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

September 2004

President's Message

Greetings to all,

I trust that everyone has enjoyed this summer by getting out and having some fun. I emphasize "has enjoyed", as summer is almost gone and fall will not be far behind. I usually never worry much about summertime and summer activities being behind us, as the fall season brings a whole new array of activities to enjoy, and the cooler weather is an added bonus. Some of you may disagree that the cool weather is a bonus, and some will even argue that we didn't have a typical summer to begin with. If I think back on the summer, I would have to agree that it was a little different than a normal scorching South Dakota summer. At least out here in the western side of the State we have endured a below average June, and average July, and record low temperatures in August. I know that only half of my garden survived a 30 degree night on August 10th. I only hope that I can salvage enough to enjoy some veggies. Whatever the weather, I hope that we all can find some time to enjoy ourselves in some activity this fall.

On the business end of things, it has been a fairly quiet the last few months. Things will start to get busy again with more involved planning for next year's annual meeting. There is a terrific group of people to working on the planning, and things are progressing along nicely. Please read through the newsletter for any pertinent information regarding future events or information items. As I was reviewing the Special Committees that we have in our Chapter, I noticed that there were a couple of vacancies. If anyone is interested in Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife or Chapter History, there is a need for committee chairs. The Board always welcomes comments and suggestions from the members, and we highly recommend getting involved in some way.

Enjoy the fall,

Steve Griffin

Minutes of the June 2, 2004 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

President Steve Griffin recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. at the Foss Building in Pierre, SD. Board members present were Art Smith, Steve Griffin, Diane Mann-Klager, Will Morlock, Laura Hubers, and Bridgette Flanders-Wanner.

Flanders-Wanner presented the minutes of the March 7, 2004 board meeting and the 2004 Annual Meeting. Smith motioned to accept both minutes and Mann-Klager seconded the motion. Motion passed. Flanders-Wanner presented the quarterly treasurer's report and the financial statement from the 2004 Annual Meeting. Smith motioned to accept both treasurer's reports, seconded by Hubers. Motion passed.

Old Business

Correspondence Sent and Received

Letters Received: Senator Tim Johnson, Senator Tom Daschle, and Governor Mike Rounds sent response letters in regards to the SDTWS Resolution on wilderness proposals on Buffalo Gap National

Grassland. Harry Hodgdon, Executive Director of the Wildlife Society (TWS), sent letters thanking SDTWS for contributions of \$2,000 in support of the Endowment Campaign to Sustain Wildlife Conservation and \$250 in support of the TWS's 11th Annual Conference in Calgary, Alberta. The South Dakota Water Quality Council sent a copy of the letter regarding adverse impacts to water quality, which would result from the proposed construction of an extensive system of sub-surface drainage tile in southern Moody County. SDTWS had previously agreed to sign on to the letter. John Cooper, Secretary of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, sent a carbon copy letter regarding development of South Dakota Endangered Species Management Plans.

Letters Sent: Copies of "A Resolution to Support Wilderness Designation on the Current Inventoried Roadless Lands in South Dakota and to Support the Concept of Future Proposed Wilderness Designations in South Dakota", passed at the 2004 Annual Meeting, were sent to: Tom Franklin,

TWS Wildlife Policy Director; Harry Hodgdon, TWS Executive Director; Jim Hays, Central Mountains & Plains Section (CMPS) President; Tom Ryder, CMPS Representative; Governor Mike Rounds; US Senator Tom Daschle; US Senator Tim Johnson; and US Representative (Vacant). Thank you letters were sent to all 2004 Annual Meeting sponsors. A Section and Chapter Officer Report Form was sent to the parent chapter.

Past Presidents

Smith offered to send letters to all Past Presidents to initiate the process of forming a group. It was agreed that by default, all former presidents of SDTWS would be included, but an official response would be requested from those interested in active participation in the group. The main contact would be the current Past President.

