

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

February 2004

President's Message

It is time for my last message as your President, a year that has gone by extremely fast. Looking back, it looks like we accomplished a few things I feel pretty proud of.

Probably foremost, after some fits and starts, is the "re-development" of the Chapter's webpage. Charlie Bessen deserves all of the credit for this, and I hope everyone has a chance to visit it soon at <http://www.sdwildlife.org/>. If not, we will be dedicating part of the annual meeting to Charlie and she'll take everyone through the site.

We've also had the opportunity to help several organizations with various projects they've developed over the year as well. Details of whom and what we helped will be presented during the business section of our annual meeting. There have also been several requests for the Chapter to become more of a leader in addressing state environmental issues. This will most likely also be a topic during the business meeting.

An area that we all need to recognize and keep working on, however, is committee leaderships and officers' elections. There is a lot of room for improvement in this area.

The Chapter will only be able to represent the wildlife professional community if it has people to take up the flag when necessary. Although we do have a core group of volunteers, people who I think probably everyone recognizes simply because of the number of issues and projects they have been involved with over the years, there are more issues that we do not address because there hasn't been anyone there to work on them.

What can I say about officer candidates? Each January, the Chapter's President-elect runs up a phone bill trying to get a full slate of candidates. I look back on last year's February newsletter issue I see Paul Coughlin said much of the same thing. His words say what I want to say, so I'll repeat: "I know out there 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." If you do volunteer to run, I can assure you that there will be others to learn from. I moved to this state in 2001 and certainly would not have been able to function as President without such help.

In closing, I would like to invite everyone to our annual meeting this March in Chamberlain. I am looking forward to hearing the talks Steve Griffin has arranged, make a few new friends, visit with those of you I already know, and to find out who will be our next group of leaders. If you're not able to attend the meeting, please make sure to use the absentee ballot in this issue.

I have certainly enjoyed this past year. Looking back, I am proud of the progress made under my tenure, but I also see how much was left undone. My one great comfort in giving up the Presidency is knowing that truly outstanding officers have been selected to follow me and my cohorts.

Art Smith

Minutes of the January 6, 2004 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

President Art Smith recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. at the Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center near Chamberlain, SD. Board members present were Art Smith, Ron Schauer, Steve Griffin, Paul Coughlin, Diane Mann-Klager, and Bridgette Flanders-Wanner. Cliff Stone, who has volunteered to help coordinate the 2004 Annual Meeting, also attended the board meeting.

Flanders-Wanner presented the minutes of the November 5, 2003 board meeting. Coughlin motioned to accept the minutes and Mann-Klager seconded the motion. Motion passed. Flanders-Wanner presented the quarterly treasurer's report. Coughlin motioned to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Schauer. Motion passed. Flanders-Wanner presented a draft of the 2003 financial statement for review. A thorough discussion of the financial state of the life membership investment ensued. At present, all contributions from the general checking account that were used to start up the life membership investment have been paid back. Enough interest was accumulated during 2003 to cover dues for all 2002 and 2003 life members. However, as a mutual fund, the

life membership investment is subject to fluctuation along with the market. Therefore, the executive board agreed that a spreadsheet should be created to track the investment's ability to accrue enough annual interest to consistently cover dues for the life memberships. Flanders-Wanner agreed to create a spreadsheet to document the performance of the life membership over time.

Old Business

Correspondence Sent and Received

Letters Received: Harry Hodgdon, Executive Director of The Wildlife Society, sent a letter thanking SDTWS for its contribution of \$250 in support of the Farm Bill Implementation Campaign.

SDTWS 2004 Annual Meeting

Details of the annual meeting were discussed. Griffin provided an overview of the preliminary meeting schedule. The Board brain-stormed potential presentation topics, as some presentation slots were still open in the meeting schedule. The board also discussed potential banquet speakers and agreed to do some checking around for a good speaker candidate. Prospective

auction items were discussed. The President-elect and one Board Member will be elected at the 2004 Annual Meeting. Griffin reviewed current candidates and the board suggested several other SDTWS members who might be interested in running for office.

