

*South Dakota Chapter***The Wildlife Society**

February 2003

President's Message

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting is fast approaching, and I hope everyone has made plans to attend. The staff at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Chapter's program committee have put together an exciting two-day agenda. The Centennial Celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System is quite a landmark event, and the Chapter's annual meeting is a great opportunity to join in the celebration at the local level. The main celebration will be Monday afternoon with the entire program dedicated to the National Wildlife Refuge System and its various programs. See the preliminary agenda included with this newsletter for more information.

As is customary with every February issue of the Chapter's newsletter is a slate of candidates for the various Chapter positions and an absentee ballot. I wanted to point this out for two reasons. First, if you're unable to attend the meeting, please be sure to submit your absentee ballot prior to the meeting. The second reason I wanted to specifically mention the election and slate of candidates is to make a plea to the membership to get involved. The Chapter's current President-elect Art Smith, and every other person to serve as President-elect for the Chapter, has had to go through the exercise of asking, pleading, groveling and begging to fill out the slate of candidates. Our Chapter's bylaws require that a minimum, a slate of at least two candidates be in place for each elective position, and so finding at least six members to 'throw their hat in the ring' can be a time consuming and even frustrating event. I know our Chapter membership is filled with many people capable of serving on the executive board, but most seem to be lacking in willingness. In the future, please consider becoming a candidate, either when asked or by contacting the President-elect and offering to run.

Also included with this newsletter is a proposed Chapter position statement regarding chronic wasting disease and the issue of captive wildlife as related to chronic wasting disease. Dr. Jonathan Jenks, Ron Fowler and Art Smith have put many hours of work into this position statement, and the Board feels it's ready for consideration by the Chapter membership at the annual meeting. Please read it carefully and be prepared to discuss and act upon this important document at the annual meeting.

In closing, I must admit it's been an enjoyable several years serving on the Chapter's executive board. I've truly valued my time spent working with the top-notch wildlife professionals in the Chapter. I can honestly look back and feel very proud of what the Chapter has accomplished, and I'm confident that our future leadership will continue to make great strides in forwarding the mission of The Wildlife Society.

Paul Coughlin

Minutes of the December 30, 2002 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

President Paul Coughlin recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. at the Ramkota Best Western in Aberdeen. Board members present were Dan Hubbard, Paul Mammenga, Ron Schauer, Art Smith, and Jennifer Briggs. In addition to the board members, Beth Ullenberg, 2003 program committee member, and John Koerner both from Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge were present.

Briggs presented the minutes of the October 28, 2002 board meeting. Mammenga moved to accept the minutes as presented, second by Hubbard. Motion passed.

Briggs read the quarterly treasurer's report. Mammenga moved to approve the treasurer's report, second by Hubbard. Motion passed.

Old Business

Wetlands and Waterfowl Professionals Memorial

John Koerner presented the board with a concept proposal regarding a recognition honor roll for those individuals who have contributed significantly to the welfare and conservation of wetlands and waterfowl in South

Dakota. Hubbard moved to endorse the proposal and have it presented to the membership at their 2003 annual business meeting. Schauer 2nd. Motion passed.

Correspondences Sent & Received

Correspondences sent included a letter of notification to the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation that the SDTWS Executive Board approved a \$500.00 cost share donation for the development of the Glacial Lakes Birding Trail, letter of invitation to John Cooper to come and speak at the 2003 annual meeting, letter of invitation to John Koerner and Ken Higgins to present to the executive board the proposal for a Wetlands and Waterfowl Professionals Memorial.

Correspondences received included an invite from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to attend the State Technical Committee meeting, a request from the Western Bat Working Group for support of their 2003 Conservation Workshop, and a notification of the completion of a draft Environmental Assessment for the Perkins County Rural Water System from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Chronic Wasting Disease and Captive Wildlife

John Jenks, Ron Fowler, and Art Smith have put together a Position Statement on Chronic Wasting Disease for the Chapter to review, discuss, and act on at the 2003 annual business meeting. The board reviewed the statement and gave suggestions for changes. The Position Statement will be published in the next newsletter for membership review before the annual meeting.

