

*South Dakota Chapter*

**The Wildlife Society**

February 2009

### **President's Message**

Change is in the air. We have witnessed incredible changes in the past year within all levels of our government. At the state level there has been a nearly complete turnover of administrators with the Department of Game, Fish, & Parks. Here at the SDSU we have witnessed the retirement Chuck Scalet after 34 years at the helm of the department. At the federal level we have all been witness to an historical election, and look forward with anticipation and hope to what that change will mean for our Federal agencies and the policies that guide much of the conservation of our wildlife resources. In a matter of a few short years we have gone from economic boom-times to our current situation of financial uncertainty and turmoil. There is no sector of our profession, whether it be state, federal, university, NGO, or private enterprise, that does not feel and is not affected by the clouds of political and economic change looming on the near horizon.

The impacts of the changes on our wildlife resources will not be immediately evident. The conservation language in the last Farm Bill was largely disappointing. The weakening of the Conservation Reserve Program in combination with record commodity prices has caused fear that we may lose the gains made through CRP habitat development over the preceding 20 years. The status of the Sodsaver provision of the Farm Bill, the advent of wind farms, the uncertainty of the future for cellulosic and grain-based biofuels production. The list goes on and on. During these times of flux in the world around us, perhaps the most beneficial thing we can do is to actively take the time to get outside and enjoy the natural resources that attracted us to our professions in the first place. Whether that enjoyment comes from looking down the barrel on a sharptail flushing in front of a stone-solid point from your Brittany, watching a bobber disappear slowly down a 10 inch hole on your favorite ice fishing spot, or stalking an elusive songbird with your trusty Nikon binoculars or camera, it makes little difference. We all need those renewing moments at regular intervals to keep our internal batteries charged with what Aldo Leopold call the *Conservation Aesthetic*. The challenges ahead of us in these uncertain times will require all of us to be our best professional-selves. Remembering our ties to the land will help us do better at the job entrusted to us on behalf of the public, and future generations.

Change has also been evident here within our Chapter. This year brought new employment and opportunities to one of our Board of Director members, Teresa Zimmerman, and took her to a new job outside of our state borders. Bill Smith has kindly volunteered to fill the remainder of Teresa's term on the Board; and he has our sincere appreciation. Additionally, Greg Pavelka recently stepped down as the editor of the SDTWS Newsletter after many years of dedicated and

often thankless service. We certainly appreciate his great effort to produce a quality newsletter for our membership; thank you Greg! We are extremely fortunate that Charlene “Charlie” Besken has agreed to step and take over the editorship duties for the newsletter. Charlie has been the “webmistress” in charge of the SDTWS webpage ([www.sdwildlife.org](http://www.sdwildlife.org)) for several years. She has been a wonderful asset to SDTWS, and we are very grateful that she has consented to become the newsletter editor. Thank you Charlie! Finally, I want to thank the SDTWS membership with the opportunity that I’ve had to be involved in a leadership role for the last 4 years. It has been a wonderful and rewarding experience for me, and has made me a better teacher, researcher, and TWS member. Thank you.

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## Fund Raising Reminder

SDTWS wants to showcase YOUR hand-made items at the Annual Auction. Whatever your special or hidden talent, the Fund-raising Committee is holding a special segment of the annual auction this year to highlight it! Please consider donating a hand-made item for the auction this year. Along with your item, I would appreciate if you would also include your name, employer, and title. Although not mandatory, I would love if you would also include a photo of yourself at work or practicing your hobby! The items will be displayed in a collection prior to the auction so that everyone can see how multi-talented and skilled our members are! Here are a few more ideas just to get your creative juices flowing:

- ◆ Hand-woven baskets
- ◆ Handmade jewelry
- ◆ Hand-tied fly-fishing flies
- ◆ Framed photography or paintings
- ◆ Wooden shelves or furniture
- ◆ Hand-tooled leather
- ◆ Carved fish or duck decoys
- ◆ Homemade greeting cards

Alternatively , consider getting together with your office or other colleagues and doing a themed basket, like homemade canned goods or baked items. Feel free to e-mail me digital photos in advance of the annual meeting if you plan to bring an item: [bridgette\\_flanders@hotmail.com](mailto:bridgette_flanders@hotmail.com).

Of course, we’ll take other donated item(s) that you bring to the meeting as well! At the same time, if you know of an individual or business that would be willing to donate an item, we would appreciate your assistance in obtaining those donations.

