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NRM Newsletter

Department of Natural Resource Management

Winter 2012

Natural Resource Management Newsletter

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Recommended Citation

Willis, Dave; Chipps, Steve; Bauman, Pete; Perkins, Lora; Gigliotti, Larry; Grovenburg, Troy; and Troelstrup, Nels Jr., "Natural Resource Management Newsletter" (2012). *NRM Newsletter*. 12.

http://openprairie.sdstate.edu/nrm_news/12

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Natural Resource Management

NEWSLETTER

Department of Natural Resource Management
South Dakota State University

2012 Celebration of Faculty Excellence

South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited

At their annual meeting in February 2012, the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society presented their Aquatic Resource Conservationist Award to Woody Tiggelaar from South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited. Woody accepted the award in the name of his entire organization. Among his other activities, Woody was instrumental in establishing the SDWU Scholarships for Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences majors in our department.

Check us out at:

[http://www.
sdstate.edu/nrm](http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm)

The 2012 Celebration of Faculty Excellence banquet and ceremony was held 21 February at the SDSU Student Union. Drs. Mike Brown (Natural Resource Management) and Bill Gibbons (Biology and Microbiology) were honored with the Pat and Jo Scott Cannon Intellectual Property Commercialization Award for their work with aquaculture feeds.

Also honored was Dr. W. Carter Johnson, Distinguished Professor, who was selected to present the David Fee Memorial Lecture. Carter showed his new film "Grass Roots," which overviews his work with the EcoSun Prairie Farm near Coleman, South Dakota. To obtain copies of this film in DVD or downloadable format, please go to the following link. <http://ecosunprairiefarms.org/film.html>

One gratifying portion of the banquet is that all faculty members who received awards of any type are listed in a program brochure. Many NRM faculty members were on that list, of course. One especially



Left to right: Dr. C.Y. Wang (Interim Director of the SDSU Technology Transfer Office), Dr. Mike Brown, Dr. Bill Gibbons, Jo Cannon, Pat Cannon

gratifying tidbit was that all three of the 2011 SDSU F.O. Butler Awards went to faculty members now housed within NRM! Dr. Mike Brown earned the Award

for Excellence in Research, Dr. Gary Larson earned the Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Dr. Nels Troelstrup earned the Award for Excellence in Service!

MORE FACULTY AWARDS ARE LISTED ON PAGE 8

Phone Call Received by ND Game and Fish Department

Key players: Kristin = graduate student Kristin Sternhagen (advisor is Dr. Jon Jenks) and Greg = Greg Buckert (SDSU alumnus)

Folks, I got an interesting phone call this afternoon from Richard Carlson of Gilby, ND. It started out a little ominous...



Bill: North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Richard: Ya, is this a big game biologist?

Bill: Yes, this is Bill Jensen can I help you?

Richard: Are you the guy supervising that deer study up here in Walsh County?

Bill: Yes I am.

Richard: Well I run the Hardware Store here in Gilby and there is something I need to tell you about that young lady you hired.

Bill: Is there a problem?

Richard: Oh no, she is polite, smart, friendly, knew a lot about deer studies... I think she must have a photographic memory with those maps.

The next five minutes was a long series of compliments about how Kristin has conducted herself with the local farmers; that ended with... "you should find her a permanent job with your department."

Bill: Well thank you, we spend a lot of time checking graduate students out for a project like this but you never know until you hire them and they get out in the field.

Richard: I figured you get enough calls from people telling you how you are screwing up. I thought you might like to get some good news. And that young man with her, Greg; he did not say much but he was very polite and knowledgeable. You should find him a job too!

Bill: Well actually, we hired him yesterday!

Richard: Well this sounds like a really good study... I really enjoy wildlife. I live out by that Prairie Chicken WMA and hear prairie chickens every morning.

Bill: You are fortunate, not many people get that experience these days.

Richard: Say, I have 5 quarters of land surrounding that WMA, maybe you guys would be interested in putting it in that PLOTS program? Who should I talk to about that?

I gave Mr. Carlson Nate Harling's name and phone number.

William (Bill) Jensen, Ph.D., CWB
Big Game Biologist
North Dakota Game and Fish Department

2012 Range Club, Plant Identification and Undergraduate Range Management Exam Team

Competitions were held at the 65th Annual Society for Range Management meetings in Spokane, WA, Jan 28–Feb 2, 2012. The URME Team placed 12th out of 25 teams and the ID Team placed 7th out of 26 Teams. Kyle Dalzell placed 4th in the combined events. Emily Helms, Emma Kanaan, and Nicole Schwebach participated in the Rangeland Cup Student Poster Competition. Emily Helms and Brianna Gaughan presented undergraduate research papers at the undergraduate oral paper session.

The Range Club, advised by Sandy Smart, has some students in the department who are exploring the development of a student organization affiliated with the Ecological Society of America (ESA). Stay tuned for next year's newsletter for an update.



Back row: Patrick Pesicka (RC, URME), Kyle Dalzell (RC, ID, URME), Morgan Myers (RC, ID, URME), Jared Brown (RC, URME), Nicole Schwebach (RC, ID, URME), Wes Hartmann (RC, URME); Front row: Sandy Smart (Advisor, URME Coach), Joyce Bassett (RC, ID, URME), Emily Helms (RC, ID, URME), Paige Hermanson (RC, URME), Cady Olson (RC, URME), Brianna Gaughan (RC, URME), Emma Kanaan (RC, URME) and Gary Larson (Plant ID coach)

RC = Range Club, ID = Range Plant Identification, URME = Undergraduate Range Management Exam

Brown and Jenks Write Book Chapter for AFS

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) recently announced publication of *Scientific Communication for Natural Resource Professionals* (Publication date: August 2012; ISBN: 978-1-934874-28-8; \$35.00 list price, \$24.50 AFS members; <http://afsbooks.org/55066P>). This book is a "how to" guide for most forms of modern scientific communication, containing practical advice on improving communications and publishing success. Included are chapters on preparing and submitting manuscripts, determining authorship, searching for information, integrating statistical methods and results into your writ-

ing, designing tables and figures, converting your thesis or dissertation to a journal manuscript, deciding where to submit your manuscript, responding to peer review, preparing poster and oral presentations for professional meetings, writing review papers, and reviewing a scientific paper. Chapter 3, Guidance for the Successful Preparation and Submission of Scientific Manuscripts, was authored by two senior faculty members in the Department of Natural Resource Management, Dr. Michael L. Brown and Distinguished Professor Jonathan A. Jenks, showing once again the great camaraderie between wildlife and fisheries sciences in our department!