2003 Meeting

Beth Ullenberg, Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge Outdoor Recreation Planner, is working on the program for the Monday afternoon session with the focus being on the Centennial Celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Art Smith and Diane Mann-Klager are working on the remainder of the programming. Arrangements and hotel accommodations are going smoothly.

New Business

Funding Request

One funding request was received. A request from the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks for sponsorship of Bald Eagle Awareness Days on February 20-22. Schauer moved to give \$200.00, seconded by Smith.



Motion passed.

Next board meeting will be March 2, 2003 at Minerva's Restaurant in the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Aberdeen at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Briggs
Secretary/Treasurer



2003 Annual Meeting – Ramkota Hotel, Aberdeen
Monday March 3 through Wednesday March 5

Draft General Agenda (subject to change):

Monday, March 3, 2003

Registration & Lunch

Afternoon Session 1:00 – 5:00

Centennial Celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System

Social & Auction 6:00

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Morning Session 8:30 – 12:00

Chapter Business Meeting

Lunch

Afternoon Session 1:00 – 5:00

- Mary Coleman, SD Game, Fish & Parks - History of Game, Fish & Parks Habitat Work
- Morgan Beveridge, Bureau of Indian Affairs - Prescribed Burns on Tribal Lands
- Pete Gober, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Status of Black-tailed Prairie Dog
- Speaker to be Announced - Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction in South Dakota
- Jeff Shearer, SD Game, Fish & Parks - Topeka Shiner Management Plan
- Tony Leif, SD Game, Fish & Parks - Introduction of Eastern Turkeys into South Dakota
- Lon Kightlinger, SD Department of Health - West Nile Virus Summary of 2002 and 2003 forecast

Social & Banquet 6:00

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Morning Session 8:00 – 12:00

General Session

ATTENTION!!!

To:	Federal and State Natural Resource Management Agency Personnel
From:	Emmett Keyser, Awards Nomination Committee SD Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Subject:	Professional and Citizen Award Nominations

Time is again running short! As Chairman of the SDTWS Awards Committee, I am soliciting letters of nomination for the Professional and Citizen Awards given by the SD Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Each year SDTWS recognizes a wildlife professional and a state citizen who have shown exemplary stewardship of our state's wildlife resources. If you have a person you would like to nominate, I would like to hear from you as soon as possible, but no later than February 18, 2003.

Normally, letters of nomination consist of information on the individual's personal and professional background, including work history and education. The Award Selection Committee is particularly interested in projects, programs or special efforts that this individual has put forth in their professional career or in their endeavors as a citizen.

Please feel free to contact me at home at (605) 224-4816 or at work at (605) 773-4607. I can be reached by FAX at (605) 773-6245. If you would like to nominate someone, I would be happy to assist you in formulating your nomination.

Please don't pass up this opportunity to recognize the people who make important contributions toward the management of the wildlife resources in our South Dakota.

Please FAX or mail your nominations today! Thank you.

Emmett Keyser, Awards Committee Chair
SD Chapter of The Wildlife Society
420 W. 7th Street
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
e-mail - emmett.k@home.com or Emmett.Keyser@state.sd.us

Auction! Auction! Auction!

Monday night at our annual meeting in Aberdeen will again be reserved for our fundraising event. The evening is a good time to meet the new members of our chapter and reacquaint yourself with old friends. The success of the event partially hinges on the variety of items that we have to sell at the live auction. Please remember to bring along an item or two that will help us generate the revenue for SDTWS to fund our worthwhile projects in 2003. And plan to be there for a relaxed evening of fun. – Tony Lief

Rooms! Rooms! Rooms!

The 2003 South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting is scheduled for March 3, 4 & 5, 2003 at the Ramkota Hotel (605-229-4040) in Aberdeen. A block of rooms has been reserved at state and federal rates until February 3 so make your reservations as quickly as possible.

