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NRM Newsletter

Natural Resource Management

Winter 2011

Natural Resource Management Newsletter

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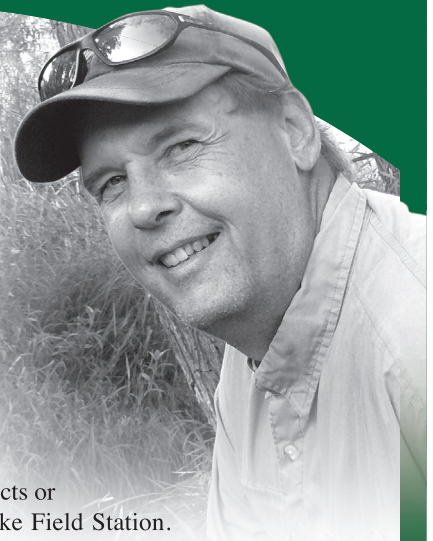
Natural Resource Management

NEWSLETTER

Department of Natural Resource Management
South Dakota State University

Change is a Constant

BY NELS H. TROELSTRUP, JR. (ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT HEAD)



Stafford Receives the Doug Wilcox Award

In recognition of his work and contributions as an Associate Editor of *Wetlands*, Joshua Stafford was selected to receive the Doug Wilcox Award for Outstanding Associate Editor of *Wetlands* for 2011. This award was presented at the Society of Wetlands Scientists awards lunch on July 5 in Prague, Czech Republic. Congratulations Josh!

**A New Department Name—
Natural Resource Management
requires a new web address.**
Check us out at:
www.sdstate.edu/nrm

As you will notice the "Wildlifer's Log" has been renamed to "Natural Resource Management Newsletter". We are asking you to submit your ideas for the official new name of the Department newsletter. Please submit your ideas to: terri.symens@sdstate.edu **THANK YOU.**

An ecology professor once told me "Change is a Constant." Certainly, this generalization has been supported by all the changes which have occurred here at SDSU over the past several years. Last spring was an unsettling and troubling time. Several years of budget cuts finally took their toll and SDSU lost people and programs. However, above the dust and turmoil arose the new Natural Resource Management department. Our new department includes selected faculty previously with Biology & Microbiology, Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape & Parks, Range Science and Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences. Arguably, this was one of the very positive changes that happened here on campus last spring. Finally, faculty and students with similar interests, people who had worked together on projects, students who took many classes together and faculty who interacted with the same agencies for years would finally be put together in one department. To be sure, not everyone was happy to let go of old department affiliations. However, as Seth Reice wrote - every disturbance has a silver lining.

The new department will manage all three majors – Ecology and Environmental Science, Range Science and Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Our new Ecology and Environmental Science major combines the previous ecology specialization in Biology with the old Environmental Management major. Curricula from all three majors will be managed and integrated within our single department. Think of the opportunities now open to our undergraduate and graduate students - lots more interaction with students from the other majors, greater diversity and access to graduate courses, many more undergraduate research and technician experiences available, shared seminars with students in the other majors and greater ease in moving sideways between majors.

The headquarters for our new department is located in the old Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences office in Northern Plains Biostress. Over time, we expect most of our faculty to be housed and have lab space in this building. Some faculty members have already begun the shuffle of reorgani-

zation to make this happen.

Many of you took courses, conducted independent research projects or worked as technicians at Oak Lake Field Station. The station is doing well. We've received strong support from Dean Barry Dunn and AES Director Daniel Scholl. This past summer, the station hosted research students and faculty working on a biofuels/biodiversity project, lake production project, biological monitoring project, a project to evaluate the effectiveness of BMP's to reduce sediment loads and an ongoing effort to develop a statewide collection and database of aquatic invertebrates. Introduction to Range Science, Principles of Ecology lab, Plant Ecology, USFWS plant identification workshop, ROTC orienteering, Science Camp and Native American Writer's Retreats all used the station this year. In addition, the station hosted the annual college administrators retreat and the annual USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit meeting this fall. Earlier this summer, SD DENR donated approximately \$40,000 worth of water quality monitoring equipment, which will greatly enhance capabilities for future aquatic projects.

We're already seeing some integration of research programs and joint lab meetings among faculty with similar research interests and integrated seminar courses are already planned for the 2012 school year. Of course the size of the new department has created greater strain on our office staff and Dr. Willis. I was honored last spring to be asked to assist Dave and hopefully lighten his load and that of the staff. I am very upbeat about the new department. I believe that this new alignment will be good for our research programs, good for our students and will lead toward better service to natural resources in South Dakota. I know all of us here hope you'll find your way back to visit the new department. Yes – change is a constant, but there is a silver lining.

First Impressions

BY JOSHUA STAFFORD



My first impressions of Brookings and South Dakota State University started to form when I interviewed for the Assistant Unit Leader position in Fall 2010. Actually, it was more like a re-acquaintance, given that I completed a Master's degree here in 2000. When my wife and I left Brookings a decade ago I remember being excited to leave for the bigger-college life of Mississippi State University. I never thought of Brookings as being all that much of a college town, and when I returned late last year I didn't expect to find much change. To my

pleasant surprise, how Brookings and SDSU have grown! I was excited to see the two things that I believe are required for a proper college town – at least one coffee shop and a few hippies. More importantly, I was shocked at how campus and undergraduate attendance has matured and increased, the nice selection of restaurants nowadays, and the projects that have really improved the quality of life, most notably the gentrification of Main Street and completion of the wonderful Children's Museum. I admit, the changes to campus and the

city were part of what drew me back to SDSU.

As big as these changes seemed they were just the tip of the iceberg. My first day on the job, as a Federal employee at a State University, appears to have been timed for maximum entropy. You see, I started on April 1, which was precisely one week from the day on which the federal government would shut down if budget measures were not passed by congress. My first emails didn't regard settling in, but rather what I needed to do in case of a fur-

SDSU Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club Hosts Benefit Raffle

The SDSU Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club worked hard during December, 2010 until February, 2011 to raise money to assist Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Senior major Tonna Hartman of Brandon, SD. Tonna was severely injured on Veteran's Day 2010 when she was working on a Club research project. While trying to retrieve a raccoon radio collar, Tonna fell and suffered a major back injury, shattering two vertebrae. She was rushed to the Emergency Room, airlifted to Sioux Falls Orthopedic Unit, and underwent emergency surgery, where two rods were inserted into her back. She was also forced to wear a back brace for three months.