New Business

Requests for Funding

South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation: Eileen Dowd-Stukel made an informal request for financial

support of the second of four or five Birding Trail Guides in South Dakota. Morlock moved to require a formal request for funding with additional details of what the funding request would accomplish and a preferred funding level. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed. Morlock motioned to donate \$500 to the project upon receipt of the formal request. Mann-Klager seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pheasants Forever: Dr. Kenneth Higgins, Pheasants Forever Board Member, made a request of \$1,000 to help support two projects related to Pheasants Forever's Leopold Education Project. Morlock motioned to donate \$600 to pay for the train-the-trainer portion of the project. Smith seconded the motion. Following discussion of the motion, the motion was withdrawn. Flanders-Wanner motioned to fund both projects, the train-the-trainer (facilitator workshop) and materials needed for a Leopold Education workshop, at the half-way level for a sum of \$500. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

South Dakota Conservation Alliance (SDCA)

Paul Coughlin, former president of SDTWS, attended the meeting to discuss the formation of the South Dakota Conservation Alliance. The Alliance currently involved only non-profit organizations throughout South Dakota that were interested in issues purely related to conservation. SDCA's most important role would be to address conservation issues through the South Dakota legislature by reacting to detrimental legislation and proactively introducing conservation-friendly legislation. Coughlin invited SDTWS to join this alliance as a charter member and noted that, in the future, the alliance may seek financial support from SDTWS to help fund a SDCA lobbyist. SDTWS was interested in learning more about the alliance as it developed.

Society of American Foresters (SAF) Meeting

Sponsorship

Griffin reported that our bylaws, which state that SDTWS's annual meeting must be held between January and April, would preclude SDTWS from participating in a joint annual meeting with the SAF this fall. Griffin showed greater interest in supporting the meeting by sponsoring a break and promoting the meeting to our membership than in officially co-sponsoring this upcoming meeting, which focuses highly on forestry-related issues in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Website Updates

The following updates to the SDTWS website pages were suggested: 2004 award recipients, grants (requirements, guidelines, and previously funded projects), updated committee chairs, and life members' numbers. Automatic links to officer e-mails were also suggested.

June Newsletter

Contents of the June newsletter were discussed with the following contents suggested: reminder to pay 2004 annual dues; 2004 recipients of the Citizen's Award, Professional Award, and Best Student and Professional Presentations; minutes from the annual meeting and March 7 board meeting; announcement of SDTWS's newest life member (Tony Leif); changes in committee chairs; official date of 2005 Annual Meeting (March 7-9); and recently funded projects.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting was set for August 24, 2004, at 11:00 am in Chamberlain, SD. Morlock moved to adjourn and Hubers seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgette Flanders-Wanner
Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS

Upcoming Meeting Announcement

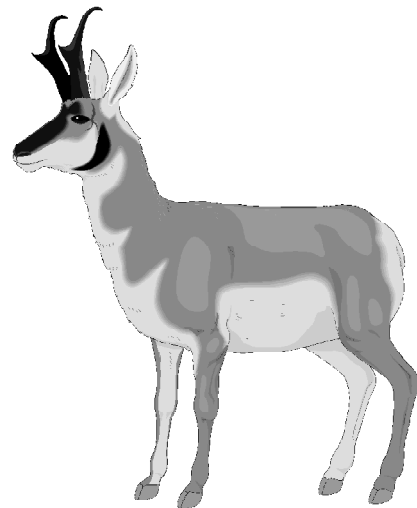
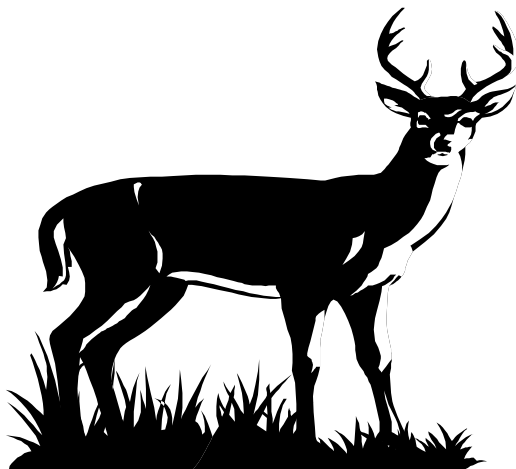
Greetings:

I would like to give you all advance notice of a conference planned for October 27, 2004 at the Ramkota in Rapid City and a field tour of sites on the Black Hills National Forest and Custer State Park on October 28, 2004. The Dakota Society of American Foresters is planning it with support from The Wildlife Society. An agenda will be finalized soon but includes the following topics: ponderosa pine silvics and fire, historic fire regimes, aspen conditions and management in the Black Hills, mountain pine beetle status and actions, snag assessment and use, fire effects and vegetation recovery in the Jasper Fire, and perhaps fire and habitat management in northwest South Dakota. Note it on your calendar.