SDTWS Website Development

The SDTWS website has been fully updated by Charlie Bessken and is waiting to be uploaded onto the server at South Dakota State University. The board discussed several options for making the website more virtual by increasing the chapter's ability to post new information to the site as frequently as needed. After some discussion, the board agreed to have Charlie look into how much it would cost for SDTWS to purchase its own website. If expenses are reasonable (which they are expected to be), then purchasing a website would be the preferred option. This option would allow SDTWS to have complete control over the quality of the website, as well as provide its members with pertinent information in a timely fashion. It is the board's intention to have the updated version of the SDTWS website online by March so that it may be debuted during the SDTWS Annual

Meeting.

New Business

February Newsletter

The board discussed the contents of the upcoming newsletter. The newsletter will include biographical sketches of the election candidates for President-elect and Board Member. A draft meeting agenda, minutes of the January 6 meeting, reminders to make reservations, any proposed resolutions or position statements, and requests for auction items also will be printed.

South Dakota Furbearer Trading Cards

Chad Tussing, Education Services Coordinator for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP), sent a letter seeking sponsorship of a project to create 32 South Dakota Furbearer trading cards. The cards are being designed to teach about the identification, tracking, biology, and range of these animals. The 32-card sets will be distributed at educational classes and presentations, at fairs, and to teachers and others interested in South Dakota furbearers. By partnering with the SDGFP, the SDTWS logo would be printed on the back of each card. Schauer motioned to donate \$500 for the project. Mann-Klager seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Bald Eagle Awareness Day

Russell Somsen, Funding Coordinator for the Bald Eagle Awareness Day Committee, sent a letter requesting financial support for Bald Eagle Awareness Day. The major expense of the 12th annual

event will be for the educators from the Raptor Center, while expenses for printing, publicity, refreshments, and facility rental also will be incurred. Schauer motioned to donate \$200 for the event, seconded by Coughlin. Motion passed.

Fort Pierre National Grassland Proposed Land Exchange

Anthony Deto, District Ranger and Legislative Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service, sent a letter requesting written comments to a proposed Federal land exchange on Fort Pierre National Grassland. The details of the land exchange will be referred to the Public Lands committee for comment.

Past-Presidents Group

The board's discussion of the Past-President's Group continues to be favorable. The board would like to see Casey Kruse present his proposal to the membership during the annual meeting.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on March 7, 2004 at Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center near Chamberlain, SD.

Mann-Klager moved to adjourn and Schauer seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgette Flanders-Wanner
Secretary/Treasurer

Advance Notice

Make Plans to attend the 11th Annual The Wildlife Society Conference

Where - Calgary, Alberta, Canada

When - September 18-22, 2004

Theme - Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science & Education

For further information call 301-897-9770 or go online at www.wildlife.org

(See Preliminary Program on Page 9)

2004 Annual Meeting – Cedar Shores Resort, Chamberlain
Monday March 8 through Wednesday March 10



Meriwether Lewis

Draft General Agenda
(subject to change)



William Clark

Monday- March 8, 2004

Registration and Lunch 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Afternoon Session 1:00 pm-5:00 pm - Lewis and Clark and other presentations

Social and Auction 6:00 pm (bring items for the auction)

Tuesday-March 9, 2004

Morning Session 8:30 am- 12:00 pm - Chapter Business Meeting

Lunch

Afternoon Session 1:00 pm-5:00pm - General Session with Presentations

Social and Banquet 6:00 pm

Wednesday March 10, 2004

Morning Session 8:00 am- 12:00 pm - General Session with Student Presentations

ANNUAL MEETING REMINDERS!!!!!!

