

## **President's Message**

Over the past months the board and committee members have been busy planning for the upcoming annual meeting being held February 28th – March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cedar Shores Resort in Oacoma. A block of rooms has been reserved until January 28th for our members and you can make a reservation by calling 1-888-697-6363. Please make your reservation early and I encourage you to share this information with other wildlife professionals who are currently not members of the chapter or have simply not attended in recent years.

This year's theme of "Managing Wildlife in a Changing Landscape" will include presentations on the various challenges wildlife managers will face in the future. At this time, we are still seeking those interested in presenting a topic related to the theme or those that have research results with management implications related to South Dakota wildlife and their habitats. Please contact Rocco Murano at 605-688-4786 or [Rocco.Murano@state.sd.us](mailto:Rocco.Murano@state.sd.us) for additional information on presentations.

For those who are involved with the different committees, the board would like to meet with you on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 am prior to the start of the business meeting. While each committee provides an update at the business meeting, the goal of this meeting will be to discuss the role, activities, and future direction of each respective committee. The board has no specific direction for the committees, but simply wants to use this as an opportunity to discuss ideas and thoughts related to the function and responsibilities of our current committees.

To learn more from our members on how to enhance our annual meeting and the services our chapter provides to wildlife conservation, a survey will be made available throughout the annual meeting to solicit your input. This information will be reviewed at future board meetings by the executive board, shared with our committee chairs, and appropriate action will be implemented based upon your suggestions to improve our state chapter.

A slide show will be presented at the annual meeting, so please send your work-related or outdoor adventure photos to Silka Kempema at [Silka.Kempema@state.sd.us](mailto:Silka.Kempema@state.sd.us). In addition, please remember to bring an item or two for our fund raising auction.

Since our last newsletter, the board has provided comments on the upcoming 2012 Federal Farm Bill to the Government Affairs Office of The Wildlife Society. We would like to thank many of you for providing your comments and suggestions. As many of you have personally witnessed, wetlands in eastern South Dakota are under immense pressure from advancement in tile technology and the promotion of wetland drainage to increase production agriculture. In addition, representatives from SD TWS attended a tile clinic to provide input on wetland drainage and other options for producers with their land management decisions. Written comments were also provided to the Brown County Commissioners as they discuss and implement changes to their local drainage ordinances. The executive board also provided oral testimony at a public meeting and sent a letter of support for the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area Project. If additional funds are secured, this project will help accelerate the protection of native grasslands with grasslands easements under the existing program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For wildlife professionals early in their career, The Wildlife Society is currently taking applications for the 2011 TWS Leadership Institute. The goal of the Institute is to facilitate the development of new leaders within The Wildlife Society and the wildlife profession as a whole. The application and additional information can be found at [http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/LI\\_call2011.pdf](http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/LI_call2011.pdf).

Looking ahead, the 18th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society will be held in Waikoloa, Hawaii on November 5 -10, 2011. The theme this year is “Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education”. The Central Mountains and Plains Section will hold their annual meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in Gering, Nebraska. For further information, please visit <http://joomla.wildlife.org/CMP/>.

Serving as your chapter president over the past year has been a rewarding and educational experience. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to represent our chapter. Your board and committee members are comprised of very dedicated professionals, who have volunteered their time and expertise to help address wildlife issues and carry out the mission of our state chapter. Thanks to Nora Kohlenberg and John Kanta, who will be stepping down from their respective board positions, for providing their service on the executive board. I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting!

Chad Switzer—President  
SD Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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## MEMBERSHIP

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

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



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

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

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

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### SDTWS can now be found on Facebook!

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

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

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

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

## **Minutes of the December 13, 2010 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society (SDTWS), Conference Call**

Chad Switzer called the meeting to order at 10:11 am CST at the Jakes Restaurant in Pierre. Board members in attendance were Dennie Mann, John Kanta, Silka Kempema, Chad Switzer, Rocco Murano and Nora Kohlenberg.

Kohlenberg presented the minutes of the September 14, 2010, meeting. The meeting minutes were amended. Mann made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Kempema seconded. Motion passed (6-0).