Curtis M. Twedt Upland Game Research Endowment

Within the past year, we initiated an upland game research endowment for the Department. Curtis M. Twedt, a native of Volga, SD, graduated in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in 1959. He then earned an M.S. in 1961, with his thesis entitled *Fall Food Habits of the Merriam's Wild Turkey in Western South Dakota*. He completed a Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1974 with a dissertation entitled *Characteristics of Sharp-Tailed Grouse Display Grounds in the Nebraska Sandhills*. Dr. Twedt enjoyed a 31-year career with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as an upland game and research biologist. Along the

way, he developed a deep interest in Native peoples.

Dr. Twedt established a research endowment for work on the greater prairie chicken, sharp-tailed grouse and other upland game birds in South Dakota or adjacent states. The recipient of the Twedt research grant shall be selected by the Department of Natural Resource Management at SDSU. The long-term vision of the Department is to eventually be able to provide a graduate research assistantship from this endowment. We should receive our first funds from the Endowment during 2013.

The Natural Resource Management Newsletter is published annually by the

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Brookings, SD 57007-1696

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No state funds were used in printing this publication. 01/13

Input Requested on Newsletter Format

Well, we think it is time for another poll on a familiar question! Given the high costs of producing and mailing this newsletter, as well as the convenience allowed by electronic publishing, we again have to ask if it is time to change the newsletter to an electronic version rather than mailing a hard copy in newspaper format.

Please respond to Terri Symens with your vote on this issue. Would you be willing to let us change to an electronic newsletter format? That newsletter would be delivered via email, and we would, of course, also post it on the departmental web site. Terri can be reached by email (Terri.Symens@sdstate.edu), phone (605.688.6122), or mail (SDSU NRM, Box 2140B, Brookings, SD 57007). We would very much appreciate hearing from you!

If we did switch to an electronic newsletter, alumni and friends could request a hard copy of the newsletter, delivered via the mail.

Department Overview

BY DAVE WILLIS, DEPARTMENT HEAD

Another year has now passed since our last report to Alumni and Friends through this newsletter. We continue to progress down through the path now plotted for our combined Department of Natural Resource Management. In some cases, the old lines are blurring. Examples would include using more people for the large undergraduate advising load for Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences majors, and courses being co-taught by faculty members who have different former departments. In other cases, some of the old lines remain, which has been out of necessity given some of the appointments held by various people in the department. Administratively, things have gotten very complex for both me and our office support staff. Just as one example, we used to monitor the course schedules and room assignments each semester for courses with the WL (wildlife) prefix. Now, we monitor course schedules and room assignments for courses in eight different prefixes! These include ABS, BIOL, BIOS, BOT, EES, NRM, RANG and WL. Similarly, we used to have one undergraduate degree and two graduate degrees. Now, we have three undergraduate majors, two undergraduate minors, four graduate degrees, and one graduate certificate program.



Fall 2012 overall enrollment at SDSU was 12,583. Enrollment in the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences was 2,332. We reported undergraduate and graduate enrollments in the department elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our annual scholarship awards are now presented during late spring semester. Elsewhere in this newsletter, we printed pictures of the 2012 scholarship recipients. The Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club hosts our scholarship banquet each year and they have scheduled the upcoming Buffalo Banquet for Tuesday, April 16, 2013.

New faculty hires continue within the Department, and we have been able to hire superior faculty members for the past several vacant positions. Dr. Lora Perkins was hired as a new assistant professor in Range Science for the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Eric Mousel, Dr. Troy Grovenburg was hired as an assistant professor of Wildlife Science to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Susan Rupp, and Mr. Pete Bauman has been hired as our new Range Extension Field Specialist to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Kyle Schell. Dr. Larry Gigliotti was hired as an Assistant Unit Leader in the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, which now fills our unit! These people have articles elsewhere in the newsletter on their first-year impressions in their new positions. In addition, Dr. Melissa Wuellner is being moved from her non-tenure track assistant professor position as our Distance Education Coordinator to a tenure-track assistant professor position. Non-tenure track assistant professors are no longer allowed at SDSU after the creation of a new lecturer series.

Overall, our Alumni and Friends in Ecology and Environmental Science, Environmental Management, Range

The Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club is sanctioned by The Wildlife Society. They change their officers at the first of the year. Newly elected officers for 2013 are:

President: Katie Spicer

Vice President: Jessica Ring (will become President next year)

Secretary: Ryan Johnston

Treasurer: Luke Winge

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

The SDSU Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) is attached to the Dakota Chapter under the format used by AFS. The club has moved from a graduate-student-dominated organization to increased participation by undergraduate students. The 2012 and 2013 officers follow:

2012

President: David Deslauriers

Vice President: Tyler Sexton

Treasurer: Kyle Behl

Secretary: Luke Leischner

2013

President: Andrew Carlson

Vice President: David Bogner

Treasurer: Matthew Wagner

Secretary: Matthew Phayvanh

Science, and Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences can be quite proud of our faculty members and students. Work ethic, positive attitudes, and high productivity still prevail, as do sincere interests in our natural resource heritage in this country. We will not compile our 2012 departmental research report until January of 2013. However, the 2011 report can be viewed here. Take a look at the diversity of subject matter in these accomplishments by our hard-working students and faculty members!

http://pubstorage.sdstate.edu/wfs/NRM%20Publications%20and%20Reports_2011.pdf

Undergraduate Program Enrollment for Fall 2012

The University tracks enrollment in undergraduate programs on the fall census day each year. This occurs after the last day that students can add or drop classes, and so is an early fall semester count. Following are the enrollments from 1998 to 2012 in each of our three majors (the Environmental Management [ENVM] degree is nearly gone

and the new Ecology and Environmental Science [EES] degree is replacing it). For fall 2012, the ENVM/EES program was 44% female and 56% male students; the Range Science program was 46% females and 54% males; and the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences program was 15% females and 85% males.

Graduate Program Enrollment for Fall 2012

Departmental faculty members deserve a big pat on the back for increases in our graduate program after a couple of tough financial years for both the department and individual faculty members. When the combined department formed, our best guess was that we had 69 total graduate students. As of fall 2012, we now have 83! That substantial increase (n=14) also means increased work for all of our dedicated faculty members.