The Club held an executive board meeting several days later to determine how to proceed with a benefit, where they decided to raffle a CZ Redhead Over/Under Shotgun. Determined Club members set up several booths around the SDSU campus and outside of Walmart in the sub-zero degree weather. Booths were also set up in Tonna's hometown of Brandon, SD. Several SDSU Clubs made very large donations to the cause, as did Governor Dennis Daugaard. Donations and get-well letters came in the mail by the hundreds, coming from as far away at Seattle, WA and New Orleans, LA. On February 16, 2011, Tonna drew the winner of the shotgun and was presented a check of \$5,770 by Club President Brynn Parr. The gun winner was Herbert Troester of Vernal, Utah. Mr. Troester then do-



Tonna Hartman (left) is presented with a check for \$5,770 by SDSU Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club President Brynn Parr (right).

nated the gun back to the Club. The Club would like to thank one and all who helped with this benefit. It goes to show how far you can go when you bring people together for a common goal.

IMPRESSIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lough! On top of that, budget issues at the State and University level had folks voicing concerns, rightly so it turned out, about potential changes to faculty salaries, appointments, and the Department. The job I left to come to SDSU was with the University of Illinois, part of an incredibly dysfunctional government system (think former governor Rod Blagojevich) that forced me to spend considerable time fussing over budgets and political issues and I was ready to leave them behind. Well, the first few days at SDSU started to feel like that old saying – out of the frying pan, into the fire! But it didn't take long to be reminded of some critical things that did not change. Untouched, and in fact emboldened, was the resiliency and excellence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences (soon to become the Department of Natural Resource Management – more change!) and their commitment to top-notch research, natural resources, and the people they serve. I couldn't have been more proud to be a part of this Department as I saw my new colleagues be resourceful and pragmatic and push through these changes and crises.

The topic of change and resiliency really does define my first several months here and, like our science, it was happening at multiple scales. I was literally shocked and amazed at the changes to the wetland and upland landscape of South Dakota that the critters I love rely on. On the one hand, I arrived at a time of incredible abundance for waterfowl – unprecedented runoff and precipitation filled pot-hole wetlands and spilled into floodplains that probably hadn't been wet in during the breeding season in many years. Ducks would likely have good success given the sheer abundance of water, especially in boom-areas like the James River Valley. And indeed, breeding population estimates (and, by most accounts, fall hunting success) were excellent. At first blush, it appeared to be a time of plenty for a duck guy returning to the Prairies.

On closer inspection, however, it became clear that tremendous, in fact unprecedented, changes were taking place in this critical ecoregion for waterfowl. With record commodity prices, grass that had withstood the plow for nearly two centuries was being broken. Conservation contracts were expiring and not being renewed. And with all the water, everyone was looking for a way to dry their land. In the old days, tiling or otherwise draining wetlands was a significant endeavor, but I learned that modern equipment was able to tile an entire field as easily and quickly as installing a sprinkler system in one's lawn. I cannot say how much tile I have seen go in the ground in the few months I've been back, nor how much grass turned upside down, but I am confident it has influenced thousands of acres. Clearly, such rapid change provides challenges and opportunities for waterfowl research, and indeed it appears I'll have my work cut out for me as I endeavor to help train the next generation of waterfowl and wetland managers and scientists.

My notes of grim change are easily balanced by the resilience of the land and animals, and as spring progressed through summer and fall, my wife and I were reminded why we loved living here so much. Despite change and degradation, wildlife is so incredibly abundant here compared to other parts of the country, and so visible too. From the first honks of Canada gray's returning to nest on the countless huts of muskrats, to yarded up pheasants that held on through a tough winter, to the bend in the graceful long neck of a Northern Pintail as she courts her mate in a temporary puddle, the sheer bounty of fauna here is breathtaking – all over again. I am incredibly grateful and excited to be a part of it all once more.

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SDSU Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society – Chili Feeds

One of the fund-raisers for the SDSU AFS subunit is their once-per-semester chili feeds. People from across campus stop by for a bowl of chili and all the fixin's. The following two pictures are from the March 2011 feed. Their timing was good as we had a late snow the day before, and it was cold outside!



RIGHT: Undergraduate student Kris Stahr works the money box at the chili feed.



LEFT: M.S. student Hilary Meyer (advisor: S. Chipps) thought that a fish cake would be highly appropriate for the chili feed.

News from the South Dakota Coop Unit

BY STEVE CHIPPS, UNIT LEADER

“The Times They Are a Changin’” [Bob Dylan]. I once wrote that if you own this album, you’re probably an old geezer like me. Or maybe you’re just a Dylan fan. But in any case, we all recognize that times do ‘change’, often out of necessity, and make us better for them. This year marked some significant changes for our Department and the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit – changes that will undoubtedly make us stronger and more competitive in today’s professional environment. A lot has ‘changed’ with the Coop Unit since last year, starting with the fact that the Unit is

now fully staffed with the recent hires of two scientists. Dr. Joshua Stafford, our new Assistant Unit Leader-Wildlife, reported for duty in April 2011. Josh is a waterfowl ecologist who before arriving at the Unit, spent several years with the Illinois Natural History Survey as Director of the Bellrose Waterfowl Research Center. A native of Oregon, Josh graduated from Oregon State University before receiving his Master’s degree at South Dakota State University under the guidance of Dr. Les Flake (Distinguished Professor Emeritus). Josh received his Ph.D. from Mississippi State University and since arriving at the Unit has a number of waterfowl projects underway. In October 2011, we filled our third vacancy with the hire of Dr. Larry Gigliotti – Assistant Unit Leader-Ecology. Larry brings a strong background in Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management to the Unit, and before arriving in Brookings spent the last 18 years working as the Human Dimensions Specialist for South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks. Larry received his undergraduate degree from Penn State University and his Master’s and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University. Another significant addition to the Unit was the recent hire of Mrs. Kathryn (Kate) Tvedt. Kate is our new Unit Administrative Assistant and helps the Coop Unit

with a variety of federal reporting requirements and maintenance of our new web page at http://www.coop-units.org/South_Dakota/. She also has several Department duties. Prior to joining the Unit, Kate served as an English teacher and volleyball coach in the public school system. Kate’s position is new, in that she represents the first full time Administrative Assistant assigned to the Unit -- a ‘change’ that the Unit is very grateful for and that would not have been possible without the strong support of the Department, GF&P and the University Administration. The Unit also recently ‘changed’ location by moving our office and reception area to the second floor of the Northern Plains Biostress Laboratory (former Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape and Parks main office). Our new space near the atrium is working great—and we welcome alumni and friends to stop by when in town. It is only one flight of stairs from the main Department, and Kate always has a jar of candy on her desk. And last but not least, next year marks the 50th Anniversary of the South Dakota Coop Unit. Having been around for longer than any of the current employees, it is clear that the Coop Unit at South Dakota State represents the sum of the people and cooperators who have contributed to its success. So, thanks to all of the alumni and friends who call South Dakota State University home.