Kohlenberg presented the Quarterly Treasurer's report. Kanta made a motion to accept the report and Murano seconded. Motion passed (6-0).

### **Old Business**

#### Funding Request

*Leopold Conservation Award* – Board discussed the request once more after tabling the request during the September 14, 2010 Executive Board Meeting. The group requesting the funding support is looking for a large amount of funding each year. Board is concerned and questioning the need for \$40,000 administrative costs for the Leopold Conservation Award. There would not be any opportunity for SDTWS to provide input on the selection of award recipients. The SDTWS also has a very similar award, the Citizen's Award, which is awarded to individuals who have made a significant contribution to wildlife and conservation in the state. There was no new information about this request, so no further action was taken.

#### Committee Involvement

Board discussed ideas about how we can task the committees. The Board would like to have a Committee Meeting to talk with Committee Chairs and get their feedback. This meeting would be tied into the Annual Meeting.

#### Membership and Retention

Kempema has been working with Larry Gigliotti to put together a survey to determine why people may be leaving and not carrying on their membership. There would also be a survey for current and active members. Board discussed whether to have survey at meeting or sent through email. Kempema proposed to have a draft ready for January meeting to review.

#### SDTWS Logo Items

Switzer provided some cost estimates for T-shirts, water bottles, and mugs. The SDTWS graphic is too complex for embroidery. The idea of having SDTWS logo items will be brought to the membership for discussion at the 2011 Annual Business Meeting. Board wants to make sure there is interest for the items before proceeding further.

## **New Business**

### Requests for Funding

*2011 Outdoor Expo* – SDTWS has provided funding each year since the beginning of the Outdoor Expo. The activities at the Expo provide some great exposure to outdoor activities and learning for kids. Mann made a motion to provide \$500 for support of the 2011 Outdoor Expo, second by Murano, motion passed (6-0).

*Bald Eagle Awareness Days* – This event has been another great way to expose children and families to wildlife. SDTWS has been a long time supporter of the Bald Eagle Awareness Days. Kanta made a motion to provide support of \$200 in 2011, seconded by Mann. Motion passed (5-0), Kempema abstained from voting as she is on the committee for the Bald Eagle Awareness Days.

### Challenge Committees

Board discussed challenging committees for reports for both annual meeting and to contribute reports to newsletter. Board also discussed challenging committees to be more involved in parts of the annual meeting and/or perhaps putting together workshops to incorporate into the annual meeting. Have more of a round table discussion as part of the meeting. Mann volunteered the Public Lands Committee to lead the way for other committees to follow.

### 2011 Annual Meeting Planning

Sponsorship has been received by Millborn seeds. Board Members will make contact with Truax, SCI, CPS, and telemetry companies.

Theme: Managing Wildlife in a Changing Environment.

Board discussed ideas of speakers and presenters to contact.

Kanta is working with Susan Rupp to put together another Student Mixer. Kanta is working to get a sponsor for the prizes.

Board again, discussed potential individuals to approach regarding the Executive Board positions that will be opening up. The positions include Secretary/Treasurer, President-Elect, and Executive Board Member.

### Brown County Drainage

The Brown County Commission/Drainage Board has been approached by landowners to request changes in tiling restrictions. Kurt Forman has drafted a letter to send the Drainage Board expressing concerns about wildlife habitat and other environmental concerns. Switzer will send the letter out for Board review.

### Farm Bill

SDTWS needs to submit comments. Switzer will work on comments and then send out letter for Board Members to review.

### Next Board Meeting

A date for the next board meeting was not determined. Switzer will send out some possible dates for a January meeting, which will be held at the Cedar Shore Resort to work on final plans for Annual Meeting.

### **Adjourn**

Kohlenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Kempema at 11:53 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Nora Kohlenberg  
Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS

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## **Room Reservations for the Annual Meeting**

A block of rooms have been reserved at Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, and will be held until Friday, **January 28**, so please make your reservations as soon as possible. For room reservations call (888) 697-6363 or (605) 734-6376. Note: You can still make a reservation after January 28. The block of rooms will not be held after that date.