The split on numbers by program is as follows. We have 48 M.S. students in Wildlife and Fisheries (including a student co-advised by Pat Johnson and K.C. Jensen,

which is just one example of many collaborations among our faculty members); 18 Ph.D. students in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences (which is about as high as we have ever been; we have never reached 20 enrolled at any one time); 15 M.S. students in Biological Sciences (including many new Range Science students); 1 Ph.D. student in Biological Sciences (thanks to Roger Gates); and 1 M.S. student in Animal Science. That leaves us with 77% M.S. and 23% Ph.D. students, with 30% female students and 70% males. Please note that these graduate student counts do not include our courtesy appointment faculty members in the

	Environmental Management/Ecology and Environmental Science	Range Science	Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
1998FA	42	16	153
1999FA	43	21	132
2000FA	42	22	152
2001FA	27	29	177
2002FA	18	31	201
2003FA	29	34	202
2004FA	22	39	219
2005FA	25	40	244
2006FA	30	45	254
2007FA	30	41	275
2008FA	29	33	262
2009FA	30	36	263
2010FA	33	28	277
2011FA	29	25	293
2012FA	46	24	293

GIS Center of Excellence, who have a very robust and active graduate research program. Check out our highly successful colleagues at their web page: (<http://globalmonitoring.sdstate.edu/index.php>).

The South Dakota Coop Unit is Back in Full Swing

BY STEVE CHIPPS, UNIT LEADER

As you may recall, last year the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit filled our two vacant positions – hiring Dr. Joshua Stafford and Dr. Larry Gigliotti as Assistant Unit Leaders. And with the Unit fully staffed, it is easy to appreciate how ‘people’ represent the real capital in any endeavor. What a difference one year has made! Over the last year the Unit has seen increases in graduate student hires (up 60%), research funding (up 64%), scientific publications (up 45%), and new projects (up 66%). To cite one of my favorite Yogi Berra quotes -- “It’s like déjà vu all over again.” Of course, as Unit Leader, I’ve probably become too enamored with numbers, metrics, and other administrative trivia – but the bottom line—it’s great to have a fully staffed Unit once again. This year was also marked by a number of awards and recognitions received by Unit staff and students. Adam Janke, PhD student, was the first recipient of the Kenneth F. Higgins Waterfowl Legacy Research Endowment Award. See the complete story on this award elsewhere in our newsletter. The Unit is grateful to Ken and all SDSU Alumni who have contributed to the award – it is going to good use to support graduate student research at SDSU! Other awards include a Special Thanks for Achieving Results (STAR) award, presented to Dr. Josh Stafford for his service to Co-operators, and a USGS Special Recognition Award to Dr. Larry Gigliotti for technical assistance. Dr. Steve Chipps was honored to receive the 2012 Robert L. Hanten Distinguished Professional Service Award presented by the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

In other news, the South Dakota Coop Unit was excited to host Drs. Fredrick Errington and Deborah Gewertz this summer. Fred’s father, Dr. Paul Errington, was the first Unit Leader in the Coop Unit program established at the Iowa Coop Unit in 1932. Paul Errington was born and raised in Bruce, SD and attended college at South Dakota State College. Fred shared a number of stories about his father and described their farm near Bruce, which the fam-

ily recently donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Fred and Deborah are well-known cultural anthropologists and were visiting the region to talk with local farmers and conservationists about the past and future of agriculture and wildlife conservation. Dr. Fredrick Errington is Professor Emeritus at Trinity College, CT and Dr. Deborah

two ‘new’ graduate courses in the Department focused on 1) Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management and 2) Adaptive Management and Structured Decision Making – while Dr. Josh Stafford will be teaching courses in 1) Wildlife Research Design and 2) Behavioral Ecology. For more information about the Unit, research personnel, an-



Left to right: Larry Gigliotti (AUL-SD), Fredrick Errington (Professor Emeritus, Trinity College), Deborah Gewertz (G. Henry Whitcomb Professor of Anthropology, Amherst College), Joshua Stafford (AUL-SD) and Steven Chipps (UL-SD).

Gewertz is the G. Henry Whitcomb Professor of Anthropology at Amherst College, MA. One of their recent books *Cheap Meat: Flap Food Nations in the Pacific Islands* (University of California Press–2010) follows the trail of sheep meat from Australia and New Zealand to consumers in the Pacific Islands – a dynamic view of how global food markets influence the diet and health of indigenous people.

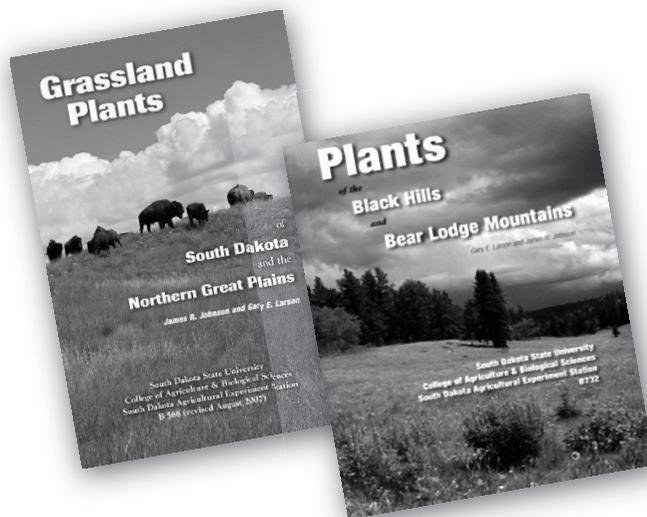
As we begin a new year, the Unit looks forward to continued success in meeting our mission of teaching, research, and technical service. Dr. Larry Gigliotti is teaching

nual reports, etc..., please visit our web site at: coop-units.org/South_Dakota/index.html

Last but certainly not least, 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the South Dakota Coop Unit. We are looking forward to celebrating 50 years at SDSU and are planning a 2-day event for fall 2013 to welcome back Alumni and friends. If you have any Unit-related stories and (or) pictures you would be willing to share, please do; you can forward them to steven.chipps@sdstate.edu. Stay tuned for more information and we look forward to seeing many of you next fall.

Illustrated Plant Field Guides without Equal

Since 1999 South Dakota State University has produced and marketed two photo-illustrated plant identification guides that are regarded as the standards for our region. *Grassland Plants of South Dakota and the Northern Great Plains* by James R. Johnson and Gary E. Larson and *Plants of the Black Hills and Bear Lodge Mountains* by Larson and Johnson are both expertly illustrated with Johnson’s portrait-quality photographs and narrated by descriptions of the plants and their cultural, ecological and forage values. Johnson is Professor Emeritus and retired Range Science Specialist in Rapid City and Larson is Professor of Botany in the Department of Natural Resource Management and Curator of the C. A. Taylor Herbarium at SDSU. The books are now in their second



printing (2007) and are available to purchase from the iGrow Store website (<http://igrow.org/catalog/books/>). They are standard fare for people working in natural resource management in the region, and they are terrific gifts for anyone with a naturalist bent. Prices are \$17.95 for *Grasslands* (covering over 270 species) and \$34.95 for *Black Hills* (nearly 600 species). Such low prices for these lavishly illustrated field guides are thanks to contributions from many public and private agencies (acknowledged in the books) that helped cover initial printing costs. Proceeds from sales go toward future printings, and in lieu of author royalties; \$1 per book sold goes to support a great cause, the C. A. Taylor Herbarium at SDSU.