South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Position Statement on Chronic Wasting Disease

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society intends to consider and adopt a position statement on Chronic Wasting Disease. By request of a Chapter member and the Executive Board, this statement was developed and reviewed extensively by the Board and several selected Chapter members. Adoption of the statement will be discussed at our business meeting in Aberdeen. If you have strong opinions or feel changes in the statement are necessary, please forward them to Art Smith (605-773-7595, art.smith@state.sd.us) to help initiate discussion at the business meeting. Thank you.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy that affects deer (*Odocoileus* spp.) and elk (*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*) and was first recognized in 1967 by researchers studying captive mule deer (*O. hemionus*) in Colorado (Williams and Young 1980). The disease was described in 1978 in white-tailed deer (*O. virginianus*) and Rocky Mountain elk at a research facility in Wyoming (Williams and Young 1980). To date, CWD has been diagnosed in captive cervid populations from Nebraska, Oklahoma, Kansas, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, USA, and Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada (United States Animal Health Association 2001, Canadian Food Inspection Agency 2002). At present, the epidemic focus of CWD in free-ranging cervids in the United States spans contiguous portions of northeastern Colorado southeastern Wyoming, and southwest Nebraska (Williams et al. 2002), referred to as the CWD endemic area, where up to 15% of mule deer and 1% of elk may be affected in localized management units (Miller et al. 2000). However, recent point source CWD occurrences in

wild populations have been documented in Nebraska, Wisconsin, Illinois, South Dakota, and New Mexico. All wild cervid CWD occurrences outside the endemic area have been located in close proximity to captive cervid facilities with past or present infected animals except for a lone deer in New Mexico (B. Morrison, Nebraska Game and Parks, Lincoln, unpubl. data).

HISTORY OF CWD IN SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota captive cervid facilities are managed by the South Dakota Animal Industry Board (SDAIB) while free-ranging cervids are managed by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP). CWD was reported for the first time in South Dakota in November 1997 at captive elk facilities in McPherson County; infected elk were then traced back to captive elk herds under one ownership in and adjacent to the Black Hills. Investigations determined that eight other captive elk facilities in the state had exposed elk. All ten facilities were quarantined by the SDAIB; seven were found to harbor CWD-positive animals. Since initiation of

quarantines in 1997, five of the quarantined captive facilities were depopulated because of the presence of positive animals or the inability to move animals from the site for the 5-year quarantine period imposed by the SDAIB. Positive captive herds remained on two sites as part of a research project to develop a live test for CWD in captive elk. The last of the two research herds was depopulated in February 2001, and the state was declared free of CWD in captive herds (S. Holland, South Dakota Animal Industry Board, Rapid City public presentation, June 25, 2002). One of the previous CWD facilities was allowed to be repopulated for the purpose of determining if any environmental contamination by CWD would result in infection of the new elk.

SDGFP has been testing for CWD in wild cervids since 1997. In 2001, out of 502 hunter-harvested deer and elk tested, a single, hunter-harvested white-tailed deer was determined to be positive for the disease (Jacques et al. 2003). This deer was harvested in the vicinity of Oral in Fall River County. SDGFP initiated deer collections in February 2002 on lands within 5 miles of the kill site. A total of 52 deer was collected; none was found to be positive for the disease. Simultaneously, to determine the occurrence of CWD in wild deer that may have spread from a CWD-positive captive cervid facility in northwest Nebraska near the South Dakota border, 90 deer were collected along the Nebraska border in the western half of Fall River County. An additional 92 deer also were collected on the Nebraska side of the border by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in early spring 2002. All 182 deer tested negative for CWD. In August 2002, a previously unaffected captive elk facility adjacent to a previous CWD-positive captive elk facility in the southern Black Hills was found to contain CWD-positive elk. Also in the fall of 2002, a sick cow elk that was euthanized in the southern portion of Wind Cave National Park, and a deer killed by a vehicle in Rapid City were both found to be positive for CWD. Through June 2002, a total of 537 elk, 813 white-tailed deer, and 322 mule deer, which were all wild, hunter harvested animals, were sampled for CWD resulting in estimated overall disease prevalence of 0.001 % (95% CI = 0.0 to 0.007 %) for white-tailed deer, 0.0% (0.0 to 0.004%) for elk,

and 0.0 % (0.0 to 0.011 %) for mule deer (Jacques et al. 2003). All of these prevalence rates fall far below the rates measured within CWD endemic areas.

WHAT IS CWD?

CWD is caused by a proteanaceous molecule called a "prion". Infection of a healthy animal with the pathogenic prion results in a denaturing of proteins of the central nervous system, lymph tissues, and tonsil tissues. The denaturing results in a "sponge-like" appearance of these tissues when inspected microscopically. Infected individuals have from a few months to about 3 years before clinical signs of infection, such as loss of body condition and weight, excessive salivation, ataxia, and behavioral changes, are evident (Williams and Young 1980, Spraker et al. 1997, Miller et al. 1998). Cervids, such as deer and elk, are the only species affected by CWD; there is no known cure for the disease.