A draft agenda is on the following pages, any updates or changes will be added to the Chapter website at [www.sdwildlife.org](http://www.sdwildlife.org)

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## **Annual Meeting Slideshow**

The 2011 Annual SDTWS meeting is fast approaching. One new feature that we would like to do this year is a slideshow that show cases members in the field, working with the public, handling wildlife, educational outreach, and past SDTWS meeting pictures. If you have some pictures to share, please send them to Silka Kempema at [silka.kempema@state.sd.us](mailto:silka.kempema@state.sd.us), by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Also, we would like to have your permission to use your pictures to update photos on the SDTWS display board, post on Facebook, or use in a SDTWS membership brochure.

If you have more ideas on things that we can do at the annual meeting, we would love to hear your ideas!

On behalf of the Executive Board, we look forward to seeing you at the 2011 Annual SDTWS Meeting in Oacoma!

Nora Kohlenberg, Secretary/Treasurer



**South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
2011 Annual Meeting Program (Draft)  
Cedar Shore Resort & Convention Center  
Oacoma, South Dakota  
Feb 28-March 2, 2011**



**Monday, February 28**

- 11:00 am -1:00 pm - Registration and Free Lunch (lunch sponsored by the Truax Company)  
1:00 pm -1:05 pm - Welcome and Introductions  
1:05 pm – 4:25 pm - Special Session: “*Managing Wildlife in a Changing Environment*”

**Session 1 – Managing wildlife in a changing environment (Chad Switzer, Moderator)**

- 1:00 – 1:05 Opening Remarks  
1:05 – 1:35 **Neil Neimuth (HAPET)-Habitat Modeling and Land Use Changes in the Prairie Pothole Region**  
1:35 – 2:05 **Genevieve Thompson (Audubon Dakota) “Wind Power Development in the Dakotas- Perspectives from the American Wind Wildlife Institute.”**  
2:05 – 2:35 **Dennis Todey (Extension State Climatologist) –“South Dakota Climate Trends and Implications.”**  
2:35 – 2:55 **Susan Rupp (South Dakota State University) – “Seasonal harvest of perennial grasses for biofuel production: social, economic, and environmental considerations.”**  
2:55 – 3:15 Break  
3:15 – 3:45 **Mark Norton (SD Game, Fish, and Parks) – “The Evolution of CRP in South Dakota.”**  
3:45 – 4:05 **Kurt Foreman (USFWS) – “Recent developments in the use of drainage tile in the Prairie Pothole Region of South Dakota”**  
4:05 – 4:25 **Rick Smith (Lake Poinsett Watershed Project/Rancher)—Bucking the trend, sustainable grassland management on the Prairie Coteau.**  
4:30 – 6:00 Student Mixer  
6:00 pm Social and Fund Raiser Auction

**Tuesday, March 1st**

- 8:30 am-12:00 pm - SDTWS Business Meeting  
12:00 pm-1:00 pm - Lunch

**Session 2 – Contributed papers (Silka Kempema, moderator)**

- 1:00 – 1:20 **Travis Runia (SD Game, Fish & Parks) – Prairie Grouse and Wind Energy: A Research Project Update**

- 1:20 – 1:40 **Chad Lehman (SD Game, Fish, and Parks)** –Hand-held net guns: a technique for capturing Black-backed Woodpeckers
- 1:40 – 2:00 **Sandy Smart (South Dakota State University)** – “Patch-grazing to create structural heterogeneity”.
- 2:00 – 2:20 **Pete Bauman (The Nature Conservancy)** –“Private lands prescribed fire and grazing –The seven year itch.”
- 2:20 – 2:40 **K.C. Jenson–(South Dakota State University)** “Upland game surveys and the Christmas Bird Count: Is there another valid source of information available for managers.”
- 2:40 – 3:00 *Break*
- 3:00 – 3:20 **Kevin Robling (Presenter), J. Jenks-** “Movement Patterns and Survival of White-tailed deer in the Heart of the Prairie Pothole Region of Eastern South Dakota”
- 3:20 – 3:40 **Lily Sweikert (Turner Foundation)-**“Restoring Black-footed Ferrets to Bad River Ranches.”
- 3:40 – 4:00 **Mark Rumble (USFS), K. C. Jensen, Katie Herman and Brent Haas-**“Is the absence of Greater Sage-grouse from portions of the Cedar Creek Anticline the result of oil and gas development or poor habitat”.
- 4:00 – 4:20 **Troy Grovenberg (Presenter), Christopher Jaques, Robert Klaver, J. Jenks--** Ecology of White-tailed Deer Fawns in the Northern Great Plains: Implications of loss of Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands
- 4:20 – 4:40 **Josh Smith (Presenter), J. Jenks-** "Kill rates of primary prey of mountain lions in the Black Hills, South Dakota.”