USGS South Dakota Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit



(Left to right): Dr. Larry Gigliotti, Assistant Unit Leader; Kathryn Tvedt, Administrative Assistant; Dr. Steve Chipps, Unit Leader; Dr. Joshua Stafford, Assistant Unit Leader

Dr. Wuellner Recognized for Online Teaching

BY DAVE WILLIS

Dr. Melissa Wuellner (Ph.D. 2009 and faculty member since January 2010) is being nominated as the first SDSU faculty member to achieve the Master level for the university’s Online Instructor Certification Program. To achieve this status, a faculty member must proceed through the basic and advanced levels of certification by taking a series of three short online training courses, teaching online for at least four consecutive semesters, completing a full or partial re-design of an existing course to incorporate at least one new technology, or developing one on-campus class to online format, and mentoring instructors who are new to the online environment. Dr. Wuellner has adapted the summer online WL 110 (Environmental Conservation) class to be offered during the fall and spring semesters and has fully developed WL 220 (Introduction to Wildlife and Fisheries) and WL 230 (Wildlife and Fisheries Techniques) for the distance environment. To date, she has mentored seven new online instructors and been nominated for the 2010 Instructional Technology Council Awards for Excellence in Teaching in the category for “Outstanding Online Course.” If the nomination is successful, Dr. Wuellner will receive a monetary recognition award from SDSU President Chicoine at the annual celebration of faculty excellence. We hope to learn that she received the award no later than January of 2012.

Department Enrollments – Graduate and Undergraduate

Let’s begin with the undergraduate numbers. Due to the department combining, we learned new information about just how the counting is actually done. Following is the official, fall census day counts for our undergraduate majors. For Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences alumni, the enrollment of 293 is another all-time record, surpassing the previous record of 275 that was reached in both fall of 2007 and fall of 2010.

Ecology and Environmental Science	10
Environmental Management	19
Range Science	25
Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences	293
TOTAL	347

However, this does NOT tell the entire story. It turns out that the 347 undergraduates for whom we get credit are simply those who declared one of our majors as their first major. Many students have more than one

major, and those students also require time and resources from the department. There actually are 20 students enrolled in the Ecology and Environmental Science major, plus the 35 who remain in the old Environmental Management degree, for a total of 55. We actually have 342 undergraduate students who have a major in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Range Science remains at a total of 25 undergraduates in the major.

Now, let’s switch to the graduate program. As of 1 December, 2011, we had the following graduate students and graduate programs being advised by faculty members in our new department. Notice the diversity in degree options.

MS Animal and Range Sciences	2
MS Biological Sciences	12
MS Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences	31
PhD Biological Sciences	2
PhD Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences	16
TOTAL	63

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Career Service Staff



The Career Service personnel: **Terri Symens** (1991–present), **Kate Tvedt** (joined our Department and Coop Unit in May), **Di Drake** (1987–present), and **Jeanne Lush** (joined our Department in June from the Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape and Parks Department and then retired from our Department in December).



Dawn Van Ballegooyen joined our Natural Resource Management Career Service team on December 22. Dawn comes to us with eight years of campus experience.



Richard Sweeney (2003–present) takes his quarter-time position quite seriously, and truly enjoys working with our students. His pride in the department is evident when you see the meticulous care he gives to the grounds.



Carol Jacobson retired in March after eight years in Wildlife and Fisheries.

Buffalo Banquet Overview

Our Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club hosted our 63rd annual Buffalo Banquet on Thursday, October 20 at The Old Sanctuary in Brookings. Pictures of the scholarship winners are found throughout the newsletter. A social began at 5:30 and the meal at 6:00 p.m. Alumnus Steve Riley, now with Pheasants Forever, displayed his professional courtesy by traveling to Brookings and being our banquet speaker.

Due to stock market recovery, our scholarship amounts have rebounded. We awarded just over \$30,950 in departmental scholarships this year. In addition, wildlife and fisheries sciences majors earned \$28,650 in university and college (Agriculture and Biological Sciences) scholarships, for a grand total of \$59,600. I am also pleased (and astounded) to report that the Wilbur Allen Scholarships that we have presented since its initiation in spring of 1985 have now surpassed \$530,000! Isn't that amazing?

This was the last year that only the wildlife and fisheries sciences scholarships were awarded. In 2012, it appears that we will change to a spring banquet, and award scholarships for ecology and environmental sciences, range science, and wildlife and fisheries sciences.

Kjellsen Hunting Heritage Award

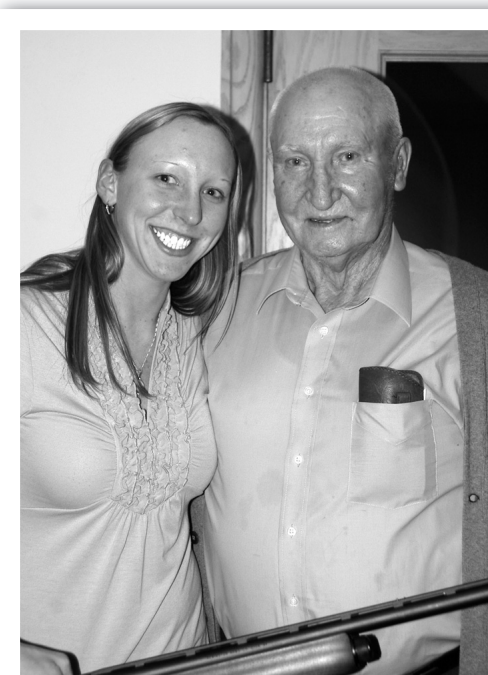
The Kjellsen Hunting Heritage Award, established in 1998, is an annual award consisting of a firearm given in honor of Mayo and Joyce Kjellsen and celebrating the tradition of sport hunting. The award is available to a junior or senior student in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University. To apply for this award, students must have junior or senior standing; have been a member of the Wildlife Conservation Club for a minimum of two years; have a minimum GPA of 2.5 in the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences curriculum; and, be an ethical hunter who believes in fair chase and equal hunting opportunities. This year's winner was Christina Koehler. Her essay for the competition follows.

Tradition Hunting by Christina Koehler

Tradition hunting to me is spending time with family and friends while obtaining a memory that will last a lifetime. I have several memories of hunting adventures but the one I would like to share with you is one that I will truly cling to forever. Just this fall I went grouse hunting with a dear friend of mine at our favorite waterfowl production area in Marshal Co. It was a beautiful fall afternoon; you couldn't ask for a better one, it was in the high 60's and the warm season grasses were in their prime with an assortment of golden brown and purple colors. The English setters were in paradise with the fresh scent of grouse in the grass. I think they were more excited than we were. Mid-way through the hunt we decided to give the dogs a rest so we sat on a side hill looking over a wetland. We sat there talking about life and all the challenges that it brings. We happen to look up and see the dogs playing in the water. The sheer enjoyment they got out of it reminded us how often we take for granted the simple pleasures of life. Even though we didn't get a bird that day we obtained a memory that will last a lifetime, which is to enjoy the simple pleasures of life. Memories are made not by what you get but what you get out of the pursuit of the hunt.