Public health officials and the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, have found no link between CWD and any neurological disease in humans. There also is no scientific evidence that CWD can be naturally transmitted to animals other than deer and elk. However, the Food and Drug Administration has issued an order prohibiting rendering facilities from taking deer and elk parts from CWD-positive cervids or cervids from known CWD areas. Most renderers have ceased taking deer parts to preclude an expensive recall of products if a CWD-positive animal was processed.

TRANSMISSION AND SPREAD OF CWD

Current experimental and circumstantial evidence suggests that transmission of the disease is believed to be primarily through direct contact with infected animals (Dr. A. L. Jenny, Veterinary Services Laboratory, Ames, Iowa, pers. comm.). However, because of the possibility of persistence of the prion in the environment, transmission in the contaminated environment seems possible as well. Because of these probable modes of transfer of the disease, deer density may be important in CWD transmission (Gross and Miller 2001). Therefore, CWD would seem more likely to occur in areas where deer or elk are crowded or where they congregate at man-made feed and water stations.

Little is known about the rate of spread of the disease in wild populations. Dispersal movements of white-tailed deer in the Northern Great Plains can be considerable. Kernohan et al. (1994) documented a dispersal movement of 213 km for a yearling male that traveled from Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge to Devils Lake, North Dakota, and yearling males at Lower Brule Sioux Reservation moved up to 70 km from the site of marking to just north of Philip, South Dakota (S. Grassel, Lower Brule Tribal Fish and Wildlife Dept., Lower Brule, SD, unpubl. data). A radio-collared adult female moved 205 km from Redwood Falls, Minnesota to Oldham, South Dakota (T. J. Brinkman, South Dakota State University, Brookings, unpubl. data). Elk in the Black Hills also move considerable distances. Bauman (1998) documented movement of a male elk radio collared in Wind Cave National Park west to Pleasant Valley approximately 13 km. The home range of one of these animals was estimated to be from 186 to 243 km², which represents about 3% of the South Dakota Black Hills.

Laboratory tests for CWD in deer and elk use a microscopic examination of the brain stem, which requires the animal to be dead. Only a few laboratories in the U.S. test for CWD, and with increasing numbers of samples, tests often take more than 2 months to be performed. In the early winter of 2002, an alternate test for surveillance purposes was approved that uses the retropharyngeal lymph nodes instead of the brain stem for elk, mule deer, and white-tailed deer. Although this test does not require the animal to be dead, the turn-around time for test results is similar to that for brain stem testing. The retropharyngeal lymph node technique is more useful for testing captive animals because to be used on wild animals, the individuals being tested would have to be held in captivity until test results became available. In addition to the problems associated with testing live, wild animals, the sporadic nature and long incubation period make potential responses to reduce or eliminate the disease ineffectual. As nose-to-nose contact has been implicated as a likely source of transmission of CWD, elimination of all potential interactions between captive and wild cervids is imperative for disease control. Because of the tenacious innate behavior to breed, wild male

cervids will likely attempt to enter captive facilities to interact with females during fall breeding seasons. Moreover, reports of escaped captive elk, and observations of exotic species (i.e., *Cervus nippon* and *Dama dama*, sika and fallow deer) in the wild in Gregory, Jerauld, and Day counties, indicate that captive facilities in South Dakota are currently unable to maintain separation between captive and free-ranging cervids.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The legal and illegal sale and transport of privately-owned captive cervids associated with the propagation and commercialization of cervids worldwide represents a potentially serious threat of accidentally introducing CWD and other diseases into previously uninfected free-ranging cervid populations. Thus, to prevent new outbreaks and to control current occurrences of CWD in South Dakota, the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society recommends that:

1. No permits be given out by the South Dakota Animal Industry Board for new captive cervid facilities statewide. There are too many unknowns, such as modes of CWD transmission, ability of prions to persist in the open environment, and wild deer and elk dispersal rates to confidently define the physical properties that would assure a captive cervid facility as being CWD free. Shortcomings in current testing techniques prevent realistic discrimination of live, wild animals that are infected with CWD but do not show clinical signs of the disease.
2. The South Dakota Animal Industry Board closely monitor depopulated CWD private facilities and enforce requirements for maintaining the facilities cervid-free. If infectious agents remain in the environment after depopulation of facilities, as has been suggested in captive facilities in Colorado and Wyoming (Spraker et al. 1997), restocking of infected sites would guarantee exposure of the animals through environmental contamination.
3. The South Dakota Animal Industry Board require all existing captive cervid facility operators to double fence those facilities with 10 foot high, elk proof fencing, inspect fences regularly, and enforce maintenance of the

fences.

Direct contact between infected and uninfected animals is a likely mode of disease transmission. Single fence designs or breached double fences are not capable of preventing direct contact. Elimination of all potential interactions between captive and wild cervids is imperative for disease control. Appropriate fencing design, coupled with regular examination and proper maintenance, would greatly diminish potential contact between free-ranging and captive cervids. Such a design should consist of two separate, parallel, 10 foot high fences constructed of elk proof fencing on cement reinforced posts with adequate spacing (6 foot minimum) between the fences to prevent animal-to-animal contact.

4. Because Recommendation 3 is based on limited knowledge of facility designs that will ensure the separation of captive and wild cervids, planning efforts should be initiated towards the research and development of best configurations and materials for double fence designs. Elimination of all potential interactions between captive and wild cervids is imperative for disease control. Natural occurrences such as fires, extreme snowfalls, floods, or falling trees and large branches have caused fence failures in the past. If infectious agents remain in the environment after depopulation of facility, those agents could potentially be transferred from captive facilities via precipitation runoff, and traditional fence designs would fail to eliminate exposure of free-ranging cervids to environmental contamination. At a minimum, fencing designs in use and potential movement of CWD contamination from captive facilities should be evaluated at all currently permitted sites in the state.
5. Research be initiated to determine captive and wild cervid densities that facilitate disease transference and cervid densities in and surrounding captive facilities be limited based on those findings. It is suspected that the disease can be transferred from infected to uninfected individuals through direct contact. Higher densities of animals may lead to increased direct contacts between individuals. More direct contacts

between individuals may enhance the spread of the disease.

6. Human behaviors that concentrate wild cervids, such as recreational feeding by the public, be prohibited. It is suspected that the disease can be transferred from infected to uninfected individuals through direct contact. Higher densities of animals may lead to increased direct contacts between individuals. More direct contacts between individuals may enhance the spread of the disease. Artificial feeding stations regularly congregate wild cervids at much higher densities than normally supported at natural feeding areas.
7. The South Dakota Animal Industry Board provide data on captive cervid facility placement, herd demographics, and cervid movements between facilities to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks immediately upon renewal of existing permits or issuance of any new permits. Effective response to potential CWD outbreaks in free-ranging populations is hampered by limited data exchange on the existence of captive facilities. Full data exchange between these two management agencies would facilitate best disease surveillance planning and assist required facility oversights.
8. The South Dakota Animal Industry Board and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks exchange all data on all CWD test results as soon as they are available. Effective response to potential CWD outbreaks in free-ranging populations is hampered by limited information exchange on the occurrence and prevalence of CWD in captive facilities. The presence and extent of CWD in wild populations surrounding captive cervid facilities should be an extra concern of the operators of these facilities. Complete data exchange on CWD test results will allow for rapid responses to potential CWD outbreaks and for consideration in prioritizing CWD surveillance areas.
9. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks continue surveillance efforts for CWD in free-ranging cervid populations currently exposed to CWD, and in areas having current and former captive cervid facilities via data

provided by the South Dakota Animal Industry Board.

It is suspected that the disease can be transferred from infected to uninfected individuals through direct contact. It also is suspected that the prion can persist in the open environment, but it is unknown for how long. Little is known of the factors that initiate and diminish movements of wild cervids. Without knowing these answers with complete certainty, the likelihood of preventing disease spread in newly infected populations is low. Continued surveillance of known CWD-positive areas may help answer some of these unknowns.