Jesse W. West Fisheries Research Endowment

This SDSU endowment is intimately tied to the *Pond Boss* magazine and its online forum (www.pondboss.com). It honors the life of Jesse W. West, a Mississippian and professor of Geology. His strong belief in helping others along their journey in applied science is the cornerstone of this endowment. The endowment was initiated by a donation from son Eric West. Since that time, *Pond Boss* members have donated individually and through the proceeds from the silent auction at the annual conference. SDSU alumni are now donating to this research endowment as well. For more information, go to the following web site on our departmental home page. sdstate.edu/nrm/research-endowments/index.cfm

Funds from this endowment have been used for a variety of purposes since 2007. Once, viewing tanks were purchased for one of the labs in our building. Other times, funds were used to study walleye-smallmouth bass feeding interactions, and assess bluegill nesting sites in a small Nebraska Sandhill lake. One year, an undergraduate student was funded to assess stocking rates for largemouth bass fingerlings in ponds on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands.

During fall of 2011, proceeds were used to take Dr. Graeb's small water fisheries class to Texas to see some truly amazing pond management efforts.

How many Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences alumni ever took a field trip to Texas to sample 10 pound and bigger largemouth bass? Not only did they get to sample BIG largemouth bass by electrofishing, they also got to see new pond properties during the construction phase. They found outstanding Texas hospitality in the homes of Bob Lusk (editor and owner of *Pond Boss* magazine) and Lee Roy Mitchell (owner of Eagle's Nest Preserve). Graduate students Jessica Powell and Jason Breeggemann wrote an entertaining diary of that trip, which was published by *Pond Boss* magazine. If you would like to read it, click on their "Creating a Trophy Bass Legacy" article at the following web site. <http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/outreach/pond/pond-management-articles.cfm>

The 2012 proceeds from the Endowment were used to help students attend the *Pond Boss V* Conference and Expo at Table Rock Reservoir in Missouri. The SDSU students operated a booth at which they described aging methods for fish. In addition, current Ph.D. student Mark Kaemingk gave a presentation on nest site selection by bluegills. The students also helped with the silent auction at the conference, with proceeds again going back to SDSU to enhance the Jesse West Endowment.

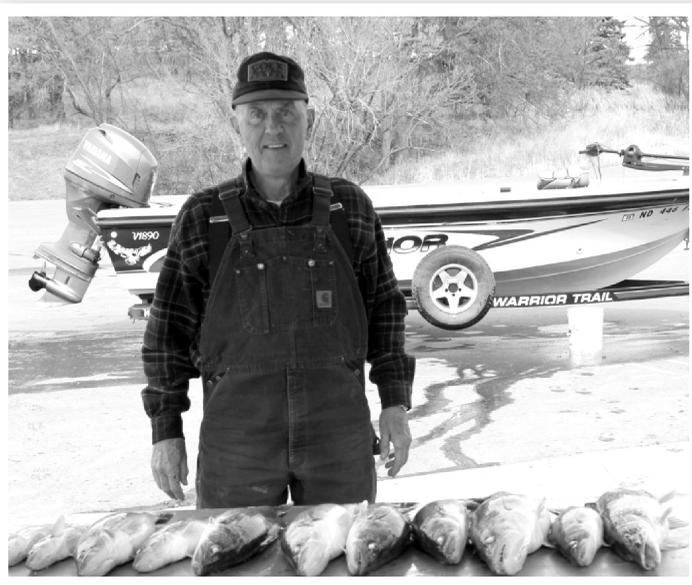


Group photo above, front: Garret Schrock, Dr. Brian Graeb, Justin Stane, Kyle Buehl, Aaron Sundmark; Middle: Jessica Howell, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Roy Mitchell (and dog); Back: Luke Leischner, Brett Kleinschmidt, Bradie Larson, Jason Breeggemann, Tanner Stevens, Tanner Davis and Cody Bex



Brett Kleinschmidt and Tanner Davis

Update from Stephen Allen



Steve Allen took advantage of the warm March 2012 weather in Bismarck and spent a successful day on the Missouri River chasing walleyes and pike! Steve, the retired wildlife disease specialist with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, is the son of Wilbur Allen, who invented the compound bow. The Wilbur Allen scholarships provide the largest pool of scholarship funds available to wildlife and fisheries sciences majors at SDSU. At the 2012 Buffalo Banquet, we announced the 15 students who received the Allen funding this year!

Kenneth F. Higgins Waterfowl Legacy Research Endowment Update

July 20 of 2012 marks the two-year anniversary on which Dr. Ken Higgins contributed initial funding of \$25,000 to his Waterfowl Legacy Research Endowment. Since then, friends, colleagues and family members have collectively contributed an additional \$23,000 to the Endowment.

We are pleased to inform everyone that the first award from this Endowment was presented in April of 2012. At our 64th Annual Buffalo Banquet, we announced that the first research award would go to Adam K. Janke, a Ph.D. graduate student in our department. The Endowment proceeds for the first year totaled \$1,800 and were used to purchase a specialized computer system for Adam's waterfowl research project. His project is entitled "Evaluating Wetland Ecosystem Health in the Prairie Pothole Region of South Dakota Using Real-Time Nutrient Dynamics of Waterfowl."

Adam's academic and research advisor is Dr. Joshua Stafford, an Assistant Leader for the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at SDSU.



Dr. Joshua Stafford, Dr. Kenneth Higgins, and 2012 Higgins Waterfowl Legacy Research Endowment recipient Adam Janke.

As a department we appreciate any and all support that is gifted toward our scholarship and endowment funds, all of which are used to support student education and research projects at SDSU. Currently, the Higgins Waterfowl Legacy Research Endowment base fund is approximately 1/6th of the way toward our long-term goal as we hope to eventually support a graduate research assistantship with this Endowment. Gifts and pledges continue to be received for this Endowment even in these austere financial times. The departmental staff and our students extend our heartfelt thanks to our alumni and friends for your continuing support of our program here at SDSU.