6:00 pm - Social

7:00 pm - Awards Banquet

**Guest Speaker: Carter Johnson –“Climate Change: Should Wildlife Worry?”**

## **Wednesday, March 2nd**

### **Session 3 - Contributed papers (– Ben Bigalke, Moderator)**

- 8:00 – 8:20 **Cassandra L. Melhls (Presenter), KC Jenson** –“Resource selection of ruffed grouse in the Black Hills National Forest of South Dakota and Wyoming”
- 8:20 – 8:40 **Jason Theil (Presenter), C. Dieter, C Bakker-**“Distribution and habitat selection of the western burrowing owl in western South Dakota.”
- 8:40 – 9:00 **John Bender (Presenter), S. Rupp—**“Developing sustainable harvest for cellulose based biofuels: The effect of biomass harvest on upland nesting game birds.”
- 9:20 – 9:40 **Robert Klaver (Presenter)**—Northern Goshawk Ecology in the Black Hills of South Dakota

9:40 – 10:00

10:00 – 10:20 **Break**

10:20 – 10:40

10:40 – 11:00

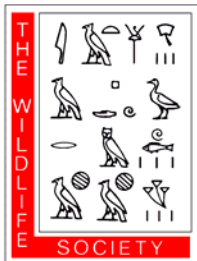
11:00 – 11:20

11:20 – 11:50

11:50 – Noon Announcements and meeting adjournment

### **MEETING SPONSORS:**

The Truax Company (Minneapolis, MN), Millborn Seeds Inc. (Brookings, SD), The Greater Dacotah Chapter of SCI (Rapid City, SD) and Cropland Production Services.



Founded in 1936 as The Society of Wildlife Specialists, The Wildlife Society (TWS) has evolved into an international nonprofit organization of professional wildlife ecologists and managers. Members number over 9,000 from 40 different countries and include administrators, biologists, conservation officers, educators, managers and researchers. The objectives of TWS are to:

1. Promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and the environments upon which wildlife and humans depend;
2. Undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation;
3. Increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values; and
4. To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

The South Dakota Chapter of TWS (SDTWS) was initiated on February 19, 1966 with 56 charter members. SDTWS is affiliated with the Central Mountains and Plains Section, one of 7 subdivisions of TWS.

### **Chapter Meetings and Activities**

The full membership of SDTWS meets annually in the spring to exchange scientific information through presented papers, debate current issues in wildlife management and land use, and conduct chapter business. The chapter's Executive Board of Directors, consisting of President, Past-President, President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and two standing board members meet at least 4 times each year to discuss issues that do not require full chapter approval. The chapter also communicates with its membership through a newsletter, *The Prairie Voice*, published within 30 days of Executive Board meetings. The newsletter includes board meeting minutes, committee activity reports, a summary of chapter correspondence, updates on professional conferences, and profiles of chapter members.



## **Committee Reports**

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

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

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

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

Submitted by Dan Hubbard

### **Certification Committee**

A web page has been created for Certification on the state chapter website. Please feel free to visit it at <http://www.sdwildlife.org/Certification.HTM>.

Submitted by Dr. Susan Rupp

### **Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee is now accepting 2011 membership dues. Dues can be submitted to Nora Kohlenberg via the mail using the Membership form on the last page of the Newsletter or membership can be paid when registering for the 2011 SDTWS Annual Meeting at the Cedar Shores Resort in Oacoma. A reminder about Membership renewal will be sent out in April via email, and will be sent to 2010 members who have not renewed their membership at that time.