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**Minutes of the November 21, 2008 Executive Board Meeting of the  
South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SDTWS)**

KC Jensen called the meeting to order at 9:01am, Pierre, SD. Board members present were Chad Switzer, Dennie Mann, Kurt Forman, and Art Smith.

Smith presented the minutes of the June 2008 minutes. Group consensus to approve.

Smith presented the Treasurer's report. Mann motioned to accept the report, Switzer seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

**Old Business**

1. Student Chapter

3 undergrads from SDSU Student Chapter went to Miami. Jensen thought it was a good meeting for them.

2. SD Outdoor Expo

Thank you received from Candy Hettinger from the Expo. Said they're doing another next year, but no funding request yet, but we should expect to receive one at some point.

3. CREP proposal

Update info letter from Jeff Vonk & Tony Leif.

4. Leopold letter

Forman reminded everyone that we received an update from Ann Lewis who received funding support to attend the Leopold workshop. Sounds like she's doing well and is staying active.

5. Replacing Teresa Zimmerman

Two individuals have expressed interest in filling the empty spot. A few other folks were discussed as additional people to consider. General consensus would be to fill the spot before our annual meeting. Forman motioned to ask top candidate with longest tenure with Chapter to fill Zimmerman's spot and if refused to offer spot to other person, Switzer seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

**New Business**

1. 2009 Awards

Notice came from Nora Kohlenberg about this year's awards through email. Short discussion on timing of deadline dates was done.

2. New Newsletter Editor

A couple of folks have been contacted by Board members. Lead candidate has been contacted by at least 3 of the Board members. Idea was to look at membership list to identify potential candidates. Another idea was to send email to membership and offer a reward to a taker. Free Chapter & parent membership, annual meeting registration fee waived, and meeting room at annual conference paid for would be offered. Same should be offered to existing web master. Forman made motion to offer the above, Mann seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

### 3. Moving Web Page to Parent TWS Page

Discussion to move Chapter site to parent page. Board decided to allow Charlie Bessken the option to move site to parent page if/when she wants.

### 4. Elections

Group covered which positions needed filling. Mann will send email to membership looking for candidates.

### 5. WAFWA Sponsorship Request

Event will be held in CA next year. Sponsored \$250 last year when it was in Rapid City. No desire by Board to sponsor the CA event.

### **Annual Meeting**

Forman covered what he'd done to date. Jensen will send format for program to Mann. Gary White, CMPS Representative to Council, will be attending Chapter meeting. No theme to conference yet, last year was education with a slight emphasis on energy thought. Energy would be a good conference topic; the recession and its effects on agencies, universities, and NGO's was also brought up – "Environmental Economics" was the straw dog name for it.

### **Additional Items**

Forman talked about South Dakota Conservation Alliance update. May be asking Chapter for a funding request in 2009. Group's start up maybe 4 years ago received \$1,000 from Chapter.

Next board meeting was set for January 8th, at Cedar Shore, 10am Central start.

Mann moved to adjourn the meeting, Forman seconded at 10:10am. Motion approved (4-0), meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Smith  
Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS

## **Committee Reports**

If a committee isn't listed here, it means no information was available for this issue of the newsletter.

### **Northern Great Plains Working Group 2008 Report**

The Northern Great Plains Working Group (NGPWG) is active in providing guidance and recommendations for the "Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008", otherwise known as the Farm Bill. NGPWG participated in a Senate Budget Committee Field Hearing related to the Farm Bill. In addition, NGPWG signed off on numerous letters sent to political leaders and discussions during the development of the new Farm Bill, in particular for a Sodsaver provision to help reduce the issue of native grassland conversion, provided comments on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and to maintain existing protection of wetlands through Swampbuster. Members of the working group continue to collaborate on ways to mitigate the current and future of loss of CRP by developing new conservation practices and on ways to market conservation programs to landowners.

Submitted by Chad Switzer

### **Conservation Review Committee Report**

Over the past year the Conservation Review Committee was not specifically tasked by the Executive Board to review any legislative proposals, administrative regulations, Environmental Impact Statements, Environmental Assessments or other subjects relevant to the Committee's duties as outlined in the Chapter Bylaws. Further, Chapter members brought no specific issues to the attention of the Committee.