When you ask me for my philosophy of equal hunting opportunities what comes to mind is giving everyone a chance to enjoy the memories that are made by hunting. It is truly a shame that so many people go through life not getting the chance to hunt. This is partly due to the fact that kids grow up with parents that don't hunt or because they live in cities. I think a big solution to this problem is getting the word out there that there are programs for kids to get involved with outdoor activities and that they are several public land hunting opportunities out there for the folks that live in cities. There are several great hunting opportunities available for youth. I think the word just needs to get spread that they are out there. Adults need to take advantage of the mentored hunting program which allows adults to take a youth out and experience their first hunt along with teaching them ethical hunting practices and ethical land uses. We need to target kids because they are the future of the hunting heritage and they need to be taught ethical hunting practices.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity for me to share with you what the tradition of hunting means to me and my thoughts on equal hunting opportunities.



Christina Koehler with Mayo Kjellsen



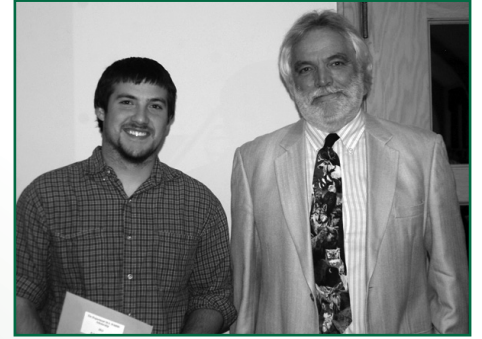
STREETER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP:
Athena Turner and Dr. Brian Graeb



LARRY AND JO KALLEMEYN SCHOLARSHIP:
Dr. Mike Brown and Emma Kanaan



GERALD SPAWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:
Dr. Katie Bertrand and Brianna Gaughan



OUTSTANDING WILDLIFE M.S. GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD:
Kyle Monteith and Dr. Jon Jenks



SOUTH DAKOTA WALLEYE UNLIMITED: Left to right are Darrell Solberg, Austin Norton, Tyler Sexton, Davita Kittelson, Chad Kaiser, and Jeff Decker



WILBUR ALLEN SCHOLARSHIP: Left to right: Morgan Kauth, Dr. Nels Trolestrup, Ashley Hrabe, Shilo Peer, Kris Stahr, Alex Kunkel, Seth Sparks, Kelsey Bedford, Brett Kleinschmit, and Nicholas Markl.



SOUTH DAKOTA CONSERVATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP:
CO Chad Williams, recipient Jason Bumsted and CO Blake Yonke



STEPHEN ZEBARTH SCHOLARSHIP:
Brynn Parr and Dr. Susan Rupp



HEARTLAND PHEASANTS FOREVER SCHOLARSHIP:
Undergraduate Student Athena Turner, Dr. Dan Hubbard, and Graduate Student Joshua White



NORGREN MEMORIAL AWARD: Front: Jordan Purintun, Emily Gaston; Back: Wyatt Mack, Dr. Melissa Wuellner, and Kyle Behl



LLOYD FREDRICKSON MEMORIAL AWARD (OUTSTANDING FISHERIES PH.D. STUDENT):
Daniel James and Dr. Steve Chippis



LLOYD FREDRICKSON MEMORIAL AWARD (OUTSTANDING WILDLIFE PH.D. STUDENT):
Dr. Jon Jenks and Joshua Smith

ALUMNI NEWS - ALUMNI NEWS - ALUMNI NEWS - ALUMNI NEWS

From **GENO ADAMS** (MS 2004), Fisheries Program Administrator, SDGFP-Pierre Dave,

We had a load of perch from Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery that two of Todd St. Sauver's employees had to pick up and stock yesterday. One was an intern, Matthew Perrion, and the other a seasonal, Andrew Wuestewald. I believe they both have undergraduate SDSU connections.

They noticed some small organisms swimming around in the water with the perch. They figured something wasn't right, so they took the initiative to call Gavins Point for more information. Then they called Todd and let him know the load of fish had "clam shrimp" in with the perch.

Other hatcheries around the Midwest have had issues with clam shrimp so we were advised to not take the load of fish as to not risk somehow getting them into Blue Dog Hatchery.

I just wanted to let you know how impressed we were that these two young guys had the foresight to recognize the situation and do something about it. Todd was extremely happy and mentioned that SDSU should be proud of guys like this!

BERNARD HIEN (M.S., 2005) recently left West Africa for a position with the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). He moved to Rome, Italy, in January of 2011. Congratulations Bernard, and keep us updated! In fact, on December 28, 2011 he and his wife surprised us with a visit.

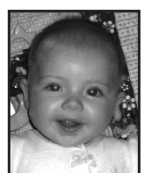


Hein



Samantha Kay Ermer

Samantha Kay Ermer, born to **MARK** (MS 2001) and **JACQUIE** (MS 2000), on Friday, March 25, 2011 at 06:50 AM. 7 lbs. 9 oz., 21 in.



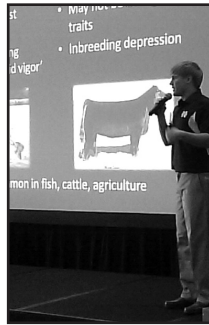
Emma Ward

We received this from **MATT WARD** ("the elder") (MS 2003) in March of 2011. "On another note, my daughter is now almost 5 months and life has changed a lot. She's now the boss and decides when, how, and where we do everything. But life is good. I bought some pink musky crank baits this winter, so we will see if 'Emma' can catch her first

musky this year trolling, or at least her lure." Emma was born 10/7/10. Matt is a Fisheries Specialist for Lake Superior Area DNR Fisheries in Duluth, MN.

BOB KLAVER (Ph.D. 2001) was recently named the Leader of the Iowa Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Congratulations and best wishes!

Former undergraduate student **NICK PETERSON** (BS 2009) has a M.S. assistantship studying large-mouth bass genetics at Mississippi State University. In April 2011, Nick was on the program at Pond Boss Conference and Expo IV. He updated the audience on potential effects of genetics in pond management.



Nick Peterson

JEFF GLEASON (BS 1992, MS 1997) reports that he was married in August 2011. "Dr. Deborah Epperson (originally from FL, but now a LA resident) and I were married by **TODD LOOMIS** (MS 1997) in Alaska.