10. Research be initiated to determine if environmental contamination exists in and around infected captive facilities and if possible, in areas of wild populations exposed to CWD. It is suspected that the prion can persist in the open environment, but it is unknown for how long. This is especially relevant if the persistence is longer than the current 5-year quarantine period, as is currently imposed by the South Dakota Animal Industry Board on CWD-positive captive cervid facilities. Appropriate surveillance and management planning require more knowledge on the ability of prion persistence in open environments. This also has implications for the safe disposal of deer carcasses and meat processors and rendering companies accepting full cervid carcasses.
11. Transportation and possession of whole carcass or carcass parts of white-tailed deer, mule deer, or elk from areas within states or provinces with documented occurrences of CWD in wild and captive populations be prohibited

except for:

- meat that is cut and wrapped either commercially or privately,
- quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached,
- hides with no head attached,
- clean (no brain or eye tissue attached) skull plate with antlers attached,
- antlers and upper canine teeth, and
- finished taxidermy heads.

Prions appear to be the infectious CWD agent and are found in the central nervous system, lymph tissues, and tonsil tissues. It is suspected that the prion can persist in the open environment, but it is unknown for how long. Appropriate surveillance and management planning require more knowledge about the transference from infected to uninfected individuals, and on the ability of prion persistence in open environments. As a precaution, tissue known to contain prions should be restricted from entering the state from areas known to be exposed to CWD.

12. A federally approved CWD testing facility be developed in South Dakota
Currently there are only a few laboratories in the U.S. that test for CWD and tests often take more than 2 months to be performed. With more states developing active surveillance programs, the number of samples will also increase, which will likely lengthen the time between sample submissions and the return of test results. An in-state testing facility would provide test results much quicker, thereby allowing rapid responses to potential CWD outbreaks.

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Wetlands Honor Roll Proposal

A group of Chapter members is proposing to form a special committee within the Chapter to recognize individuals who have contributed significantly to the welfare and betterment of wetlands, waterfowl, and other wetland birds in South Dakota. The Chapter's Executive Board voted unanimously at their December 30, 2002 meeting in Aberdeen to support this concept, but they also recommended that the issue be voted upon by the general membership because of the possible longer term establishment need for this committee.

The proposal is to form a committee of seven members to evaluate candidates for inclusion into this honor roll. The committee will develop criteria for inclusion, receive nominations from the general membership, and vote whether to include nominees. The criteria are intended to result in a more inclusive than exclusive honor roll, in terms of inductions. At a later date, the Chapter's Executive Board will ratify the recommendations of the Honor Roll Committee. The Committee will be empowered to induct retired or deceased people who meet the criteria for inclusion, rather than having to be nominated by the Chapter members.

The Honor Roll will be in the form of seven printed scrolls, one for each of the following categories: acquisition and preservation, law enforcement, research and general biologists, managers and restorationists educators and administrators, public relations, media, and fund-raisers, and private individuals. The scrolls will be printed on good quality paper, with the main copy being housed in a single, specific location accessible by as much of the public as possible. Additional, smaller copies could also be reproduced to either circulate, or be displayed at other locations within the state. The scrolls will be reprinted

every two or three years with the new honorees included with each reprinting.

At the annual business meeting, the general membership will be asked to endorse the recommendation of the Board to recognize and honor “wetland workers” within South Dakota, and vote to establish this committee

Ken Higgins
John Koerner
Pat Russell

South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2003 Executive Board Elections

Information on candidates for President Elect, Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Board Member is presented below. If you are not able to attend the 2003 SDTWS annual meeting at the Ramkota in Aberdeen, an absentee ballot is available on Page 14 of this edition of *A Prairie Voice*.

Candidate for President-Elect:

Steve Griffin

Personal Data: Born August 10, 1964, Marlette, Michigan. Moved to South Dakota in 1988 to attend SDSU. Married with no kids.

Education: B.S. Wildlife Biology, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI, 1988. M.S. Wildlife Biology, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD, 1991.

Present Position: Wildlife Biologist, South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks, Rapid City, South Dakota, 1991-present.

Other Memberships and Affiliations: National, Central-Mountains Plains Section, and State Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Principal Interests: Personal interests include hunting, hiking, and mountain biking. Professional interests include all big game management, mountain lion management, Black Hills issues, and new diseases in South Dakota.

SDTWS Views: Keep SDTWS involved in national issues that affect South Dakota wildlife resources and values.

Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer:

Bridgette Flanders

Personal Data: Raised on a ranch near Pettibone, North Dakota. Moved to Aberdeen, South Dakota in 2002. Will be getting married June 21, 2003.

Education: B.S. in Zoology with a Wildlife Emphasis, North Dakota State University, 1999. M.S. in Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, 2002. Studied the effects of weather and grassland management on sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie-chicken production on Valentine National Wildlife Refuge.

Present Position: Wildlife Biologist, Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Columbia, SD.

Former Positions: Graduate Research Assistant, Colorado State University, 2000-2002; Outreach Biologist, National Audubon Society, Fargo, ND, 1999-2000.

Memberships and Affiliations: Member of national and the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society since 1999 and the South Dakota chapter since 2002. I have also been involved with the Prairie Grouse Technical Council since 2001.

Principle Interests: My personal interests include hiking, camping, running, photography, skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, archery, pheasant hunting, and traveling. My professional interests include the use of sound monitoring and research techniques to adaptively manage wildlife habitat, protecting biodiversity over local species diversity, and the restoration of grassland habitat for grassland-dependent wildlife.

SDTWS Views: Communication within the wildlife profession is becoming a greater challenge. The general public is becoming more knowledgeable and active in wildlife management, resulting in increased stakeholders. The natural resource work force is diversifying, bringing different experiences and values to the wildlife profession. The South Dakota chapter of The Wildlife Society will see greater challenges in representing these diverse stakeholders and professionals with one voice. By embracing this diversification, we can capitalize upon the increased interest in wildlife management that we are seeing and use it to benefit what matters most - wildlife. I am enthusiastic to get involved with the South Dakota chapter of The Wildlife Society and help meet these new challenges.

Candidates for Executive Board:

Ron Leathers

Present Position: Wildlife habitat extension biologist, Pheasants Forever

Ron recently assumed his new position as Pheasants Forever's habitat biologist for Turner, Hutchinson, and McCook counties. Ron spent the past two years working on his Master's degree in wildlife from South Dakota State University. Prior to returning to graduate school, Ron worked for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as the Agricultural Programs Wildlife Biologist. Ron obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming and began his career in Washington, DC with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Ron's passion is the outdoors and he loves to hunt and fish whenever and wherever possible.

Diane Mann-Klager

Personal Data: Born May 17, 1963 in Camp Springs, Maryland. Grew up in Wassaic, New York, considered upstate by New York City folks but not by the rest of us. Married 11 years to Bill Klager from Hamburg, New York. Moved to South Dakota in 2000 from the Finger Lakes Region of New York. No children, just a dog (mixed breed), two cats, and a flock of various domesticated birds.

Education: B.A. Biology (1986) Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. Pursued a M.A. Biology at State University of New York at Buffalo College in Buffalo, NY.

Present Position: Wildlife Biologist for the Great Plains Region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Former Position: Fish and Wildlife Biologist at the New York Field Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service in Cortland, New York for ten years. Conducted Environmental Contaminant Studies on National Wildlife Refuges, reviewed water related projects pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, reviewed National Environmental Policy Act reports for impacts to fish and wildlife, and conducted Section 7 consultations pursuant to the Endangered Species Act.

Membership and Affiliations: Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, The Wildlife Society, Intertribal Bison Cooperative along with various hunting and trapping organizations

Principal Interests: Professional interest is being a reliable source of information and technical support for the Tribes in the region and facilitating working relationships between the Tribes and other Agencies. Personal interests revolve around trapping, hunting, and fishing with my husband. We took up waterfowl hunting when we moved out here. In my spare time, I enjoy photography and gardening.

SD TWS Views: Discovered TWS only a few years ago. Been impressed with the integration of traditional and non-traditional wildlife uses and support as wildlife management tools. Would like to continue common sense mixed with sound science that the Chapter has taken on positions. No grand designs other than keeping the Chapter moving in the positive direction it is presently moving.

Matt Morlock

Matt is currently employed by Pheasants Forever as a wildlife habitat extension biologist. He is also currently completing his master's degree from South Dakota State University in Brookings. He has been researching the effects of created wetlands on floral and faunal communities in eastern South Dakota. He graduated undergraduate school in 2000 from South Dakota State University with a B.S. in wildlife and fisheries science. He grew up in Watertown SD, spending countless hours in the outdoors developing his love for nature and landscape of South Dakota.