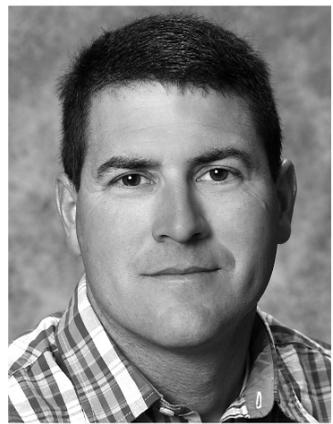
FIRST IMPRESSIONS • FIRST IMPRESSIONS • FIRST IMPRESSIONS • FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Coming full circle

BY PETE BAUMAN

(Range Science Field Specialist, Watertown, SD)

I was always in the woods on our Minnesota farm when I was a kid. So, when I enrolled at SDSU in the fall of 1992 I had big dreams of being the best Park Ranger or Game



Pete Bauman

Warden the Rocky Mountains had ever seen. Wildlife research wasn't really on my radar at the time, so I initially signed up for the Park Management major. My thought was to concentrate on that major and take as many wildlife classes as I could. I quickly realized that my true passion was wildlife, habitat, and research

and I decided to switch to Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. I purposely avoided as many range or botany courses as I could as I just didn't have the interest in those topics. Our 1992 class was the first group to get a full 4 years in what was then the new Northern Plains Biostress Laboratory.

After graduating in 1996 with my BS, I stayed on to earn an MS in 1998. We completed a herd composition and movement analysis of elk in and around Wind Cave National Park in the Southern Black Hills. With that big game experience, I really thought I was on my way to that Rocky Mountain dream and that my days at the SDSU campus would be a fond memory.

As luck and love would have it I had already met my future wife while at SDSU and the Rocky Mountain dream never materialized as we decided to settle in Watertown to be close to family. I went to work for The Nature Conservancy out of Clear Lake, SD as a wildlife preserve manager, where I've been the last 14 years. During that time, I was fortunate enough to maintain very strong ties with various faculty and alumni from SDSU as I was involved in a myriad of conservation and habitat issues across South Dakota. It was these South Dakota connections that I found most rewarding about my job; the outreach programs we developed to assist landowners with their pasture and habitat priorities were very rewarding. During all this, my wife Bridget and I have grown our family and we're in the midst of raising four wonderful children with our South Dakota values.

Life was good and things were running smoothly this past July when SDSU friends came calling and suggested I apply for a new Extension Range Specialist position being created out of the new Watertown Regional Extension Center. At first I was a bit apprehensive, as I had a good position and a long career started with the Conservancy. However, as I investigated the position and the

wide-open possibilities, it became clear to me that I might be passing up an opportunity to not only grow professionally, but to get even further connected with grassland conservation and management here in South Dakota.

The most interesting and exciting twist to all this was how the position was to be structured. Some of you may not be aware that SDSU Extension has gone through major changes in the past year. One of those key changes is that under the new model, Extension Field Specialists are co-supervised by an SDSU department head. In my case, the Range Specialist position falls under the new Natural Resource Management Department, which is comprised, in part, from the former Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and Range Science programs...programs with which I had long-standing relationships. So, I applied for the position and was hired in October of this year.

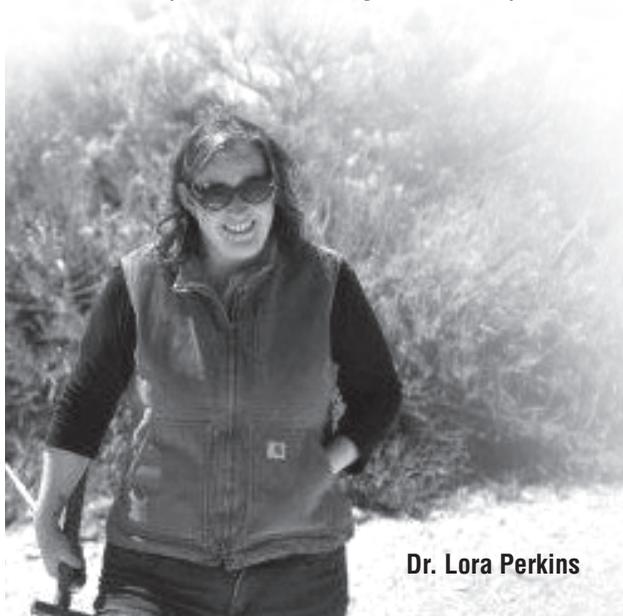
My life has always included an element of strange ironies. In high school a good friend was dating a guy from Watertown, SD. I gave her a hard time about it saying there was nothing good about South Dakota. Now I live here, have a career in range management, and find myself wishing I'd paid a bit more attention in my botany courses. As I said, things change. But, what hasn't changed is the great people who choose to work in the SDSU system. I'm excited to once again be affiliated with SDSU. The Biostress Lab isn't the newest building on campus and some of my old professors have moved on, but the same spirit is still alive and well. Sure, I prefer the old Jackrabbit, but my kids did get me a new Jacks hat for my birthday recently.....and it seems to fit OK!

"I am enjoying it"

BY DR. LORA PERKINS

(Assistant Professor, Range Science)

My first impression of Brookings and South Dakota State University is hard to distinguish from my first im-



Dr. Lora Perkins

pression of the Midwest, South Dakota, continental weather patterns, and prairies. I moved to Brookings this July from the west. I was born in Albuquerque and raised in Las Cruces, New Mexico about 40 miles north of the Mexican border in the northern Chihuahuan desert. I have lived in Friday Harbor WA (in the San Juan Archipelago next to Victoria BC), Corvallis OR (where I received my MS from Oregon State University), and most recently, Reno NV. I received my PhD, did post-doctoral research, and was an instructor at the University of Nevada, Reno in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources. I have lived in a good range of places latitudinally, but not longitudinally. This is the farthest east that I have ever lived and so far, I am enjoying it.

My first introductions to the prairie and to our natural grasslands were trips to Oak Lake Field Station with Drs. Troelstrup and Larson. Does not get much better than that, does it? I might have amused Dr. Troelstrup a little when he took me up to get a terrific view of the lake and I could barely stop questioning him on all of the different plants long enough to appreciate the view. I am amazed by the number of different plant species, how dense plants grow, and the size of the plants (tallgrasses are called tallgrasses for a reason). My research focuses on non-native species invasion. Primarily, I have worked with *Bromus tectorum*

(a.k.a. cheatgrass or downy brome). Out west, this one grass species covers a good portion of the landscape between the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Rocky Mountains. Cheatgrass also grows around Brookings, mostly in cracks in the sidewalks. However, there are many more non-native plants in the prairie for me to focus on. As a beginning step, I have established a plant ecology research 'garden' just north of town. Some of the questions that I will be asking are: 1) why do only non-native plants become 'invasive' (expand and create ecological or economic harm) and some just unobtrusively join the plant community, and 2) once non-native plants become established, how do we get rid of them and re-establish desirable vegetation? As a range plant ecologist, I am excited and eager to work in such a different ecosystem.

