com/TWS-Student-Development-Working-Group-252817268125541/?ref=aymt-homepage-panel.

SDTWS Life Members

Doug Alvine

Galen Burgett

Eddie Childers

Mary Clawson

Charles Dieter

Lester Flake

Kurt Forman

Andy Gabbert

Dave Gilbert

Steve Griffin

Troy Grovenburg

Bob Hodorff

Harris Hoistad

Earl Hyink

Warren Jackson

Jonathan Jenks

John Kelley

Colleen Kolbeck

Rolf Kraft

Thomas Kuck

Scott Larson

Thomas LeFaive

Tony Leif

John Leisner

Jesse Lisburg

Kevin Luebke

Carl Madsen

William Morlock

Glenn Moravek

Jay Peterson

Erling Podoll

Chuck Pyle

Greg Schenbeck

Boyd Schulz

Steve Spawn

Cara Staab

Dave Steffen

Eileen Stukel

Joel Tigner

Tom Tornow

Ralph Town

Spencer Vaa

William Walker

Dave Azure

James Headley

Life Membership dues are prorated by age as follows:

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

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

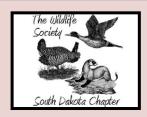
Age 46 to 65: $17.5 \times \text{annual dues} (\$10 \times 17.5 = \$175)$

Age 66 to 75: $12.5 \times \text{annual dues}$ (\$10 × 12.5 = \$125)

Age 76 and over: Free

For More Information, Contact Chuck Pyle (605) 353-5753.

Executive Board Meeting August 16th, 2017



Secretary/Treasurer's Report

- Approval of minutes from last executive board meeting (4/21/17), Motion to approve Solem, Second by Ermer, All in favor
- Approval of treasurers report (4/21/17), Motion to approve Pauly, Second by Solem, All in favor.

Old Business

- 2018 Annual Meeting Date and Location, Feb. 26-28, 2018; noon to noon, Cedar Shore Resort – Oacoma, SD, Reserved 99 rooms Mon and Tues nights, 5 rooms for Sun night
- 2018 Annual Meeting
- Theme: "Natural History: Back to the basics with backpacks and binoculars", Celebrating the roots of our profession and re-enforcing natural history, Mon day afternoon session will focus on this theme; be thinking of potential speak ers, Habitat, long-term monitoring and trends, landowners
- ⇒ Keynote Speaker, Contacted Dr. Zink currently with University of Nebraska-Lincoln; former natural history museum curator; possible topic "3-minute out doorsman" or Moller controversy, Solem will follow up with Dr. Zink
- Workshop speaker, Michael Furtman; 2hrs; SDTWS will pay travel and ex penses, Focus on wildlife photography and integrating biology, Other ideas: wildlife artist; art as a conservation tool- Solem will make a couple more con tacts
- ⇒ Call for abstracts will be November timeframe
- TWS Annual Conference
- ⇒ SDTWS Chapter Representation, Stafford will attend, Motion by Solem for SDTWS to pay up to \$1200 for travel and registration expenses, Second by Lardy, All in favor,
- ⇒ Chapter Sponsorship, Discussion to support student travel grants instead
- Annual meeting Photo Contest Canvas Purchased (2017 Winner?), Digital copy of photo was obtained from 2017 winner, Solem will get canvas made around December because of reduced production costs

New business

- SD Student Travel Grants
- ⇒ In the past, we gave \$200 per student; in return must submit one-page sum mary of experience, Discussion: board would like to support travel for students, Solem moved to table until talk with Baker about past years process;, Stafford second;, All in favor
- Spending money in savings account?
- ⇒ Discussion on creating annual scholarship using money in savings account,
 Will add this topic to annual meeting agenda
- 2018 Annual Meeting Details and preparation
- ⇒ Will discuss menu in Dec/Jan, Discussion on changes to Auction format: Possibly larger silent auction that runs throughout meeting, Discussion about a reduced live auction setting, Still do auction on bigger items such as Gale Simpson print, carved birds, etc. Gun raffle—make and model? Another raffle item?
- Upcoming SDTWS Newsletter (September/October)
- ⇒ Meeting Theme message from president will highlight the theme, dates and tentative call for abstract date

Motion to adjourn by Solem, Second by Lardy

Meeting adjourned 12:20pm

SDTWS Executive Board 2015

President

Josh Stafford 207 Park Ave PO Box 10 Sinai, SD 57061

Past-President

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

President-Elect

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

Secretary-Treasurer

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

Board Member

Brian Pauly 895 3rd ST. SW Huron, SD 57350 (605) 353-7185

Board Member

Ben Lardy
Pheasants Forever
43899 133rd St
Webster, SD 57274
(605) 461-8249

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

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 - Vacant

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 - Ben Lardy

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 - Mark Norton, Eddie Childers, 433-5263

Tribal Fish & Wildlife - Mike Gutzmer, 402-910-3533

Wetlands - Randy Meidinger, 380-0380

Wildlife Diseases - Steve Griffin, 394-6786

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

*Please see the Committees webpage at <u>SDTWS</u> to find the list of Committee members and email contact information.

The South Dakota Chapter TWS Objectives are:

- To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environment upon which wildlife and humans depend.
- To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental
- degradation.
- To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
- To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

To aid in the achievement of these objectives, the South Dakota Chapter proposes to:

- Provide opportunities for better liaison among individual members, their Section, and The Society.
- Evaluate and respond to the principles involved in proposed or enacted societal actions that could affect wildlife or its habitats.
- Recognize and commend outstanding professional achievements in maintenance, restoration and enhancement of habitats for wildlife.
- Focus the aims and objectives of The Society and the Central Mountains and Plains Section upon professional wildlife needs, problems, and events in local situations.
- Encourage communication between members and nonmembers to facilitate understanding and effectiveness of research and management of wildlife resources.
- Evaluate the principles involved in proposed or enacted public or private actions that could affect wildlife and to make these evaluations known to the public and public officials.

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Application for Membership Renewal

Name		
Address		
City		
Telephone (indicate home or work)		
E-mail Address (for newsletter delivery)		
Please Note:		
SDTWS's newsletter, A Prairie Voice, is all-ele in order to receive it (paper copies will be provincess, or an email address).		
Please Check One: New Member*	2018 Dues R	Renewal
* If you did not pay your dues in 2017, you will	be considered a new m	nember as per the SDTWS Bylaw
Employer		
Sponsor's Name		
Jacquie Ermer 42924 140th St		
Webster, SD 57274		
(605) 345-3381		
Regular Dues: \$10.00		
Student Dues: \$6.00		
Life Membership dues are prorated by age as	follows:	
Age 20 to 35: 25 x annual dues (\$10 x 25 = \$2	250)	
Age 36 to 45: 20 x annual dues (\$10 x 20 = \$2	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 memb	per,	
contact Chuck Pyle (605) 353-5753.		