An impressive list of speakers is being put together to include local practitioners, representatives from Colorado State University, the Rocky Mountain Research Station, etc. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn the latest information and network with fellow land managers.

If you have questions, please contact Dave Thom.

Dave Thom, Resource Staff Officer
Black Hills National Forest
Custer, SD 57730
605-673-9206
FAX 605-673-9208
dthom@fs.fed.us



2005 SDTWS Annual Meeting

Plans are underway for the 2005 SDTWS annual meeting. The meeting will again be held at the Cedar Shore Center in Oacoma. The dates of the next meeting will be March 7 – 9, 2005. Please mark these dates on your calendar now and keep them open to attend this meeting. We hope to have a very informative and educational meeting. The meeting is scheduled to return to Cedar Shore due to its central location and input received from members that they enjoyed the excellent accommodations. The 2004 attendance was great and we hope it will be surpassed in 2005.

I am still looking for candidates for the board. Candidate positions available are president-elect, one board member, and secretary-treasurer. If you are interested, or know someone that is interested, please send me an e-mail or give me a call.

This is also a call for general papers and student papers to be presented during the meeting. If you have some information that would be beneficial to others, please consider making a presentation. I am also looking for a dynamic speaker for the banquet. If you know someone that is entertaining and has a good message to present, let me know. The board is especially interested in a speaker that is connected to the news media.

Respectfully submitted by – Will Morlock, President-elect

Call for Assistance

How's your Chapter archive files? Have you looked at them lately?

Actually, what I really want you to look for are any old files you may have that are position statements or white papers that the Chapter has produced over the years. If you've been on the Chapter web site lately, you would have seen a page that is housing our past and present position statements and white papers. When we started collecting these items, it was almost immediately obvious that the then current Executive Board did not have a complete set of these documents. What we had, we scanned and put on our web site, but we knew there was more that we could not find.

We now need your help in finding what we are missing. So please check through any old files you may have for past statements or papers the Chapter produced. Please send whatever you find to Art Smith, Dept. Game, Fish & Parks, 523 E. Capitol Ave, Pierre, SD 57501 so they can be scanned and added to our archival collection. Many thanks in advance to everyone!!

Art Smith

Vote! Vote! Vote!

Make Your Voice Count

On November 2, 2004 Americans will elect the next President of the United States. Here in South Dakota we will be electing a United States Senator and our lone member to the House of Representatives. Likewise senators and representatives will be elected to our state legislature. Americans will not easily forget the 2000 Presidential election. “Chads” - hanging, pregnant, or otherwise - became a part of the national vocabulary. But how many realize that the decision for who should lead our country for the next four years was made by barely half of the population that was eligible to vote?

If you don't want future decisions left to half the people, make sure you vote. It is easier than ever to register to vote in South Dakota and you have until October 18th to do so. You can register at any of the following locations:

County auditor's office
City finance office
Driver's license station
Public assistance agency
Department of Human Services
Military recruitment office

You can also download a registration form or fill out an on-line form, print and send it to the auditor of the county in which you reside. The Secretary of State site for these forms can be found at www.sdsos.gov/vote/. Addresses for county auditors can also be found here. You may also use this form to change your registration name, address, or your party affiliation. Remember, if you register as an independent you will not be able to vote in primary elections for the major party candidates. And just because you register as a Democrat or Republican does not mean you can't vote for someone in another party. Other information that can be found at the Secretary of State site is general information about poll hours, candidates, and how to apply for an absentee ballot.

There are all kinds of web sites with information about candidates views on various issues but be careful to look for unbiased sites if you want accurate information. Presidential debates will be held on September 30th, October 8th and 13th. A debate between vice presidential candidates will be held on October 5th. Likewise there will be debates featuring the candidates for the U.S. Senate and House seats. Check your local television listings for times and channels.

National elections tend to get bogged down on issues that may not personally matter to you but find out where the candidates stand on those that do. Issues like energy, the Conservation Reserve Program or other farm programs, and the environment do not always get a lot of air play, but decisions made (or not) on these issues now could have lasting and costly effects for future generations.