Submitted by Paul Coughlin

### **Education and Information Committee Report**

"Nothing to report"

Submitted by Laura Hubers

### **Fund Raising Committee Report**

As chair of the Fund Raising Committee, I would like to say Thank You for support in our annual fund-raiser. Dollars generated from this event assist the Chapter in sponsoring several events throughout the year, such as student scholarships, Bald Eagle Awareness Days, education programs, supporting national programs, and to help keep meeting costs and associated fees to a minimum. We have had tremendous support and great items donated the past few years, and we hope to continue that trend. If you have an item(s) that you would be willing to donate, please bring them to the meeting. At the same time, if you know of an individual or business that would be willing to donate an item, we would appreciate your assistance in obtaining those donations. Thanks again!

Submitted by Bridgette Flanders-Wanner

### **Grassland Issues Committee Report**

Three items will be addressed regarding SD's private grassland in the Grassland Issues Committee Report: the status of the CRP, native grassland conversion, and current protection measures.

Status of the CRP. A net loss of approximately 123,000 acres of CRP occurred in 2008. More than 130,000 contract acres expired on September 30<sup>th</sup>, however, new acres enrolled under continuous CRP contracts helped buffer the net loss of CRP acres. In 2009, approximately 236,000 acres of CRP will expire on September 30<sup>th</sup>. No general sign-ups are scheduled for the foreseeable future. General sign-ups are usually when whole fields or other large acreages are enrolled and have a deadline for landowner application. However, continuous sign-ups are currently ongoing. Continuous CRP sign-ups offer landowners the opportunity to enroll specialized practices anytime, but do not usually afford the opportunity to replace large acreages.

Native Grassland Conversion. Significant loss of native grassland continued the past year. As of this report, we do not have an estimate for acres of native grassland converted to cropland during 2008, but field observations indicate that it was likely similar to acres converted in 2007. The 2008 Farm Bill included a Sodsaver provision designed to eliminate eligibility of crop insurance and disaster payment on newly converted native grassland. Unfortunately, the Farm Bill Conference Committee watered down the Sodsaver provision by limiting implementation to the Prairie Pothole Region and at the election of the governors of those states. At this point, it is unclear whether any of the governors of those states will elect to participate in Sodsaver.

Current Protection Measures. Several NGOs and federal agencies have ongoing programs to perpetually protect private grassland habitat via conservation easements, including Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, The Northern Prairies Land Trust, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2008, about 31,000 acres of grassland and associated wetlands/streams were perpetually protected by the aforementioned parties.

Despite challenges facing private grassland landscapes, groups and agencies continually working to protect and restore this vital habitat. The Grasslands Issues Committee will continue to monitor happenings across SD and advise the SD Chapter of TWS when action is needed.

Submitted by Boyd Schulz, Bill Smith, and Jim Madsen

### **Missouri River Issues Committee Report**

Overall, the Missouri River Issues Committee has not had a lot of activity since the 2008 SDTWS Annual Meeting. At the meeting a "Missouri River and the 1944 Flood Control Act" white paper and resolution was presented and approved by the SDTWS membership.

The Missouri River Issue Committee continues to monitor the activity of the major groups involved with Missouri River Issues including: Missouri River Association of States and Tribes

(MoRAST), Missouri River Natural Resources Committee (MRNRC), Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC), Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Committee, and the Corps of Engineers.

\* Important Date/Meeting: 2009 MRNRC Conference and BiOP Forum, March 25-27, 2009 in Billings, Montana. For more information: <http://www.mrnrc2009.com/>

In South Dakota, the Title VI - Missouri River Land Transfer has generally been completed. Former Corps of Engineers lands located along Lake Francis Case transfer to State of South Dakota - Game, Fish & Parks, Wildlife Division ownership in early 2008. SD Game, Fish and Parks now classify these lands as Game Production Areas and have begun the task of signing them accordingly. Much of this property will remain under grazing lease with neighboring landowners.

Submitted by Clifton Stone

### **Newsletter/Website Committee**

This is just a note from me to say that hopefully there are no typo's or errors in the Newsletter or the Website. If you have suggestions for making either of these better, I'm willing to listen. No fancy newsletter layout this time - maybe next time.

Charlene "Charlie" Bessken

### **Public Lands Committee Report**

The Public Lands Committee has sent in comments on the following management proposals, brief summary follows.

Ft Pierre National Grasslands The Wildlife Society supports Alternative 3. This proposal includes 82 miles of forest system roads for motorized use. In addition 146 miles of user created routes will be closed to motorized vehicles. This additional access from Alternative 2 will provide access to pond and small dam fishing which is very important to the public in this area of South Dakota. With the utilization of appropriate signing for designated motorized routes the Ft Pierre National Grasslands will be able to manage motorized vehicle access and improve recreational opportunities for the people of South Dakota and other visitors.