Submitted by Nora Kohlenberg

### **Missouri River Issues Committee**

On Nov. 17, 2010, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Missouri Clean Water Campaign and Great Rivers Environment Law Center petitioned the Secretary of the Interior, through the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), requesting the FWS to designate critical habitat for the endangered pallid sturgeon. The pallid sturgeon has been listed as a federally endangered

species since September 6, 1990, but the FWS failed to designate critical habitat due to the insufficiency of scientific data on the species habitat. The damming and channelization of rivers in the pallid sturgeon's range have caused the disappearance of 90 percent of the species habitat. This petition is being submitted pursuant to language of the Endangered Species Act, which states, "Critical habitat may be established for those species now listed as threatened or endangered species for which no critical habitat has heretofore been established."

The Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study (MRAPS), a broad-based, Congressionally authorized study to review the project purposes established by the Flood Control Act of 1944, continues along. The public and tribal scoping meetings have concluded and the "Draft Scoping Meeting Summary Report" is due early this year. The MRAPS will analyze the eight authorized purposes in view of the current Basin values and priorities to determine if changes to the existing purposes and existing Federal water resource infrastructure may be warranted.

Submitted by Cliff Stone

## **Wildlife Diversity Committee Report**

### Bald Eagle Awareness Days

Our chapter will again support this event with a contribution of \$200. The 2011 event will be the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive Bald Eagle Awareness Days. The focus of the event is to use the public's avid appreciation for bald eagles as a gateway to share a conservation message about needs of all raptor species. The event typically features 3-4 live birds of prey; these are nonreleasable birds that are conditioned to the rigors of public presentations and associated travel.

This year's event will begin on Thursday, February 24, with an evening program for the public at the SDGFP Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls, beginning at 7 p.m. Registration is required for the Outdoor Campus show. All programs will be presented by educators from The Raptor Center (TRC) at the University of Minnesota.

On Friday, February 25, TRC staff will present school programs in Plankinton, on their way to Pierre. On Saturday, February 26, three public programs will be offered at the Pierre Ramkota Inn in Theatre II, in conjunction with the KCCR Farm, Home and Sports Show. Saturday's programs begin at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Shows are free to the public.

Winners of the Bald Eagle Awareness Days Bookmark Art Contest will be announced during the event, and winning entries will be displayed at the Ramkota Inn on February 26. The Ramkota programs will also feature arts and crafts activities for kids and free cake provided courtesy of Lynn's Dakotamart in Pierre.

This annual event typically reaches 500-1,000 people. Its longevity demonstrates the popularity of providing the public a close-up opportunity to see and appreciate these beautiful birds and to learn from experts in the field of raptor rehabilitation and conservation.

To learn more about this event, visit this website:

<http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/bald-eagle-awareness-days/default.aspx>

A few visual highlights from the 2010 event, presented by Wildlife Experiences, Inc.:





## National Plan Proposed for Managing White-nose Syndrome

In late October 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requested comments on a draft plan that proposes a nation-wide framework for white-nose syndrome investigation and response. In 2006, bats were found dying at hibernation sites at an alarming rate of what has since been named White-nose Syndrome. Dead and dying bats had depleted fat reserves, compromised immune systems, wing damage, and a white fungus on the face, ears and wing membranes. Bat deaths associated with this fungus have not been detected in South Dakota. The comment period for this proposed plan closed on December 26, 2010. For more information on this disease and the proposed management plan, visit <http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/index.html>

Submitted by Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema

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## Newsletter Submissions and Schedule

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

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

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

### Fund-Raising Committee “Let’s Gear Up for the Outdoors”

As chair of the fund-raising committee, I would like to encourage each meeting attendee to either solicit or donate one item for the SDTWS auction. In 2009 we struggled to generate enough auction items to hold a live and silent auction. This year I would like to challenge each of you to bring one item with you for the auction. If you have a new item sitting at home that remains unused by yourself, please consider donating it to SDTWS auctions, where it might generate funds for the chapter and also get some good use by another member. 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. If you purchase something for the auction, please consider it a donation to a worthwhile cause. Finally, I’d like to continue to encourage you to provide your hand-made items. Dollars generated from this event assist the chapter in sponsoring several events throughout the year, such as student scholarships, Bald Eagle Awareness Day, educational programs, supporting national programs, and to help keep meeting costs and associated fees to a minimum. If every individual attending the annual meeting would donate a single quality item, we will have an outstanding auction this year! Thanks for your help in supporting SDTWS.