My first impression of the Department of Natural Resource Management is also favorable. Some of my previous experiences would suggest that wildlife folks, fishery folks, and plant folks just do not interact much. But, that division among disciplines does not seem to predominate here. Whether it is by luck or by Dr. Willis' wise choice, my office is surrounded by offices of researchers in other disciplines. Everyone has been very welcoming, patient, friendly, and helpful. This collegiality speaks to both the quality of people and to the integrated nature of the department.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS • FIRST IMPRESSIONS • FIRST IMPRESSIONS • FIRST IMPRESSIONS

New experiences and challenges

BY DR. LARRY GIGLIOTTI
(Assistant Unit Leader, Human Dimensions Specialist, South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit)

Since it has been a little more than a year since I took up residence at the Northern Plains Biostress Lab I have been asked to write my first impressions. My first thought was, "it's been a year already!... are you sure?" I still have not learned the location of many places around Brookings yet, not to mention the locations of many buildings on campus, which are things I had planned on doing right away, but are still on the "things to do" list. Also, I haven't found new places to hunt; I still drive back to Pierre for pheasant and deer hunting.

I did do some Christmas shopping in Brookings last week and found several antique stores. I'm not much for shopping but I was fascinated by all the stuff in the shops and spent a couple of hours slowly looking at everything. It turns out that all the stuff I own is not old junk, but rather valuable antiques!

One thing I do miss about Pierre is my drive on route 34 to and from work along the Missouri River and my new house (which by the way is still for sale), although I did find a nice place in the country near Bruce with 35 acres. I also miss seeing the geese in town in winter and also the frequent opportunity to see deer in town. One thing I won't miss is working in a cubicle! When I worked in a cubicle I thought it was tolerable, but now that I have an office (and eventually I'll have a lab too) I don't think I could ever again work from a cubicle. On the plus side I have easy parking next to my office; on the negative side I have to pay for parking.

On one level first impressions don't really apply as I had developed and maintained a working relationship with the Department as an adjunct professor during my entire time with GFP. I already knew and enjoyed working with many of the people in the Department of Natural Resource Management. My tenure with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department was fantastic, but to be able to top off my career with a position with the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit has been a dream come true. At this point in my career the one thing I needed was new experiences and challenges and that is exactly what I'm finding with my current position. Another positive aspect of my job is that I still get to work on interesting fish and wildlife issues with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks staff.



Dr. Larry Gigliotti

Impressed with overall quality of life

BY DR. TROY GROVENBURG
(Assistant Professor, Wildlife Science)

My first impressions of South Dakota State University were actually formed many years ago, when I came back to school to obtain my degrees in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. During my time here as a graduate student and then a post-doctoral research associate, many changes have occurred and the Department is very different from the one I first encountered. First and foremost the Department Head, Dr. Scalet, who helped guide me through the early months of my career change, retired and was replaced by Dr. Willis. The Department also has seen many faculty changes, from the retirements of Dr. Higgins and Dr. Berry, to the new faces that came with the merger of the new Department of Natural Resource Management. One of the more amazing changes that I have witnessed over the past 8 years has



Dr. Troy Grovenburg

been the increased enrollment in the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences program. Course enrollment in classes that I once took many years ago has increased by 50% or greater. A good example is WL411 Principles of Wildlife Management, which I now teach. When I first took this class during the 'trial year' of my career change, enrollment was <40, whereas the current enrollment for this semester is 68. Graduate courses that I took with 7-10 students now routinely have enrollment of 20 or more.

There have been amazing changes to the landscape of the Northern Great Plains during my student and post-doctoral years and the ecoregion in which I begin my academic/research career is vastly different. Grasslands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) peaked during 2007 and have declined significantly in the Dakotas since then. South Dakota, which once hosted in excess of 647,000 ha, now has less than 404,000 ha and is projected to fall below 364,000 ha with expiring contracts in 2013. Nationally, CRP grassland enrollments have fallen from a high of 14.9 million ha to 10.9 million ha, with an additional 1.34 million ha expiring in 2013. This loss of CRP enrollments has been accompanied by a shift of land into corn production from idle agricultural land and native prairie as well as continued wetland drainage. Record commodity prices, expiring CRP contracts, conversion of native prairie, and wetland tiling have resulted in a rapidly changing landscape that offers challenges and opportunities

for research.

I moved to Brookings from Sioux Falls in July and have been pleasantly surprised with the community. Even though I have been at SDSU for over 8 years while completing my two graduate degrees and post-doc position, this is the first time I have lived in Brookings. Most of my time was spent either in the field for research (>5 years) or commuting from our family farm in rural Sioux Falls. I have been impressed with the selection of restaurants and with the overall quality of life.

Dr. Dale McCullough and a Department Social

Dr. Dale McCullough, SDSU Distinguished Alumnus, presented a seminar on "Leopards and tigers in Far East Russia" on Thursday, August 23. We were then able to combine a "back to school" department social with a chance to meet and honor Dr. McCullough.

Check us out at:

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



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Office Staff

Terri Symens (1991–present),
Dawn Van Ballegooyen
(2011–present),
Kate Tvedt (2011–present)
and Di Drake (1987–present).

Faculty Awards

Following are some of the 2012 honors and awards earned by our hard-working, dedicated faculty members. This is not a complete list, as not all awards were compiled by the time the newsletter went to press.

DR. STEVEN R. CHIPPS

- Distinguished Professional Service Award, Dakota Chapter, American Fisheries Society

DR. ROGER GATES: INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Gates, R.N. 2012. Grazing Management of Northern Great Plains Grasslands. Presentation to students and faculty in the Department of Pratacultural Science (Grassland Science), part of the College of Animal Science and Technology at Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University, 5 June, 2012, Yangling, China.
- Gates, R.N. 2012. Yellow Flowered Alfalfa Research. Presentation to students and faculty in the Department of Pratacultural Science (Grassland Science), part of the College of Animal Science and Technology at Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University, 7 June, 2012, Yangling, China.

DR. BRIAN D.S. GRAEB

- Young Professional Award, Dakota Chapter, American Fisheries Society

DR. TROY GROVENBURG

- Assistant Editor, The Prairie Naturalist

DR. PAT JOHNSON

- Chair of Awards Committee, Range Science Education Council
- Member of Society for Range Management Accreditation Team for the University of Idaho Range Undergraduate Program

DR. CAROL JOHNSTON

- Re-elected to Board of Directors, Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc. (CUAHSI) <http://www.cuahsi.org/>

- Associate Editor, Ecological Applications (Ecological Society of America)
- Appointed by the National Academy of Science to the U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Soil Sciences <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/biso/SS/index.htm>
- U.S. Scientific Committee, International Association for Ecology (INTECOL) 9th International Wetlands Conference, June 2012 http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/intecol/science_comm.html
- Advisory Committee, Watershed Approach Handbook, Environmental Law Institute and The Nature Conservancy, Washington, DC

DR. GARY LARSON

- Associate Editor, The Prairie Naturalist

DR. SANDY SMART

- Recognized for his paper “Effects of Herbicides and Grazing on Floristic Quality of Native Tallgrass Pastures in Eastern South Dakota and Southwestern Minnesota,” which was selected as the winner of the 2011 Charles E. Bessey award for best natural sciences article published in Great Plains Research in 2011. He even got a check with the award!
- Earned the Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award for 2012. Dr. Smart has displayed an on-going record of outstanding undergraduate and graduate mentorship, effectively integrated his research into his teaching program and provided leadership to enhance the SDSU Range Science program and its national reputation.