South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society - Absentee Ballot

For President Elect:

Steve Griffin

_____ (Write in)

For Secretary/Treasurer:

Bridgette Flanders

_____ (Write in)

For Executive Board Member:
(Vote For One)

Ron Leathers

Diane Mann-Klager

Matt Morlock

_____ (Write in)

If you are unable to attend the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society, 2003 Meeting, please complete this absentee ballot and return by February 28, 2003 to Arthur Smith, SD Game, Fish & Parks, 523 East Capitol, Pierre SD 57501.

South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Life Membership Dues

Age 20 to 35: 25 x annual dues
\$10 x 25 = \$250

Age 66 to 75: 12.5 x annual dues
\$10 x 12.5 = \$125

Age 36 to 45: 20 x annual dues
\$10 x 20 = \$200

Age 76 and over: Free

Age 46 to 65: 17.5 x annual dues
\$10 x 17.5 = \$175

For more information contact Tom Tornow at
605-256-2974.

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Executive Board

<p>President Paul Coughlin SD Game, Fish & Parks 200 S Tyler Avenue Pierre SD 57501 phone 605-773-3658 fax 605-773-6245</p>	<p>Past-President Dan Hubbard South Dakota State University PO Box 2140B Brookings SD 57006 phone 605-688-6121 fax 605-688-4780</p>	<p>President-Elect Arthur Smith SD Game, Fish & Parks 523 East Capitol Pierre SD 57501 phone: 605-773-7595 fax: 605-773-6245</p>
<p>Secretary-Treasurer Jennifer Briggs U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service PO Box 48 Madison SD 57042 phone 605-256-2974 fax 605-256-9432</p>	<p>Board Member Paul Mammenga SD Game, Fish & Parks 5850 East Hwy. 12 Aberdeen SD 57401 phone 605-626-2391</p>	<p>Board Member Ron Schauer SD Game, Fish & parks 4500 S. Oxbow Avenue Sioux Falls SD 57106-4114 phone 605-362-2725 fax: 605-362-2704</p>

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Standing Committees

Audit - Dan Hubbard, Chairperson, 668-6120
Awards - Emmet Keyser, Chairperson, 773-4607
Conservation Review - Paul Coughlin, Chairperson, 773-3658
Education and Information - Laura Hubers, Chairperson, 947-4521
Membership - Tom Tornow, Chairperson, 256-2974
Program - Art Smith/Beth Ullenberg/Diane Mann-Klager, Chairpersons, 773-7595, 885-6320 & 226-7621
Nominations and Elections - Ken Parr, Chairperson, 394-9757 ext. 3004
Resolutions and Public Statements - Scott Larson, Chairperson, 224-8693 ext. 27

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Special Committees

Arrangements - Paul Mammenga, Chairperson, 626-2391
Book Service - Bob Klaver, Chairperson, 594-6067
Certification - Pat Russel, Chairperson, 226-7587
Chapter History - Vacant
Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife - Vacant
Fish & Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative - Eileen Dowd Stukel, Chairperson, 773-4229
Fund Raising - Tony Leif, Chairperson - 353-7145
Grassland Issues - Vacant
Missouri River Issues - Vacant
Newsletter - Greg Pavelka, Editor, 402-667-2581
Nongame/Endangered Species - Eileen Dowd Stukel, Chairperson, 773-4229
Public Land Management - Dennis Mann, Chairperson, 394-2391
Resource Activism - Chuck Dieter, Chairperson, 688-4555
Tribal Fish & Wildlife - Diane Mann-Klager, Chairperson, 226-7621
Wetlands - Kurt Forman, Chairperson, 697-2500

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: Greg Pavelka at the Gavins Point Project, PO Box 710 Yankton SD 57078, or call 402-667-2581, or fax the information in at 402-667-2588.

Email: Gregory.A.Pavelka@usace.army.mil

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Application for Membership/Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____

Please Check One: New Member 2003 Dues Renewal

Employer _____

Sponsor's Name _____

Send the completed application/renewal form and a check for \$10.00 (regular), \$6.00 (student) to: Jennifer Briggs, 22575 457th Ave., Madison SD 57042

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