BNG West Geographic Area Allotment Management Draft EIS concerning Buffalo Gap National Grasslands Fall River District

We ask that allotment management plans take into account grassland structure and sagebrush habitat associate with sage grouse, including management practices to provide residual herbaceous cover for nesting birds and brood cover to aid in retaining this rare species on the Fall River District. Swift fox and prairie dogs require a different management condition and through the use of clearly defined adaptive management techniques and close monitoring grassland structure can be modified to appropriate structure levels to meet the ecological needs of these species. We cannot over emphasize that monitoring will be a critical part of the

adaptive management process in order to change or modify management strategies to meet desired resource conditions that are consistent with forest plans directives.

Badlands National Park South Unit We are in the process for commenting on the Badlands National Park South Unit change in management from NPS to Tirbal, but have not seen the proposal as yet.

Submitted by Dennie Mann

### **Resolutions and Public Statements Committee**

Per phone conversation with Dan Hubbard, this committee had no activity and no resolutions are pending.

### **Wetlands Committee Report**

Senator Coleman (R. Minn.) Reintroduced the Wetlands Loan Act Bill S 1641 on June 18, 2007. A companion bill was introduced in the House as HR. 2725 by Rep. Thompson (D. Cal.). These bills would have accelerated conservation of wetlands in the near term by borrowing \$400 million dollars against future Duck Stamp sales. These additional revenues would have been used primarily for conservation easements and to acquire property from willing private landowners. Money would also have been used for restoration of wetlands and grasslands valuable to migratory waterfowl. The cost of the loan would be offset by the incremental increase in the price of the Federal Duck stamp. These bills appear to have died in committee.

Representative Oberstar (D. Minn.) introduced HR. 2421 to amend the Clean Water Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the US over the waters of the US. This bill was heard in committee but no further action has been taken at this time.

Swampbuster was reauthorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. The Swampbuster provisions are the same as those implemented in previous Farm Bills.

Submitted by Peter Bergmann and Kurt Forman

### **Wildlife Diversity Committee Report**

Black-tailed Prairie Dog 90-Day Finding. On December 2, 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a positive 90-Day Finding on a petition to list the black-tailed prairie dog as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. A positive finding indicates that listing may be warranted. The next step in the process is a species status review to determine whether listing will occur. The Service requested scientific and commercial information by February 2, 2009 to assist the agency in making this determination, which is expected later this year.

Status of Black-footed Ferret Populations in South Dakota. South Dakota continues to host six reintroduced populations of black-footed ferrets. In May of 2008, an epizootic plague outbreak

was detected in the Conata Basin. A dusting effort began on eight high-priority black-tailed prairie dog colonies in June. By September, 11,239 acres were dusted on Buffalo Gap National Grassland and Badlands National park. Plague vaccine was administered to 239 black-footed ferrets. Continuing efforts to monitor acreage and distribution of the disease indicated 10,823 acres were affected.

Gray Wolf Delisting Status. The gray wolf has met recovery goals in several portions of its range. In 2008, the Northern Rocky Mountain population was delisted, and management authority transferred to individual states with approved wolf management plans. This covered all of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming and portions of Washington, Oregon, and Utah. The Western Great Lakes Population was delisted in 2007. This population ranges in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan and in parts of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Court decisions in 2008 overturned delisting of these two populations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced decisions to again delist the Western Great Lakes Population and the Northern Rocky Mountain population, with the exception of the state of Wyoming. Stay tuned.

Great Lakes of South Dakota Birding Trail. The Chapter helped sponsor the third regional birding rail brochure, which corresponds to the area served by the Great Lakes of South Dakota Tourism Association. This area covers central South Dakota along the Missouri River. The brochure can be downloaded at this site: <http://www.travelsd.com/thingstodo/birding.asp>

SDGFP will send a hard copy upon request from this site:

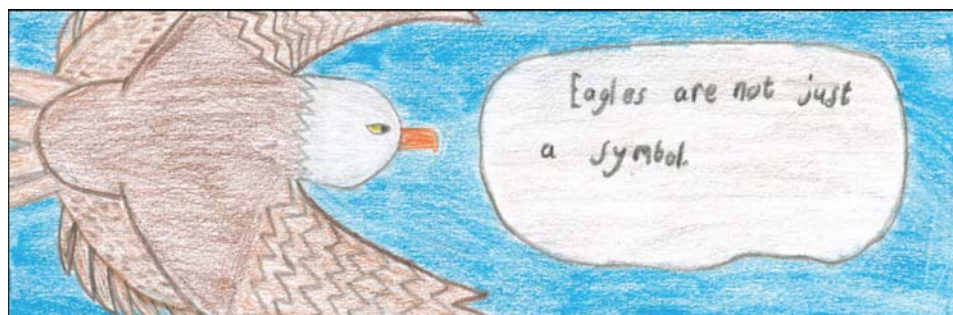
<http://www.sdgfp.info/Wildlife/Diversity/BirdingTrailRequest.htm>