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**TWS Student-Professional Mixer!**  
**Monday Evening, February 28**  
**Opportunities to Mentor New Wildlife Professionals**

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

Now is your opportunity to pass along your skills and knowledge to a young and upcoming student! Efforts are underway to organize a student-professional mixer and other activities at the upcoming TWS meeting to be held February 28-March 2 in Oacoma. We are looking for professionals from any agency or background to serve as mentors to our young colleagues. It has become clear in previous years that our student participation is dropping statewide. We hope such activities will encourage students to get involved and start making the professional connections they will use throughout their careers.

Activities currently planned include a student-professional mixer on **Monday evening, February 28**, that will be open to anyone interested. Students will have the opportunity to play a short game during the mixer that will force them to interact with professionals that also attend. We will also have booths set up from various agencies at the mixer where the students will be able to get more information about possible careers in the wildlife sciences. Finally, we would like to find people willing to let a student “shadow” them throughout the meeting. This will allow students the opportunity to meet new people the mentor knows and/or ask other questions as they arise.



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

Photo by Doug Backlund

## **South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2011 Executive Board Elections**

Information on candidates for President Elect and Executive Board Member is presented below. If you are not able to attend the 2011 SDTWS annual meeting at the Cedar Shores Resort, an absentee ballot is included in this edition of *A Prairie Voice*.

### **Candidate for President Elect – Travis Runia**

Personal Data: Lives in Wolsey, SD

Education: South Dakota State University, Brookings-Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, BS (2006) and MS (2009).

Present Position: Currently works as the Senior Upland Game Biologist, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Huron SD.

Previous Positions: Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist (2010) for Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Brighton CO. Graduate Research Assistant (2006-2009), South Dakota State University, Brookings. Wildlife Technician (2006), Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Waubay. Biological Science Technician (2004 & 2005), U. S. Geological Survey/Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. Fisheries Technician (2005), South Dakota State University. City of Sibley Parks Department and Golf Course, Sibley IA (2000-2003). Cal's Countertops LLC, Sibley IA (2002- present). Self-employed, Sibley, IA (1999-2002). Volunteer (2008) on two studies: SDSU Wild Turkey Mortality Study and SDSU Greater Sage-grouse Habitat Study.

Memberships & Affiliations: Brookings County Ducks Unlimited Committee Member (2008), SDSU American Fisheries Society Subunit Member (2004-2006), Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club Member (2003-2004), and The Wildlife Society.

Interests & Hobbies: My hobbies primarily include spending time outdoors hunting, fishing, boating and most other outdoor related activities.

### **Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer – Susan Rupp**

Personal Data: Lives in Brookings, SD

Education: PhD (Wildlife Science), Texas Tech University, 2005  
M.S. (Wildlife Science), Texas Tech University, 2000  
B.S. (Biology & Wildlife Biology w/Spanish Minor), Colorado State University, 1994

Present Position: Assistant Professor, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, SDSU

Previous Positions: Graduate Research Assistant, Texas Tech University/Los Alamos National

Laboratory

Memberships & Affiliations:

Member, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (2008 – present)

**Representative**, Project Advisory Committee (2007-present)

U.S. International Association for Landscape Ecologists (USIALE) (2007-2009)

Member, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (2004-present)

Member, Jemez Mountains Seeking Common Ground (2000-2008) – collaborative group made up of various agencies, non-profits, and citizens dedicated to addressing elk issues and concerns in the Jemez Mountains of north-central New Mexico

Member, The Wildlife Society (1998-present)

Member, Renewable Energy Working Group (2010)

Member, College and University Wildlife Education Working Group (2010)

**Chairperson**, TWS Biofuels Technical Review Committee (2010)

**Chairperson**, Fellowship of Christian Conservationists (2010)

Member, The Leadership Institute Advisory Committee (2008-present)

Member, Central Mountains and Plains Section (2007-present)

Member, South Dakota State Chapter of TWS (2007-present)