DR. MELISSA R. WUELLNER

- Honorary Member of Golden Key International Honor Society, SDSU (nominated by students) Certified Fisheries Professional, American Fisheries Society
- Master Level Online Instructor, South Dakota State University
- Associate Editor, The Prairie Naturalist

Student Awards

ADAM JANKE (SDSU advisor Dr. Josh Stafford) won the best presentation award at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society. His presentation “Scale-dependent influences of habitat use on non-breeding season survival of northern bobwhites” was based on his M.S. work at Ohio State University.

MARK KAEMINGK (SDSU advisor Dr. Dave Willis) won the Best Poster Award at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Dakota Chapter AFS. “Priority Effects among Young-of-the-Year Fish: Reduced Growth of Bluegill Sunfish (*Lepomis macrochirus*) Caused by Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*)?”

Undergraduate Student Research Awards

The Schultz-Werth Award Committee at SDSU recognizes scholarly activities by undergraduate students. Each year, students in Natural Resource Management are quite successful in this competition. Following are the 2012 award winners from our department.

BRIANNA GAUGHN: Seedling Root Morphology of Six Alfalfa Populations, \$1500, Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lan Xu

KRISTA HEGGE: Prevalence and Behavior of Switchgrass Moth (*Blastobasis repartella*) in Two Varieties Switchgrass, \$250, Faculty Advisors: Drs. Paul Johnson and Susan Rupp

KRIS STAHR: Abiotic and Biotic Factors Associated with Bluegill Nest Site Selection in a Natural Lake, \$2000, Mentor: Mark Kaemingk, Faculty Advisor: Dr. David Willis

Other Undergraduate Research Awards

LYNTASHA KUEHL: Pothole planktonic production as an ecosystem service: Quantifying spatial and temporal patterns within an intermittently exposed basin. USDA Honors in Agriculture Grant - \$2,500. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Nels Troelstrup

NICK NISTLER: Effects of micro-scale spawning phenology on recruitment of fishes, SDSU Agricultural and Biological Sciences Undergraduate Engagement Award, Mentor: Mark Kaemingk, Faculty Advisor: Dr. Katie Bertrand, \$3000

DAVID BOGNER: Does fast or steady win the fish race? Influence of year-1 growth on ultimate size, Mentor: Mark Kaemingk, Faculty Advisor: Dr. Melissa Wuellner, SDSU Griffith Undergraduate Research Award, \$3000

JASON AUGSPURGER: The influence of water level fluctuations on lake productivity and invertebrate communities in Nebraska Sandhill lakes, Mentor: Mark Kaemingk, Faculty Advisor: Dr. Dave Willis, SDSU Honors College Award, \$3000

Scholarship photos at annual Buffalo Banquet



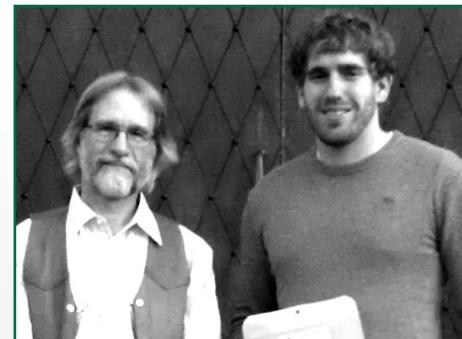
2012 AWARD IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:
Dr. Melissa Wuellner and Cody Bex



2012 BJORKLUND:
Dr. Brian Graeb and Kalee Dennert



2012 BROOKINGS WILDLIFE FEDERATION:
David Bogner and Dr. Steve Chippis



2012 DONAHOE:
Dr. Dan Hubbard and Riley Schubert



2012 JENNINGS UPPLAND:
Emma Kanaan, Dr. Lan Xu, Tiffany Moore



2012 FISHERIES PhD:
Dr. Brian Graeb and Mark Kaemingk



2012 HOGUE:
Geneva Hogue and Elise Berheim



2012 KALLEMEYN:
Justin Pederson and Dr. Susan Rupp



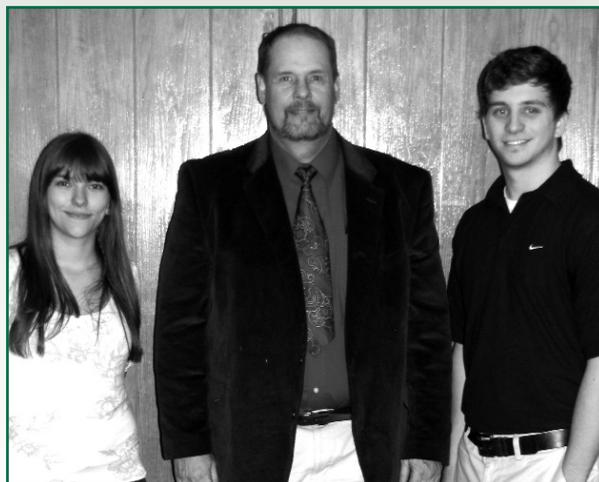
2012 LAMOUREAUX:
Dean Barry Dunn and Morgan Myers



2012 WILDLIFE PhD:
Dr. Ken Higgins, Julie De Jong and Dr. KC Jensen



2012 WILDLIFE MS AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES MS:
Mandy Orth, Dr. Chuck Dieter and Jason Thiele



2012 OAK LAKE RESEARCH AWARDS:
Taylor Ranum, Dr. Nels Troelstrup and Benjamin Van Keulen



2012 SMITH II:
Dr. Sandy Smart, Emily Helms and Dr. Gary Larson

Dan Hubbard Announces Retirement

With mixed feelings, we report to alumni and friends that Dr. Dan Hubbard has decided to retire as of May, 2013. Dan has been an integral part of the former Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Department and current Department of Natural Resource Management for many years, and certainly is one of our “most-appreciated” teaching faculty members according to student feedback on both course evaluations and exit interviews. We owe Dan many thanks for his efforts over the years. Dan assures us that his retirement is in his best interest, so we are dwelling on that positive aspect of his announcement.