Teaming with Wildlife and New Funding for Fish and Wildlife. South Dakota continues to actively participate in the Teaming with Wildlife legislative initiative to identify a stable, long-term funding source to address the needs of all fish and wildlife species. Senator Tim Johnson plans to reintroduce the Teaming with Wildlife Act early this session. This bill will dedicate \$350 million a year for 5 years to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program for wildlife conservation, environmental education, and wildlife-associated recreation. South Dakota can be proud of Senator Johnson's leadership on this issue. The next step will be to identify cosponsors of the bill.



**Bald Eagle Awareness Days.** The Chapter will help sponsor the 2009 Bald Eagle Awareness Week with a \$200 contribution. The event lasts from February 26-28 and will feature live birds of prey brought by educators from Wildlife Experiences in Rapid City. The program will again include school programs, evening programs at the SDGFP Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls and the Pierre Mall and programs at the Ramkota Inn in Pierre. The Chapter's involvement helps bring this free, high-quality educational opportunity to many appreciative people. A bookmark design contest for 5<sup>th</sup> graders is in progress. Last year's winners are featured to the left and below. For more information on this event, visit: <http://www.sdgfp.info/Wilflife/diversity/BEAD/index.htm>

← **Best Conservation Message**, submitted by Matthew Skadsen from Robert Bennis Elementary (Brandon)



**Most Creative**, → submitted by Mariah Zell from Robert Bennis Elementary (Brandon)



**Best Artwork**, → submitted by Emily Dreezen of Madison Elementary (Madison)

Submitted by Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema

## **Wind Power Committee Report**

Iberdrola Renewables Develops Avian and Bat Protection Plan. This plan establishes company policy for Iberdrola's wind fleet regarding wildlife protection, the consultation process, and pre- and post-construction monitoring protocols. Site design, impact assessment, permit compliance, nest management, training, mortality reduction measures and mitigation also are addressed in the plan. The plan was modeled after the Avian Protection Plan template developed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLCI) to address impacts of utility lines on birds.

Iberdrola Renewables is the energy production company formerly known as PPM Energy.

Iberdrola Renewables is currently developing Buffalo Ridge II in Brookings and Deuel counties.

The plan was announced in October of 2008 and is available on the web at:

[http://www.iberdrolarenewables.us/pdf/Signed\\_ABPP\\_10-28-08.pdf](http://www.iberdrolarenewables.us/pdf/Signed_ABPP_10-28-08.pdf)

American Wind Wildlife Institute (AWWI). The Siting Committee of the American Wind Energy Association developed the concept of an organization that addresses landscape level wildlife impacts related to wind energy development. This organization is the American Wind Wildlife Institute. AWWI is a partnership among NGO's, government agencies, and industry that supports timely and well informed wind energy development. Specific objectives include identification and pursuit of key research questions, identification of low wildlife impact areas suitable for wind development (mapping), development of mitigation banking solutions, and education.

Wessington Springs-Area Wind Farm Operational. Thirty-four, 1.5 MW turbines will soon (mid-January) be spinning in Jerauld county. Babcock and Brown Renewable Holdings, Inc. is the developer of this wind power project located approximately two miles south of Wessington Springs.

Dakota Siting Guidelines Continue to be Developed. During the last year, the Northern Plains Wind Energy Forum was working towards developing voluntary guidelines for appropriate siting of wind power projects in North and South Dakota. The Forum continues to work regularly toward a final product. The last meeting of the Forum will be held in April of 2009. Guidelines should be finalized at this time.

Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee. The committee's charge is to advise the Secretary of the interior and the Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service on measures to avoid and minimize impacts to wildlife and their associated habitats from land-based wind energy facilities. These recommendations are intended to help update to the "Interim Voluntary Wind Turbine Guidelines" developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2003. The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 27-29. A recommendation is expected in March. More information on the committee and their activities can be found at [http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/windpower/wind\\_turbine\\_advisory\\_committee.html](http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/windpower/wind_turbine_advisory_committee.html)

Submitted by Silka Kempema

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**2009 SDTWS Annual Meeting**  
**February 23-25, 2009 Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, SD**  
(Room Reservations - 888-697-6363)

A block of rooms have been reserved. These rooms will be held until mid-February, so please make your reservations as soon as possible.