**Chairperson**, Certification Committee (2007-present)

**Chairperson**, Biofuels Committee (2008-present)

Member, GIS, Remote Sensing, and Telemetry Working Group (2003-present)

Member, Southwest Section (1998-2009)

Member, International Working Group (1998-2002)

**Representative**, Conservation Education Awards Committee (2000-2001)

Member, Biological Diversity working Group (1998-2002)

Member, New Mexico Chapter of TWS (1999-2009)

Member of the “Bien Dicho” Chapter of Toastmasters International (2002-2003)

Member, Society for Conservation Biology (1992-1994, 1996-2006)

Member, Society for Range management (1998-1999)

Member, New Mexico Section of SRM (1998-1999)

Interests & Hobbies: Soccer, hiking/backpacking, writing (creative and technical) and prison ministries.

**Candidate for Executive Board – Jason Tronbak**

Personal Data: I just recently got married and we are expecting our first kid on April 4. I grew up in Hurley, SD hunting and fishing.

Education: I went to South Dakota State University and graduated in 2002 with a Wildlife and Fisheries degree.

Present Position: I have been the Conservation Specialist for Millborn Seeds in Brookings since 2008. I serve as a consultant helping private landowners and state/federal agencies enhance

wildlife habitat on thousands of acres across South Dakota and other Midwest states. I also work to connect the private landowners with cost-share programs that encourage wildlife habitat development.

Previous Positions: I was a Farm Bill Biologist for Pheasants Forever/NRCS from 2004-2008. From 2002-2004, I worked as a Wildlife Technician with South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks.

Memberships & Affiliations: I serve on the WHIP, WRP and EQIP subcommittees. I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist. I'm a member of Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Whitetails Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Quality Deer Management Association and The Wildlife Society

Interests & Hobbies: I love to go hunting and fishing with family and friends. I also like to play basketball, golf and volleyball. Basically if I can be outside I enjoy it.

### **Candidate for Executive Board – Mark Norton**

Personal Data: A native of Montevideo, Minnesota where I was raised on a small farm.

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

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

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

Memberships & Affiliations: SD Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Prairie Grouse Technical Council, 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 friends. Professional interests include upland game and waterfowl management and research, habitat planning and management issues on private and public land, wetland and grassland issues in South Dakota, and federal farm bill programs and their implementation to benefit wildlife and other natural resources.

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

For President Elect:  
(Vote for One)

Travis Runia

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

For Secretary/Treasurer:  
(Vote for One)

Susan Rupp

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

For Executive Board Member:  
(Vote for One)

Mark Norton

Jason Tronbak

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

If you are unable to attend the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2011 Meeting, please complete this absentee ballot and return it by February 12, 2011 to Chad Switzer.

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## The Wildlife Society Online Mentoring Program

TWS' Online Mentoring program is a great way to build professional relationships that will help advance a student's or young professional's career, while gaining knowledge from a wildlife professional. Already a professional? We are always looking for mentors to volunteer. It is easy to sign up, just go online to our [Online Mentoring Program](http://mentor.wildlife.org/about) (<http://mentor.wildlife.org/about>) with your TWS Member ID number and register.

Want to help but don't have the time to contribute? TWS' Online Mentoring Program is the focus for TWS' 2010 Investor's Campaign. If you are interested in being a donor, please send your donations to The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814 with Investor's Campaign in the memo field. Contributions are tax-deductible.





## TWS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2011 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is currently accepting applications for its Leadership Institute. The goal of the Institute is to facilitate the development of new leaders within The Wildlife Society and the wildlife profession as a whole. The Institute will recruit 10-15 promising early-career professionals for a series of intensive activities and mentoring relationships. The focus will be on exposing the participants to the inner workings of TWS and increasing the ranks of active leaders in TWS and the wildlife profession.

From May until November 2011, participants will engage in a series of activities to develop and expand their leadership skills. Institute members will also attend the 2011 TWS Annual Conference in Hawaii in November and participate in various activities, including mentoring and leadership workshop sessions. There is no tuition cost for the program and participants receive free registration for the conference, as well as a travel grant to cover expenses.