With the annual meeting fast approaching a few things all members and guests should be aware of. First, be sure to make your room reservations by February 10, 2004. That is the last day our block of rooms will be held for us. We have received a commitment to honor state and federal rates for all retired members as well. To make room reservations call the Cedar Shore Resort at 1 888 697-6363.

Second, as most of you know, we have an auction and social on the first evening. The auction helps us defray the cost of the meeting and make some money for projects we support. Please bring an item or two that can be auctioned off to help us raise some \$\$\$\$\$.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that we will be offering the "Free Lunch" again to all registered members at the start of the annual meeting. We are hopeful this will encourage more people to come, register and enjoy good food and fellowship, with the society picking up the tab. See everyone in Chamberlain on March 8, 9 & 10!

Professional and Citizen Award Nominations

Time is running short! As Chairman of the SDTWS Awards Committee, I am again 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 13, 2004.

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.

Emmett Keyser, Awards Committee

South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2004 Executive Board Elections

Information on candidates for President Elect and Executive Board Member is presented below. If you are not able to attend the 2004 SDTWS annual meeting at the Cedar Shores Resort, an absentee ballot is available on Page 10 of this edition of *A Prairie Voice*.

Candidate for President-Elect:

Will Morlock

A life-long resident of South Dakota, raised on a farm in McPherson County. Attended Eureka High School. After high school I enrolled in the US Air Force and received all the benefits bestowed upon active military personnel! This venture included a tour around the world with a brief stop (15 months) in a well-known corner of the world called Pakistan. Famous for the Kyber Pass and a world celebrity named Osama.

I completed my call to duty and returned to complete my education at South Dakota State University, graduated in August 1971 with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife. I started working with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks in August 1971 as a WCO in Faulk County. I have worked for GFP in several locations and finally ended up in Watertown as the Region 4 Game Program Manager. My 34 years with GFP have been a career, not a job! I have greatly enjoyed working with our natural resources and still look forward to the challenges that each day brings. Our wildlife resources are extremely important to me and working to manage and protect these resources has been very rewarding to me. I have always believed that wildlife will do a great job managing itself if we can keep politicians, do-gooders and land abusers from destroying what God and Mother Nature have blessed us with.

Community involvement has always been important to me. I am involved with the Lake Area Zoological Society, Watertown Lions Club, Watertown Hockey Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and Dakota Sportsmen Club. My wife and I enjoy shopping for antiques and traveling.

Candidates for Executive Board:

Laura Umbright Hubers

Personal Data: Born April 1 at the tail end of the Baby Boom in Chicago, IL; married, no children, one old Golden Retriever.

Education: Bachelor of Science with a double major in Agriculture and Zoology, Southern Illinois University

Current Position: 1993 to Present - Wildlife Biologist at Waubay National Wildlife Refuge in northeast South Dakota.

Former Positions: 1988-1993 – Various temporary and volunteer positions with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (AK, CO); South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks; Iowa Department of Natural Resources; and Clemson University - mostly as a biological technician type.

1983-1988 Settlement Clerk for Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Bear Stearns and Co., Inc., Chicago, IL

Memberships/Affiliations: The Wildlife Society (National and State chapter), National Audubon Society, Cooper Ornithological Society, South Dakota Ornithologists Union, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, The Xerces Society

Interests: Bird banding, bird watching, some hunting, gardening, playing Scrabble and reading.

South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Views: We (as an organization) need to continue to strive to be accessible and useful to our members as well as to the public. We can be the voice of reason and science in an escalating battle over wildlife and their associated habitats, which are fundamental to the quality of life for future generations and us. Although it is often easier to stay in the background and not get involved, there are many issues affecting the environment that will have serious consequences depending on how they are dealt with by this generation. Many of us are near or at an age when we are becoming the policy-makers or at least able to influence the direction of current and future policies. The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society can play an important part in making sure we have the best information and the support for formulating those policies in our state.