Newlyweds
Deborah and Jeff

It was a nice wedding with a few friends in a beautiful setting on the Placer River, south of Anchorage. Todd acted as the marriage commissioner. We spent about 10 days in Alaska fishing and sight-seeing while staying with Todd and his wife, Adrienne." No wedding pictures, but he did send one from an Alaska cruise.

Jeff Gleason always seems to have the best fish photos of our alumni! Here he is with a jack crevalle.

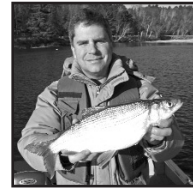


Gleason

Jeff reports that the speckled trout (spotted seatrout) and redbait fishing in coastal Louisiana tends to be best for these species April-May and Oct-Nov.

KAYLA MILLER (BS 2011) and Professor Carol Johnston recently published a paper in *The Prairie Naturalist* entitled "Phragmites australis in South Dakota: historical distribution and environment." The manuscript was based on Kayla's undergraduate research project. Kayla is now a graduate student in the Department of Microbial and Molecular Genetics at Michigan State University.

ROBERT NEUMANN (Ph.D. 1994) netting tullibee for the smoker from a northern lake in late fall, 2011.



Neumann

DON HAMMER (BS 1968) and his wife Joan— Greeting from Leefarm and sunny Arizona. Attending Elks, Cowbells, Gem & Mineral Club, Old Pearce Preservation Association and Historical Society functions. Joan is Cowbelle's Treasurer, newsletter editor, publicist and historian and worked all the fund raising events, made the scrapbook and chaired several Cowbells' activities. We continue to compile ranch histories and copy old ranching photos she uses for displays at various events. Don is still secretary and publicist for the local birding festival and he leads a Ghost Towns field trip. He again served as newsletter editor

and publicist for the Sunsites Gem & Mineral Club. Hoping this finds you in good cheer.

TOM BACULA (MS 2009) is the District One Fisheries Biologist for the Indiana DNR. His supervisor, Jeremy Price, indicated "Tom is a sharp guy who has done an excellent job as the assistant and is more than capable to oversee the district."



Bacula

MIRELA TULBURE (PhD 2008) has accepted a position as Lecturer at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Mirela collaborated on research with several NRM faculty members, including Carol Johnston, Carter Johnson, and Mike Wimberly. Dr. Tulbure was pre-

See ALUMNI NEWS Page 7

Annual Hunt Reunites SDSU Wildlife Alumni

Football tailgates and golf tournaments are great but there's nothing better than a good hunt to reunite SDSU wildlife alumni. Each year these life-long friends and former students from SDSU's Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences reunite for a week of waterfowl hunting... and this fall was no exception. The first week of



October 2011 found these 6 jackrabbits hunting geese in north central North Dakota. Pictured left to right are SDSU wildlife graduates Jeff Gleason (BS 1992, MS 1997), Todd Frerichs (BS 1988), Matt Holland (MS 1997), Tom Cooper (MS 1996, PhD 2005), Will Meeks (MS 1996), and Dave Naugle (MS 1994, PhD 1998).

We look back fondly on our days in Brookings, and the lessons learned at SDSU paved the way for our futures. Each of us is pursuing our passion for conservation in the wildlife profession. Jeff is an avian ecologist with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in Louisiana. Todd, Tom and Will all work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Todd is Deputy Project Leader at Audubon National Wildlife Refuge in Coleharbor, North Dakota; Tom is a biologist in the Division of Migratory Bird Management in Bloomington, Minnesota; and Will heads up the Habitat and Population Evaluation Team in Bismarck, North Dakota. Matt is a Senior Field Coordinator with Pheasants

Forever in New London, Minnesota, and Dave is a wildlife professor at the University of Montana in Missoula.

We all had a good laugh sitting around Todd's kitchen table one night as Will noted that none of us is getting any younger! It seems like yesterday that we were all on birding field trips with Dr. Les Flake or trying to recall the correct scientific name for a wetland plant in Dr. Gary Larson's class. And no reunion would be complete without reliving the great times we had with Dr. Ken Higgins who for their graduate degrees advised Matt, Tom, Will and Dave. We're forever indebted to Ken for instilling in us a passion for wildlife and for providing us with so many personal and professional opportunities. So here's a big shout out to our friend and mentor Ken Higgins, Professor Emeritus and connoisseur of fine pie and coffee everywhere. Alas, Matt correctly pointed out that the last of us turned 40 years old this year—but who cares as long as you're with good friends and the birds are flying...Go Jacks!

ALUMNI NEWS - ALUMNI NEWS - ALUMNI NEWS - ALUMNI NEWS



Front (w/fish)
Dane Buysse,
Dustin Toy,
Alex Kunkel;
Back row Dr. KC Jensen,
Jeff Augspurger,
Kyle Kaskie;
Far back Boat
Captain (James)

Those of us on the fisheries side of the profession have always heard how hard the wildlife professionals work. When they attend professional meeting, they are nothing but business. Thus, the following photo surely must be fake? Surely advisor KC Jensen could not possibly have been fishing with our hard-working students while The Wildlife Society meeting was being held in Hawaii in 2011?

Fecske Promoted

From Steve Henry, Deputy Refuge Manager at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Basking Ridge, NJ:

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Ms. Dorothy Fecske has been selected as our new Wildlife Biologist. Dorothy's extensive experience, skills, and educational background suit her particularly well to become our new Wildlife Biologist. Dorothy earned a doctorate degree from South Dakota State University studying free-ranging mountain lions. She has extensive field experience studying species as diverse as piping plover, swift fox, black bear, and New England cottontail. For four years, she was employed as a Furbearer Biologist with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and had primary re-

sponsibility for managing the state's furbearer harvest program as well as state-wide wildlife disease monitoring efforts. Her experience working with state agencies is a major asset as the Service looks to strengthen relationships with the states. Dorothy also has a strong background in GIS having coordinated the South Dakota GAP Analysis Project. Dorothy was previously employed by the Fish and Wildlife Service as a biologist in North Dakota and is currently working as a Biological Science Technician on the New England Cottontail project in Maine. She has distinguished herself by being recognized as the 2007 Wildlife

Conservationist of the Year by the North Dakota Wildlife Federation and was the 2002 Outstanding Ph.D. student while attending South Dakota State University. She has an impressive list of scientific publications and is well-respected in the wildlife field. She is tentatively scheduled to report in late-September. Please join me in extending her a warm welcome to Great Swamp!

Great Swamp NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior



Dorothy Fecske (PhD 2003)

ALUMNI NEWS Continued from Page 6

viously employed by Murdoch University in Western Australia.