Participation in the Institute is geared toward early-career professionals, those individuals who are 2 to 3 years out of school (either undergrad or graduate school) and currently working full-time in a professional position in wildlife management or conservation, who can show evidence of their leadership potential. A small number of slots may also be available for (1) more recent graduates who have shown strong evidence of their leadership potential or (2) those who are working while concurrently pursuing a graduate degree. All applicants must be members of The Wildlife Society and a Chapter or Section of The Wildlife Society. The selection committee will be seeking to create a diverse group, with participants of varying gender, ethnic, and regional diversity. Selection will be based upon:

- An excellent academic record
- Demonstrated leadership capability or potential
- Demonstrated level of excellence in current position
- Commitment to and involvement in TWS

Preference will be given to individuals who are certified as Associate Wildlife Biologists or Certified Wildlife Biologists, or who have submitted such an application to The Wildlife Society.

### **Applicants must submit the following materials:**

- Application form (available at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/leadershipinstitute/>)
- Cover letter with evidence of leadership capacity or potential, such as previous leadership positions held in TWS Chapters or Student Chapters or in other organizations
- Résumé, which includes a list of publications, awards, etc.
- Academic transcript/s (scanned copy)
- 2 letters of recommendation from supervisors, academic advisors, professors, or others in leadership positions with whom you have worked and who are familiar with your leadership potential, commitment to TWS, and commitment to wildlife management and conservation (should be emailed directly to Laura Bies ([laura@wildlife.org](mailto:laura@wildlife.org)), subject line "Leadership Institute Recommendation for [applicant last name]")
- An essay (1000 word limit), which succinctly summarizes (1) your concept of leadership, (2) your aspiration for your role within TWS in 5 to 10 years, and (3) why you are an ideal candidate for the Institute

**Application deadline is 18 March 2011. Email all materials (except the application form, which is submitted online) to Laura Bies ([laura@wildlife.org](mailto:laura@wildlife.org)). Visit [www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org) for more information (click on 'Leadership Institute' on the left).**



## **Soar above the competition!**

Being a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB®) means you have:

- Increased job potential
- Increased credibility
- Recognized training & expertise
- An unsurpassed network of expert colleagues

### **APPLY TODAY!**

See program and application at:  
[wildlife.org/certification](http://wildlife.org/certification)  
or contact  
[shannon@wildlife.org](mailto:shannon@wildlife.org)

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

### **President**

Chad Switzer  
SD Game, Fish & Parks  
523 East Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501  
(605) 773-4193

### **Past-President**

Dennie Mann  
SD Game, Fish & Parks  
3305 West South Street  
Rapid City, SD 57446  
(605) 394-6838

### **President-Elect**

Rocco Murano  
SD Game, Fish & Parks  
SNP 138 Box 2140B  
Brookings, SD 57007  
(605) 688-4786

### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Nora Kohlenberg  
109 Riverside Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501  
(605) 222-9408

### **Board Member**

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

### **Board Member**

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

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

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

**Audit** - Dennis Mann, 394-2391

**Awards** - Nora Kohlenberg, 222-9408, Nathan Baker 773-4345

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

**Education & Information** - Laura Hubers, 947-4521, Sandy Uecker, 352-5894, and  
Jacquie Ermer, 947-4521

**Membership** - Nora Kohlenberg, 222-9408

**Program** - Rocco Murano, 688-4786

**Nominations and Elections** - Rocco Murano, 688-4786

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

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

**Arrangements** - K. C. Jensen, 688-4781 & 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-Klager, 226-7621, KC Jensen, 688-4781, and Shilo Comeau, 685-6508

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

**Wildlife Diseases** - Steve Griffin, 394-2391, John Kanta 394-2391, Ron Schauer, 391-2926, and Jacquie Ermer,  
947-4521

**Wildlife Diversity** - Eileen Down Stukel, 773-4229, Silka Kempema, 773-2742, Thomas LeFaive, 223-2316, and  
Laura Hubers, 947-4521

**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\*                       2011 Dues Renewal

\* If you did not pay your dues in 2010, 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:

**Nora Kohlenberg**  
**109 Riverside Drive**  
**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 Nora Kohlenberg (605) 222-9408.