Matt Morlock

Matt is a native South Dakotan, growing up in the Watertown area. He spent countless hours of his childhood in the country “helping” his father check local sportsmen. Matt Graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelors degree in Wildlife and Fisheries science in the spring of 2000. He is currently putting the final touches on his thesis in order to receive his Master’s degree, also from South Dakota State University. His thesis work is looking at the effects that created wetlands have on the natural floral and faunal communities of the area. Matt spent several summers working for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks working various seasonal positions helping landowners deal with depredation problems. For the last year Matt has been employed by Pheasants Forever as a Wildlife Habitat Specialist. He is in charge of assisting landowners in north eastern South Dakota with the federal farm program in order to develop wildlife habitat on their lands.

Jay Peterson

Personal Data: Raised in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Married. Three children and one grand child.

Education: Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from North Dakota State University.

Present Position: Wetland District Manager, Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge Complex (4 months)

Former Positions: Assistant Refuge Manager, Lacreek (NWR) (6 years)
Assistant Refuge Manager, Lake Andes NWR (9 years)
Biological Technician, J. Clark Salyer NWR in North Dakota (6 years)

Memberships and Affiliations: Member of South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society since 1989.

Previous member of the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society from 1980 through 1989.

Principle Interests: Personal interests are dictated largely by my family. Generally speaking my personal interests include anything related to the great outdoors and all the wonders it has to offer. Providing outdoor exposure to young people is particularly gratifying to me. Professionally, my interests are many but overshadowed by day to day work in the prairie landscape in which I live and work.

South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Views: To remain effective at supporting the mission of The Wildlife Society, state chapters must remain engaged in the many wildlife resource issues that arise each year. The issues are often complicated with long term ramifications requiring the formulation of well thought out position statements by a well informed membership and board. Executive board members represent the voice of the membership and I will work hard to carry that voice to the board table and ensure it is heard.

Chad T. Switzer

Personal Data: Born and raised on a small farm in northeast Nebraska. Moved to South Dakota in 2002. My wife Rachel is from Ipswich, South Dakota. We have two wonderful daughters, Hailey (3) and Megan (2).

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

Present Position: Habitat Biologist, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks, 2002-Present. Most recently worked as a Wildlife Biologist II with Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (1999-2002) and worked several temporary positions after college in Nebraska, North Carolina and South Dakota.

Other Memberships & Affiliations: National and State Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Ducks Unlimited.

Principal Interests: Personal interests include hunting, fishing, all sports, any outdoor activities, spending time with family, and my hobby of iron artwork. Professional interests include habitat planning and management on private and public lands, upland game and waterfowl management and South Dakota wetland/grassland issues.

South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Views: Provide guidance to ensure SDTWS achieves its goals and objectives. SDTWS is a crucial association that must stay involved with 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. 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.

The Wildlife Society 11th Annual Conference
September 18-22, 2004 - Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Preliminary Program

Plenary

Energy, Wildlife, and People

Workshops

Performance Measures For Ecosystem Management And Ecologic al Sustainability

Establishing Educational Competencies For Undergraduate Wildlife Students

Using MCMC in Winbugs and Python to Fit Random Effects and Hierarchical Models

Linear and Non-Linear Mixed Models for Correlated Data: Concepts and Applications

Habitat Conservation in the Upper Bow Corridor, Alberta

Use of G PS Collars for Monitoring Wildlife

Using Aerial and Ground Based Infrared Sensors for Wildlife Monitoring

Symposia

Opportunities and Challenges of the International Wildlife Community: Views of the Global Involvement Task Force

Grassland Birds in North America: Current and Future Currencies

Synthesizing Recent Advances in Predator-Prey and Ungulate-Plant Dynamics

Survival Estimation and Analysis in Wildlife Ecology and Management

Professional Certification: Competency Assurance for Agencies Engaging Third-Party Providers

Effects of Scale on Existence and Measurement of Biological Diversity

Collaboration of Biometricians and Researchers in Large-Scale Research: Lessons from Case Studies