**Monday, February 23**

11:00 am - 1:00 pm - Registration and Free lunch (lunch sponsored by  
1:00 pm - 1:10 pm - Welcome and Introductions  
1:10 pm - 3:00 pm - Special Session: Recessionary Economics and the Impacts on Wildlife Programs

Confirmed Speakers:

Joe Breidenback-DU  
Tom Slowery-RMEF  
Tom Kirschenmann-GFP  
Dave Thom-Black Hills National Forest  
Susan Rupp-SDSU  
Judge Jessop-SD Grassland Coalition  
Jarrod Johnson-Commissioner of School and Public Lands

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm Contributed professional and student papers.  
6:00 pm Social and Fund Raiser Auction

**Tuesday, February 24**

8:30 am - 12:00 pm - SDTWS Business Meeting  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Lunch  
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm - Contributed professional and student papers  
6:00 pm - Social  
7:00 pm - Awards Banquet  
Guest Speaker: to be determined

**Wednesday, February 25**

8:30 am - 12:00 pm Contributed professional and student papers

Any updates or changes will be added to the Chapter website at [www.sdwildlife.org](http://www.sdwildlife.org).

Don't forget your items for the **Fund Raiser** (see page 2).

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## South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2009 Executive Board Elections

Information on candidates for President Elect and Executive Board Member is presented below. If you are not able to attend the 2009 SDTWS annual meeting at the Cedar Shores Resort, an absentee ballot is included in this edition of *A Prairie Voice*.

### **Candidate for President Elect - Chad Switzer**

Personal Data: A native of northeastern Nebraska where I was raised on a small farm along the Elkhorn River on the eastern edge of the Sandhills. In 2002, my wife, Rachel, and I moved to South Dakota to be closer to extended family and reside in the Dakotas. Rachel is a Child Support Specialist with the SD Department of Social Services. We have two girls (Hailey and Megan) and one boy (Josh). One female black lab named Sammy.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1996.

Present Position: Senior Upland Game Biologist, SDGFP (2008- present).

Previous Positions: Habitat Biologist, SDGFP (2002-2008); Wildlife Biologist II, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (1999-2002); temporary wildlife positions (1996-1999).

Memberships & Affiliations: SD Chapter of The Wildlife Society since 2002, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Beadle County Sportsmen Club, Prairie Grouse Technical Council, Midwest Pheasant Study Group, Sage Grouse Local Working Group, Northern Great Plains Working Group, and the SD State Technical Committee.

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

SDTWS Views: Provide guidance to ensure SDTWS achieves its goals and objectives. SDTWS is a crucial association that must be involved and at the front of all resource issues of South Dakota and the nation; provide communication links between professionals; and maybe most importantly, educate the general public on the mission of SDTWS and issues it addresses. Serving as the chairperson for the membership Standing Committee, my goal is to continue recruitment and find innovative ways to ensure the enrollment of wildlife professionals into the state chapter. Serving as the Northern Great Plains Working Group Representative, my goal is to provide the best professional input regarding Farm Bill Issues and opportunities pertaining to the conservation of wildlife on private lands. As President, I would look forward to working with the board and representing the Chapter on future wildlife-related issues and opportunities in

South Dakota.

### **Candidates for Executive Board Member - John Wrede**

Personal Data: I am a native South Dakotan, the eldest of three brothers, born in Rapid City and raised through my grade school years in the lake country of Hamlin County in eastern South Dakota.

Education: I graduated from Rapid City Central High in 1965. I attended SDSU and graduated with a BS in Ag-Bio in 1971.

Present Position: In March of 2007, I began working as a Biological Science Technician within the newly formed Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network, National Park Service. I continue to work on the development of monitoring plans and protocols for black-tailed prairie dogs, park water quality, land birds, and view sheds for the 13 National Parks in the Northern Great Plains Network. I am hopeful that some of the work with prairie dogs will lead me down the road toward achievement of my Masters Degree in Wildlife Mangement in the next two years.