TYLER STUBBS (BS 2008). Things are going well down here in the south. I have been promoted to Fisheries Project Manager here in Northeast Mississippi in Tupelo (Birthplace of Elvis). This district includes 5 state fishing lakes and 5 state park lakes ranging in size from 15 to 565 acres. My district (District 1) includes the Tenn-Tom Waterway, which is a channelized section of the Tombigbee river that runs through Mississippi and Alabama. The main lake on the very North end, which is partially owned by Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama is Pickwick Lake (Small-mouth Bass Capital of the World) which is approximately 47,000 acres, and has hosted FLW tours, BassMasters, and Bass Pro Shops King Kat Quest, and hosted its championship last year. There are also 7

other waterbodies along this waterway in Mississippi, including 4 reservoirs, and 5 small lock dam lakes. Bay Springs Lake, which is a nationally known spotted bass fishery, is a reservoir along the Tenn-Tom. The unique thing about my district is it houses the only known drainages to have native Gulf Strain Walleye populations, which we are working on with Justin Wilkens (former SDSU grad 2001) and the USFWS to restore. My main goal while I am here is to help them get more established, as the waterway has really been detrimental to their habitat. We are also stocking them in some of the state lakes to try to get brood stock populations established, as we currently only have 1 established population. We also have various stream, and catfish projects going on. I just thought I would keep you updated on where I am. Thanks for all the help getting here, I sure appreciate it.

Tyler Stubbs (BS 2008) wins NABI Award from Mississippi State University

WHAT IS THE NABI AWARD?

David Nabi was a graduate student in Wildlife and Fisheries during 1979-1980. During the Thanksgiving break of 1980, David was involved in a tragic automobile accident which took his life. David's warm-hearted relationship with, and contributions to, his fellow students moved them to memorialize him in the form of an award given in his name. The Nabi Award is designed to recognize a graduate student whom has unselfishly given his/her time to assist fellow graduate students, faculty, and staff with guidance, research, academia, miscellaneous tasks, and/or through social endeavors. This award is primarily peer oriented and therefore, each student is encouraged to reflect on the past year here at MSU and nominate an individual worthy of such an honor. It is important that you carefully consider an individual who truly exemplifies the standards set forth by this award. Although this is not a monetary award, the recipient will receive a personal plaque signifying



ing their selection. Their name will also be engraved on a permanent memorial plaque mounted in the College of Forest Resources (CFR). The award was presented at the CFR Awards Banquet in April 2011. This is considered the highest, most prestigious award given to any one graduate student in the CFR here at Mississippi State.

ALUMNI INFORMATION

We enjoy receiving news and photos from our alumni.

Send your latest news and photos to:

Natural Resource Management, SDSU
Box 2140B, Brookings, SD 57007 or email
terri.symens@sdsu.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**NEW DEPARTMENT
WEBSITE**

<http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm>

More on the New Department

BY DAVE WILLIS, DEPARTMENT HEAD

In the last couple of alumni newsletters we have focused on the many changes that have occurred over the past few years. Little did I know that the biggest change was yet to come. New assistant head Nels Troelstrup addressed some of these changes in his article at the start of the newsletter. Let me add a little more information.

Due to substantial budget cuts for higher education in 2011, which actually followed smaller cuts the previous two years, the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences moved toward fewer but larger departments. As Nels already reported, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences was combined with the Ecology and Environmental Science major from the Department of Biology and Microbiology, and also with the Range Science major from the Department of Animal and Range Sciences. We also house one faculty member from the former Department of Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape, and Parks, which was dissolved. We now have nine faculty members in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences plus the three in our fully staffed SD Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (U.S. Geological Survey), seven in Ecology and Environmental Science, and three in Range Science Range Science (with interviews for one more range faculty position happening as I write this).

Four scientists with the very successful Geographic Information Science Center of Excellence elected to use the new department as their home for promotion and tenure. We still have three people working in our highly productive Wetland Inventory office, two valued employees from the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks remain stationed in our offices, plus we have four career services office staff members. The graph shows the complete roster for the department.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Career Service

Diane Drake	Accounting Assistant
Dawn Van Ballegooyen	Department Secretary
Terri Symens	Office Supervisor
Richard Sweeney	Grounds (0.25 FTE)
Kate Tvedt	Department/Unit Secretary

Ecology and Environmental Science

Paul Johnson	Professor; 0.25 appointment in NRM; 0.75 in Plant Science
W. Carter Johnson	Distinguished Professor
Carol Johnston	Professor
Gary Larson	Professor
Tagir Gilmanov	Professor
Nels Troelstrup, Jr.	Professor and Assistant Department Head
Lan Xu	Associate Professor

Range Science

Roger Gates	Associate Professor
Patricia Johnson	Professor
Kyle Schell	Grassland Coalition Liasion
Alexander (Sandy) Smart	Professor
Vacant position	Assistant Professor

South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (U.S. Geological Survey)

Steven Chipps	Unit Leader and Professor
Joshua Stafford	Assistant Unit Leader and Associate Professor
Larry Gigliotti	Assistant Unit Leader and Assistant Professor

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

Jeff Grendler	Conservation Officer
Rocco Murano	State Waterfowl Biologist

Wetland Inventory

Peter Bergmann	Research Assistant
Dennis Hanson	Research Assistant
Michael Kjellsen	Supervisor

Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences

Katie Bertrand	Assistant Professor
Michael Brown	Professor
Charles Dieter	Professor
Brian Graeb	Assistant Professor
Daniel Hubbard	Professor
Jonathan Jenks	Distinguished Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator
Kent (KC) Jensen	Associate Professor
Susan Rupp	Assistant Professor
Melissa Wuellner	Assistant Professor

Department Head

David Willis	Distinguished Professor and Department Head
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Geographic Information Science Center of Excellence Courtesy Appointments

Mark Cochrane	Professor
Niall Hanan	Professor
Geoffrey Henebry	Professor
Michael Wimberly	Professor



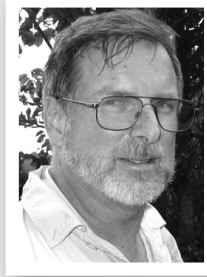
David Willis
Distinguished Professor and Department Head

A long-term goal for combining the department is to further enhance interdisciplinary research within the ABS College. As natural resource issues become more complex and challenging, most difficult research questions are best addressed by interdisciplinary teams of specialists. In addition, more and more of the federal competitive grants are based on interdisciplinary work, and the new NRM department should substantially enhance our capabilities to compete for such funds.

So, WELCOME to the Range Science and Environmental Management alumni who have received this newsletter. We are just starting to work on the mailing and email lists for those graduates, so help us whenever you can. Send changes in address or email addresses to Terri.Symens@sdstate.edu. If you know of alumni who did not receive the newsletter, please be sure to give us contact information for them or put them in touch with us. We can expect a few of such growing pains in the next year or two.