Although there are some inherent problems in our government and election system, this is a government for the people, by the people - but only if you take the time to vote. Don't let half the people make all the decisions.

Laura Hubers

Does One Vote Make a Difference?

In the 2002 South Dakota U.S. Senate race Tim Johnson defeated John Thune by 528 votes out of 337,497 votes cast. If just one more person in each of South Dakota's 844 precincts had gone to the polling place or filled out an absentee ballot and voted for Mr. Thune, he would have been elected instead of Mr. Johnson.

Tim Johnson – 167,477

John Thune – 166,949

Kurt Evans – 3,021

In the 2000 Presidential election Texas Governor George W. Bush won the popular vote in Florida over Vice President Al Gore by 537 votes out of 5,963,110 votes cast. Winning Florida's popular vote gave Governor Bush Florida's 27 electoral votes and the Electoral College election 271 to 266 with one abstention. (One District of Columbia elector abstained rather than voting for Al Gore.)

George W. Bush – 2,912,790

Al Gore – 2,912,253

Others – 138,067

Voting In the 2000 Presidential Elections

In 2000 there were 186 million American citizens that were eligible to vote (eighteen years and older). Of these, 130 million registered to vote and of those that registered, 111 million actually voted. This means that 86% of those who registered to vote did in fact vote and that 60% of those eligible to vote did vote.

How does South Dakota compare nationally? Not too good. In the 2000 presidential election 59% of the South Dakotans eligible to vote, did cast ballots. This was below the national average of 60% and 33rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia had the best participation with 72% of its eligible voters casting ballots. Our neighbor to the north, North Dakota, was second with 71% and our neighbors to the east, Minnesota and Iowa, were 5th and 7th respectively with 69% and 67% participation. 51st and last was the Aloha State of Hawaii with 44% participation.

“To make democracy work we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers. One who does not vote has no right to complain.” – Louis L'Amour

Preparation for Alerts for SDTWS members

The SDTWS membership was asked to contact their legislators during the 2003 legislative session about a bill limiting conservation easements. Prompt action by the President and Secretary, plus a well placed delay, allowed membership concerns to get to the legislature. Legislators used the talking points presented by SDTWS for declining support of the bill on the floor; evidence that the letters and e-mails worked. This year we would like to have an e-mail alert should such a bill be proposed again. This e-mail alert will not be a list server but a one-way communication of actions needed by the membership. During the annual conference almost a half of the membership gave permission to use their email address for this purpose. We would like more members on this e-mail alert. Again, this is not a list serve and will only be used should the Board feel that a volume of responses is needed to protect our natural resources. If you are interested please send an e-mail to Diane Mann-Klager at dianemk@nvc.net. Thank you!

Diane Mann-Klager

South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Life Membership Dues

Tired of writing a check every year to renew your membership in the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society? Then consider becoming a life member! Dues are prorated by age and can be seen in the column to the right.

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

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

Join the seventeen Life Members in the SDTWS and help the Chapter maintain a long term funding source. If you are interested in becoming a Life Member, visit the website at www.sdwildlife.org and look under the membership section for information or contact Chad Switzer at 605-353-6699.

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

“Conservation is a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of ensuring the safety and continuance of the nation.”

President Theodore Roosevelt

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Executive Board

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Waubay NWR Complex
44401 134A Street
Waubay SD 57273
phone 605-947-4521
fax:

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Standing Committees

Audit - Art Smith, Chairperson, 773-7595

Awards - Mike Lees, Chairperson, 773-4675

Conservation Review - Paul Coughlin, Chairperson, 773-4194

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

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

Program - Will Morlock Chairperson, 882-5200

Nominations and Elections - Will Morlock, Chairperson, 882-5200

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

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Special Committees

Arrangements - Cliff Stone, Chairperson, 734-4530

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 & Boyd Shulz, 697-2500, 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

Wetlands and Waterbirds Recognition Honor Roll - John Koerner & Ken Higgins, 688-6121, Co-Chairs

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, 819 Kansas Avenue SE, Huron SD
57350-2826

Printed on Recycled Paper

50% Recycled (10% Post Consumer)



Return to:
Bridgette Flanders-Wanner
819 Kansas Ave. SE
Huron SD 57350-2826