Previous Positions: I entered the Military Service after graduation from SDSU and exited the military 25 months later with the Army Commendation Medal and Viet Nam Era Service Medal. I returned to Rapid City and purchased and operated a small sporting goods business for two years. An opportunity arose to work in my chosen profession, with the SDGFP, as a Wildlife Conservation Officer in Watertown, SD. Since then I have gradually moved westward, working and learning wildlife management from the ground up in duty stations in Murdo, Wall and finally Rapid City. I completed 25 years of service as a Conservation Officer in May of 2001, turned in my wildlife law enforcement credentials and assumed the duties of Regional Wildlife Manager for the SDGFP, Region 1 in Rapid City. I enjoyed that position until my retirement from the Department in January 2007 after 31 years of service.

#### Memberships & Affiliations:

Organizational Memberships include:

- SD Chapter The Wildlife Society
- Life Member- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Life Member- SD Conservation Officers Assn
- Life Member- North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Assn
- SD Wildlife Federation
- Sierra Club
- Norbeck Society
- Back Country Hunters and Anglers
- SD Bowhunters Inc. (Bow Hunter Education Instructor)
- First Baptist Church Rapid City

In 1983, I received a Special Achievement Awards from the SD Chapter of The Wildlife Society for research and presentation of a white paper dealing with Privatization of Wildlife and Public Lands Access in South Dakota. Subsequent to that effort, I chaired the Ownership of Wildlife

and Fee Hunting Committee of the SD Chapter of TWS for approximately 5 years. I have maintained membership in TWS on an annual basis since 1978; and have maintained elected, executive offices in the South Dakota Conservation Officers Association, North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association, local Chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, City of Rapid City Mayor's Beautification Committee and my church's personnel and finance committees. I thoroughly enjoyed a two year term as Chairman of the Western Agencies Sage and Columbian Sharp-tail Grouse Technical Committee as well as the Department of Game, Fish and Parks delegate to the State RMEF Project Advisory Committee. I am a published author and have written both technical and non technical pieces for publication.

**Interests & Hobbies:**

My avocational interests include hunting, fishing, writing, gardening, woodworking and stock making, jogging, dog training and back country hiking.

**Candidates for Executive Board Member - John Kanta**

**Personal Data:** I have lived in South Dakota most of my life. I'm married and have two sons.

**Education:** I attended high school at Rapid City Stevens. I received a BS (Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences) degree from SDSU in 1999.

**Present Position:** I am currently the Regional Wildlife Manager in Region 1 for the SDGFP.

**Previous Positions:** I started working seasonal positions for SDGFP in the late 90's working as a fisheries technician at Cleghorn Fish Hatchery. I worked a few more years conducting lake surveys as a fisheries technician and then moved to a position assisting with big game research as a game technician. I was fortunate enough after I graduated college, to get a full time position with SDGFP as a resource biologist where I worked with big game in and around the Black Hills.

**Memberships & Affiliations:** I'm a member of The Wildlife Society, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Safari Club International, and Wild Goat & Sheep Council.

**Interests and Hobbies:** Favorite things to do include hunting, fishing and spending time with my boys who are 3-years old and 10-years old.

**Candidates for Secretary/Treasurer - Nora Kohlenberg**

**Personal Data:** I have lived in South Dakota for all but three years of my life. I have been married to my husband, Scott, for eight years, and we have one child, Amber, and one Labrador Retriever, Chester. I have always had an interest in the outdoors and wildlife. My family, both during my childhood and now, has always been active in the outdoors, enjoying fishing, camping, and hunting.

**Education:** I received by BS from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Present Position: I have been working with Federal Assistance for the Department of Game, Fish & Parks since 2005. As the Federal Aid Coordinator, I work with Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration funds, Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration funds, and State Wildlife Grants, which are administrated by the USFWS.

Previous Positions: I was an intern for GFP in 2003 and 2004 working with the Walk-in Area program and a Wildlife Technician (2004-2005). My various technician jobs included handling whale blubber, reindeer, game and non-game birds, and various GPS and GIS projects.

Memberships & Affiliations: My current memberships include the SDTWS and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. I have always tried to be involved in The Wildlife Society. Currently, I am the SDTWS Awards Committee Chair (2005-present). My past participation in TWS includes being a member of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society from 2001 to 2004. I was also the Student Chapter Treasurer during both the 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 academic years.

### **Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer - Cory Huxoll**

Personal Data: I was raised in southwest Nebraska and moved to South Dakota in 2001. I've been married to my wife, Nancy, for nine years. I enjoy hunting, fishing, birding and exploring the outdoors.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology, University of Nebraska at Kearney, 1992; National Student Exchange Program, Utah Sate University, 1991-1992; Master of Science in Natural Resource Sciences, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, 2001.