Check our new web page at:
<http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/>

Ecology and Environmental Science Faculty



Paul Johnson



Carter Johnson



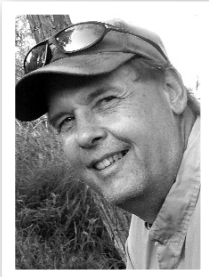
Carol Johnston



Gary Larson



Tagir Gilmanov



Nels Troelstrup, Jr.

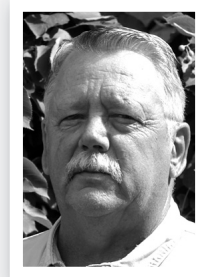


Lan Xu

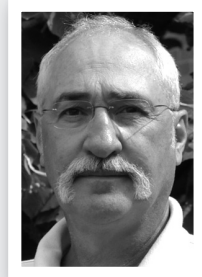
Wetland Inventory



Peter Bergmann



Dennis Hanson



Michael Kjellsen

Geographic Information Science Center of Excellence Courtesy Appointments



Mark Chocrane



Niall Hanan

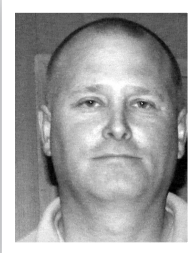


Geoffrey Henebrey



Michael Wimberly

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks



Jeff Grendler



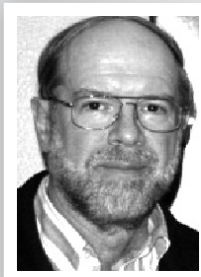
Rocco Murano

South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

(U.S. Geological Survey)



Steven Chipps



Larry Gigliotti



Joshua Stafford

Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences



Katie Bertrand



Michael Brown



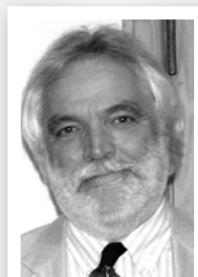
Charles Dieter



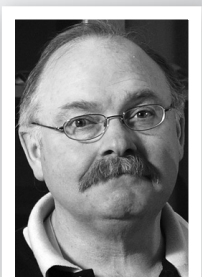
Brian Graeb



Daniel Hubbard



Jonathan Jenks



Kent (KC) Jensen



Susan Rupp



David Willis



Melissa Wuellner

See **Career Service** Page 4

See **Range Sciences** Page 12

Oak Lake Field Station Hosts Annual Honors College Retreat



The SDSU Honors College held its annual fall retreat at Oak Lake Field Station on Sunday, August 28. Attendance included over 100 students and faculty. The group uses this retreat to welcome new students and to stimulate student engagement and participation at the start of the school year. Station director Nels Troelstrup led the group through a tour of station facilities, projects and environments as a part of the afternoon activities.

Visit Oak Lake Field Station's webpage <http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/facilities/oaklake/>.

Blaze Orange Hunting Caps and the Higgins Endowment

The Blaze Orange hat campaign was a tremendous success. The campaign raised just under \$12,800, of which \$6,383 went to the Higgins endowment! We will continue hat sales next year. We received quite a few "comments" from people (alumni and otherwise!) who could not get the hat last year. So, we will place a bigger order next year and by

making a single order, we should get a better price on the hat and more proceeds from the sales. So, this truly is great news. That's a sizable donation in our part of the Foundation-related world, so hats off to Scott Simpson from SDGFP for the original idea. Hats off to the Athletic Department as well for sharing the proceeds with us.

Hayer chosen as a finalist for the SDSU Sigma Xi Chapter Graduate Research Award

Cari-Ann Hayer was chosen as a finalist for the South Dakota State University Sigma Xi Chapter Graduate Research Award. She presented her proposal "Fish assemblage structure, trophic ecology, and potential impacts of Asian carp in Missouri River tributaries, South Dakota" to the awards panel and won 2nd place in a competitive field of candidates. Ms. Hayer is co-advised by Drs. Katie Bertrand and Brian Graeb.



New book from Island Press entitled *Energy Development and Wildlife Conservation in Western North America*

Edited by David Naugle (MS 1994, PHD 1997) with 25 contributors and a foreword by Mark Boyce. Available: www.wildlifeandenergy.com. Preview the book on NetGalley at <http://bit.ly/ie8iSp>.

Energy and Wildlife offers a road map for securing our energy future while safeguarding our wildlife heritage. Contributors show how science can help craft solutions to conflicts between wildlife and energy development by delineating core areas, identifying landscapes that support viable populations, and forecasting future development scenarios to aid in conservation design.

The book frames the issue and introduces readers to major types of extraction, quantifies the pace and extent of current and future energy development, provides an ecological foundation for

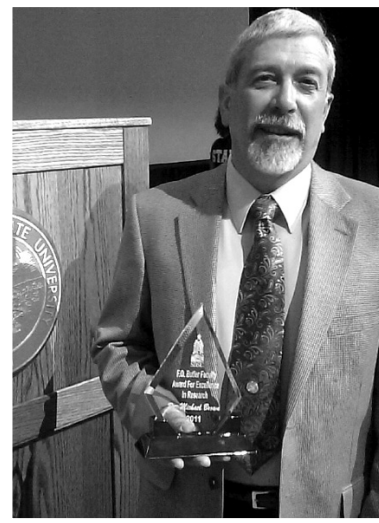
understanding cumulative impacts, and synthesizes information on the biological response of wildlife to development. The final section calls for a shift away from site-level management that has failed to mitigate cumulative impacts on wildlife populations toward broad-scale planning and implementation of conservation in priority landscapes. This book is intended for elected officials, industry representatives, natural resource managers, conservation groups, and the public seeking to promote energy independence while at the same time protecting wildlife.

Dr. Graeb wins Outstanding Teaching Award



Dr. Brian Graeb won the Outstanding Teaching Award for 2011 from Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture. He was recognized for his use of active learning methods and his professional contribution to fisheries education through the publication of a case study textbook by the American Fisheries Society.

Dr. Brown receives F.O. Butler Award for Research



Dr. Mike Brown received the 2011 F.O. Butler Award for Research at the annual faculty recognition banquet. This well-deserved award is a university-wide recognition. Mike was the only SDSU researcher who received the award for 2011. The recognition program had the following text. "Dr. Brown conducts cutting-edge research in fish-diet production and aquaculture that has garnered \$6.277 million in grants and contracts. His ongoing research in population dynamics and movement patterns of invasive aquatic species has earned Dr. Brown a national reputation and resulted in more than 100 articles and book chapters for scientific publications and more than 160 professional presentations." We are sure proud of Mike!