Managing Wolf Depredation on Livestock across North America

Key Components of Conservation-Hunting Programs: Relationships between Wildlife Populations, Ecosystems and People

Implications of Baiting and Feeding Game Wildlife Species

White-Tailed Deer, Hunters, and Hunting in North America

Effectively Managing Meso-Carnivores: Conservation, Conflicts, and Disease Impacts

Wildlife Impacts of Energy Projects: Renewable and Conventional

Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) Research and Management: Progress, Tools, and Techniques

Special Poster Session

Ecological Restoration: Current Issues and Projects in Western North America

Contributed Papers and Posters

Ecology and Conservation of Birds

Ecology and Conservation of Mammals

Ecology and Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians

Conservation of Communities, Ecosystems, and Landscapes

Wildlife-Habitat Relationships

Wildlife Population Dynamics and Management

Wildlife Damage Management

Human Dimensions, Conservation Education, and Conservation Policy

Wildlife Diseases and Toxicology

Biometrics in Wildlife Management

New Technology in Wildlife Management

South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society - Absentee Ballot
For President Elect:

Will Morlock

_____ **(Write in)**

For Executive Board Member:
(Vote For One)

Laura Hubers

Matt Morlock

Jay Peterson

Chad Switzer

_____ **(Write in)**

If you are unable to attend the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society, 2004 Meeting, please complete this absentee ballot and return it by February 27, 2004 to Steve Griffith, SD Game, Fish & Parks, 3305 W South Street, Rapid City SD 57702

South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Life Membership Dues

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

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

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

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

Age 76 and over: Free

For more information contact Chad Switzer at 605-353-6699.

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Executive Board

President

Arthur Smith
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Pierre SD 57501
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Past-President

Paul Coughlin
SD Game, Fish & Parks
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President-Elect

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Secretary-Treasurer

Bridgette Flanders-Wanner
Sand Lake NWR
39650 Sand Lake Drive
Columbia SD 57433
phone 605-885-6320
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Board Member

Ron Schauer
SD Game, Fish & Parks
4500 S. Oxbow Avenue
Sioux Falls SD 57106-4114
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fax: 605-362-2704

Board Member

Diane Mann-Klager
Bureau of Indian Affairs
115 4th Avenue SE
Aberdeen SD 57401
phone 605-226-7621
fax: 605-226-7358

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Standing Committees

Audit - Paul Coughlin, Chairperson, 773-4194

Awards - Emmet Keyser, Chairperson, 773-4607

Conservation Review - Paul Coughlin, Chairperson, 773-4194

Education and Information - Laura Hubers, Chairperson, 947-4521

Membership - Chad Switzer, Chairperson, 605-353-6699

Program - Steve Griffin Chairperson, 394-6786

Nominations and Elections - Steve Griffin, Chairperson, 394-6786

Resolutions and Public Statements - Dan Hubbard, Chairperson, 688-4780

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Special Committees

Arrangements - Cliff Stone, 734-4530 & Ron Schauer, 362-2700, Co-Chairs

Book Service - Bob Klaver, Chairperson, 594-6067

Certification - Pat Russel, Chairperson, 226-7587

Chapter History - Ron Fowler, Chairperson, 773-4193 (**Looking for new Chairperson**)

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 - Eddie Childers, 433-5263, Co-Chairs

Missouri River Issues - Bruce Vander Lee, Chairperson, 402-667-2583

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 _____

E-mail Address _____

Please Check One: New Member 2004 Dues Renewal

Employer _____

Sponsor's Name

Send the completed application/renewal form and a check for \$10.00 (regular),
\$6.00 (student) to: Bridgette Flanders-Wanner, 418 Congress Street,
Aberdeen SD 57401

Printed on Recycled Paper

50% Recycled (10% Post Consumer)



Return to:
Bridgette Flanders-Wanner
418 Congress Street
Aberdeen SD 57401