Present Position: Presently employed as a Wildlife Biologist with the Department of Game, Fish & Parks. I coordinate the Harvest Surveys Program, the Mourning Dove Call Count Survey, the Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Survey, and the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. I also perform field surveys including the Sharp-tailed Grouse and Prairie Chicken Spring Lek Survey, Pheasant Brood Survey, Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Survey, Mourning Dove Banding, and the Mourning Dove Call Count Survey.

Previous Positions: Wildlife Technician, SDGFP; Graduate Research Assistant, University of Nebraska; Biological Science Research Technician, USDA Agricultural Research Service; Biological Science Technician, USDA Forest Service; Conservation Technician, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission; Biological Science Technician, USDA Soil Conservation Service.

Memberships & Affiliations: I was a member of TWS while an undergraduate and was elected Treasurer and President of the University Chapter. I was a member of the American Fisheries Society for several years until my career shifted back to wildlife and I became a member of the South Dakota Chapter of TWS in 2004. I am also currently a member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section and the national TWS. I have been active in the South Dakota Chapter as History Committee Chair since 2004.

South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society – Absentee Ballot

For President Elect:

(Vote for One)

Chad Switzer

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write in)

For Executive Board Member:

(Vote for One)

John Wrede

John Kanta

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write in)

For Secretary/Treasurer:

(Vote for One)

Cory Huxoll

Nora Kohlenberg

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write in)

If you are unable to attend the south Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2009 Meeting, please complete this absentee ballot and return it by February 13, 2009 to Dennie Mann.

## **South Dakota Chapter TWS - Executive Board**

### **President**

K.C. Jensen  
Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Sciences NPB 138D  
PO Box 2140B  
South Dakota State University  
Brookings, SD 57007  
(605) 688-4781

### **Past-President**

Kurt Forman  
419 Hunters Ridge  
Brookings, SD 57006  
(605) 692-8359

### **President-Elect**

Dennie Mann  
SD Game, Fish & Parks  
3305 West South Street  
Rapid City, SD 57446  
(605) 394-2391

### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Arthur Smith  
SD Game, Fish & Parks  
523 East Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501  
(605) 773-7595

### **Board Member**

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

### **Board Member**

Chad Switzer  
SD Game, Fish & Parks  
20789 403<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Huron, SD 57350  
(605) 352-1911

## **South Dakota Chapter TWS - Standing Committees**

**Audit** - Kurt Forman, 692-8359

**Awards** - Nora Kohlenberg, 773-6228

**Conservation Review** - Paul Coughlin, 773-4194

**Education & Information** - Laura Hubers, 947-4521

**Membership** - Chad Switzer, 353-8477

**Program** - Dennis Mann, 394-2391

**Nominations and Elections** - Dennis Mann, 394-2391

**Resolutions & Public Statements** - Dan Hubbard, 688-4780

## **South Dakota Chapter TWS - Special Committees**

**Arrangements** - Kurt Forman, 692-8359 and Tom Kirschenmann, 352-1874

**Book Service** - Bob Klaver, 594-6067

**Certification** - Susan Rupp, 688-4779

**Chapter History** - Corey Huxoll, 773-4195

**Energy Subcommittee - Ad Hoc Biofuels** - Susan Rupp, 688-4779

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

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

**Fund Raising** - Bridgette Flanders-Wanner, 352-5894 ext. 14

**Grassland issues** - Boyd Schulz, 697-6041, Bill Smith, 773-3096 & Jim Madsen, 882-5250

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

**Newsletter/Website** - Charlene "Charlie" Bessken, 222-9445

**Public Lands** - Eddie Childers, 433-5263, Dennis Mann, 394-2391, & Tom LeFaive 223-2316

**Tribal Fish & Wildlife** - Diane Mann-Klaver, 226-7621

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

**Wildlife Diseases** - Teresa Zimmerman, 433-5378 & Steve Griffin, 394-2391

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

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 address has changed, send the information to: Charlene Bessken at ladyhawk155@hotmail.com or call 605-222-9445. Thanks.

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

Home E-mail Address (for list serve) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:**

The SDTWS List Serve is a one-way, non conversational list serve used on an infrequent basis solely to inform members about important conservation issues and legislation. Due to the sensitive nature of some list serve content, we strongly advise that you provide us with a home e-mail address.

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                       2009 Dues Renewal

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Art Smith**  
**SD Game, Fish & Parks**  
**523 East Capitol**  
**Pierre, SD 57501**

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 Chad Switzer (605) 353-8477.