Donations to Department of Natural Resource Management

NOVEMBER 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 27, 2011

Robert Bartling
 Robert D. and Joyce A. Beck
 Pete and Lisa Bergmann
 Mary J. Best
 Robert G. Best
 Richard N. Bjorklund
 Vernon and Daphne Blaylock
 Marvin L. and Jean Bouska
 Mike and Elaine Brown
 Galen E. Busch
 Carrol O. and Janice M. Calkins
 William R. Cody
 David D. and Kimberly S. Cook
 Thomas R. Cooper
 Brian Dirks and Nancy Dietz
 Jeffery and Pamela Donahoe
 Roderick C. Drewien
 Harold F. Duebbert
 Brian L. Dykstra
 Rebecca R. Ewing
 Darryll D. Farmer
 Clifford H. Fiscus
 Kurt J. and Lucia B. Forman
 Alice Fredrickson
 Todd A. Frerichs
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 Jeremy J. Higgins
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 Bob and Debbie Lusk
 Matt T. Mangan and Karen E. Arnold
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 Jeffrey W. Mc Crady
 Thomas S. McComish
 Craig L. Milewski

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 Harvey H. Pietz
 Erling B. Podoll
 John and Patsy T. Popowski
 Quality Deer Management Association – SE SD Branch
 Morris L. and Marcene J. Radack
 Daniel L. Reinking
 Stacy L. Salvevold
 Charles G. and Dorcas S. Scalet
 Gladys Schmitt
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David C. Simon
 Sioux Falls Chapter of Izaak Walton League
 Kevin A. Smith
 SD Academy of Science
 SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council
 SD Walleyes Unlimited
 Rollin D. Sparrowe
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 Eric and Ruth West
 Whitetails Unlimited, Inc.
 Zeno W. Wicks, III & Roxanne Savaryn-Wicks
 David W. and Susan E. Willis
 Stephen M. Zebarth

YES! *I wish to contribute to the SDSU Department of Natural Resource Management through the Greater State Fund.*

Name _____

Address _____

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State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Present Employment _____

Amount of Gift Enclosed \$ _____

*All donations should be made payable to the **Greater State Fund** and designated for the **Department of Natural Resource Management**.*

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Box 525
Brookings, SD 57007

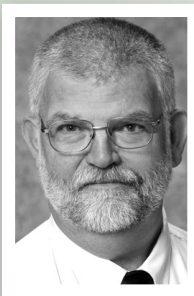


South Dakota State University
College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences
Department of Natural Resource Management
Box 2140B, SNP 138
North Campus Drive
Brookings, SD 57007-1696

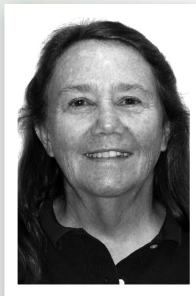
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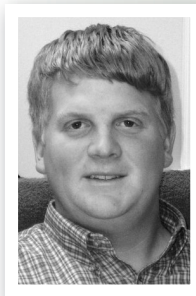
Range Science



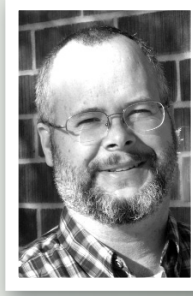
Roger Gates



Patricia Johnson



Kyle Schell



Alexander
(Sandy) Smart

Reorganization changes Natural Resource Management Department

Reorganization has added not only additional faculty to the Natural Resource Management Department, it has also added new functions as well. SDSU is a land grant university which engenders Extension in its mission as well as teaching and research. Historically, the Cooperative Extension Service function was embodied in the county agent who encouraged farmers to adopt sound production practices. Currently, extension outreach targets not just agricultural producers, but any South Dakota citizen who could benefit from information that the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences can provide.

Addition of Range Science faculty to the new Natural Resource Management Department from the Department of Animal and Range Sciences included **Dr. Roger Gates**, who is the *Rangeland Management Extension Specialist* for SDSU. Healthy prairies are a vital component of South Dakota's landscape. As in other parts of the Northern Great Plains, these rangelands are predominantly privately owned and managed for livestock production. More than one conservation organization recognized the extraordinary value of the goods and services provided from this ecosystem. The most expedient strategy to conserve and maintain these valuable lands is by ensuring the long term success of the ranch families who own and manage them.

Kyle Schell new Range Extension Field Specialist

Kyle Schell recently accepted a new role within South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension as the Range Extension Field Specialist located in Rapid City. Kyle earned a B.A. in Agri-Business with minors in Plant Science and Animal Science from Chadron State College, NE, in December of 2006. He completed his M.S. in Animal Science with Range Management Emphasis under **Dr. Sandy Smart** in December, 2011.

Kyle grew up on a working cattle ranch in western South Dakota, and is involved in a partnership with the 7,500-acre family ranch. His research experience includes a research project entitled "Restoring Native Tallgrass Prairie and Improving Profitability on Eastern South Dakota Grasslands with Intensive Early Stocking." His work with Drs. Alexander Smart and Eric Mousel at SDSU included grazing riparian areas, patch-burn grazing, patch-grazing, water infiltration on grazed sites, rangeland health as affected by fire, grazing, nitrogen, and water, grazing cover crops, interseeding pastures, and mob grazing.

Schell served as the Range Management Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Animal and Range Science at South Dakota State from November 2007 to present. In addition to his substantial extension experience, he also worked closely with the South Dakota Grassland Coalition, for whom he organized monthly and annual meetings, managed their web site, and produced a monthly newsletter for their membership. He also has been very active in the South Dakota Grazing School and will put that experience to good use in his new position.

A primary role for Mr. Schell will be to disseminate current rangeland research and best management practices to rangeland managers in South Dakota. Kyle will be actively engaged in understanding policy issues surrounding rangelands as directed by state and federal agencies. He will be stationed out of the West River Ag Center in Rapid City, and be part of a range management team, along with State Extension Range Specialists, that develops and delivers Extension range management programs.

Range Science Faculty Search

The Department was given permission to replace **Dr. Eric Mousel**, who resigned for an opportunity with the private sector. During December of 2011, two top candidates were brought to campus for interviews. Regardless of the outcome, either of these individuals could well serve our program. We hope to have a final decision by January of 2012, with a start date in mid-summer of 2012. No one is more excited than Dr. Sandy Smart, who

has been carrying the brunt of the entire campus-based program on his shoulders this fall.

One piece of good news is that Dr. Mousel agreed to help us through spring semester of 2012 by teaching his RANG 205 Introduction to Integrated Ranch Management course through an online (distance) format. Eric is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Natural Resource Management.