Dr. Dan Hubbard

Tagir Gilmanov publication on carbon sequestration

While previously corn and wheat fields were considered carbon-neutral or even sources of CO₂ for the atmosphere, a recent paper by Gilmanov et al. *2013 in Agriculture Ecosystems and Environment*, based on analysis and modeling of direct CO₂ exchange measurements in representative agroecosystems of Midcontinent North America, demonstrated that grain crops are sinks (often strong sinks) for atmospheric CO₂.



Dr. Tagir Gilmanov

ALUMNI NEWS - ALUMNI NEWS - ALUMNI NEWS - ALUMNI NEWS

MARCY ANDERSON (BS 1998). Fish Biologist IV with Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Williamsburg, KY. Things are going well. I'm enjoying the new house. Work is crazy and hectic. Spent two weeks doing the creel and finding a new clerk. Just finished up 2 weeks of trap netting, 2 nights of tailwater trout shocking, and heading into 3 weeks of gill netting for walleye and stripers. Will be glad when November gets over! We are cutting back to 3 people per district. I've been able to get caught up on a lot of things, and I especially love my 2.5 mile commute (it has been really nice after night sampling). Hope things are going well in SD!

RICK CORDES (BS 1978). After a thirty year career with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks in fish culture and fish health management I accepted a position with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Region 5, Lamar Fish Health Center in Lamar, Pennsylvania in January 2011 as a Fish Biologist. At the Lamar Fish Health Center I was responsible for the surveillance of new and emerging fish pathogens in Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. The surveillance project was funded by the Department of Environmental Protection, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The project focused primarily on three fish pathogens of interest that were impacting the efforts to restore lake trout populations in Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. I collaborated with the USFWS Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, US Geological Survey Lake Ontario Biological Research Station, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, and Pennsylvania Boat and Fish Commission on sampling efforts during 2011. In January of 2012 I accepted a new position with the USFWS Region 1, Idaho Fish Health Center, Orofino, Idaho as a fish biologist. The fish center is co-located with the Dworshak National Fish Hatchery on the Clearwater River. The hatchery is the world's largest steelhead trout hatchery. In addition to steelhead the hatchery rears spring Chinook

salmon and coho salmon and is co-managed with the Nez Perce Indian Tribe. The Idaho Fish Health Center is responsible for fish health management at Dworshak,



Rick Cordes at work

Hagerman and Kooskia National Fish Hatcheries and the Nez Perce Tribal fish culture facilities in Idaho. I am currently responsible for the screening of fish pathogenic parasites and the molecular screening of fish pathogens using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), both conventional and real-time technique. My primer focus is on the use of real-time reverse transcriptase PCR in the detection of RNA virus, Infectious Hemorrhagic Necrosis virus (IHNv) in northwest pacific salmonids. IHNv is a serious pathogen which can cause severe losses of juvenile steelhead in hatcheries and is indigenous to the Columbia River drainage. The Idaho Fish Health Center is also participating in the surveillance of Infectious Salmon Anemia virus (ISAv) in the Pacific Northwest under the direction of the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. ISAv is another RNA virus which has caused signifi-

cant impacts to the commercial Atlantic salmon culture in Maine and Europe. In 2011 ISAv was reported to have been isolated from sockeye salmon in British Columbia, Canada, but the original isolation was never independently confirmed. The suspect report of ISAv immediately resulted in the establishment of an interagency cooperative effort in the US Pacific Northwest in the development of a surveillance program. I will be screening pacific salmon populations in 2012 and 2013 collected by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for ISAv using the real-time reverse transcriptase PCR. Certainly a change of pace from my career with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks where in twenty five years of fish health management I never saw a serious fish pathogen which can be attributed to the aggressive and proactive approach the department addressed fish health. Continue the great education and research programs at South Dakota State University Department of Natural Resource Management.

JEFFREY GLEASON (BS 1992, MS 1997). In early November I accepted a position with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Alabama Ecological Services Field Office in Daphne, AL. My present position is sort of a liaison between ES Office Staff and the Joint ventures and LCCs; science and monitoring coordinator so-to-speak. The area is really nice, located on the east side of Mobile Bay and not far from the white sand beaches. The office handles all ESA-related issues for >130 threatened,

endangered, or candidate species in the state of Alabama with the more iconic T&E species being the gopher tortoise, Alabama beach mouse, and red-cockaded woodpecker. The redbird and speckled trout fishing is pretty good particularly from Oct-Dec. There is also ample opportunity to get out waterfowl hunting as much of the bay is considered public access.

SHARON KAHARA (PHD 2007). My new baby, Makeba Njeri Echaria was born 11/22/11. Hi to everyone!

KEVIN MONTEITH (BS 2003, MS 2006). I hope this message finds you well. Sierra Elizabeth was 1 1/2 weeks late, and we ended up having to induce because of some complications, but after 2 days, Sierra was born at 2:30 am on March 17, 2012. She was 9 lbs. and 21 1/8 inches. Unfortunately she somehow caught pneumonia, so we were in the hospital a few days longer than expected. It has all been a great experience, with the exception of Sierra deciding that she never needs to sleep. I wouldn't trade it for the world!

JIM RAY (MS 1990). Accepted a volunteer seat on the Board of Directors, Purple Martin Conservation Association.

DR. MIKE WEBER (BS 2005, PHD 2012 [MS at University of Illinois]). Recently accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor of fisheries at Iowa State University.

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@sdstate.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you.

DEPARTMENT
WEBSITE

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

Oak Lake Field Station News

BY NELS H. TROELSTRUP, JR.,
DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT HEAD

Greetings from Oak Lake! Like much of the university, Oak Lake was hopping and changing throughout the past year. The station hosted seven different research projects this past summer, ranging from the effects of fire and mowing on prairie vegetation to regional calibration of lake trophic state indices and experimental efforts to understand biofuel cropping patterns on wildlife diversity. Taylor Ranum (EES), Lyn-tausha Kuehl (EES) and Ben Van Keulen (WFS) all conducted undergraduate research projects with support from the field station. All the Oak Lake researchers de-

livered excellent presentations during the station's annual research retreat in October, the best attended retreat held so far.

The station hosted another USDA beetle identification workshop, USFWS range plant identification workshop and the annual Native American Writer's Retreat. Several NRM courses utilized the station facilities and grounds this past year, including Principles of Wildlife Management and Limnology of Lakes and Streams which were offered for the first time at Oak Lake. The station hosted a visiting aquatic ecology class from Hastings College this past summer and the SDSU Honors College held their annual field excursion

to the station with attendance well over 100 people.

The station's annual spring bird count was attended by nearly 30 people from throughout eastern South Dakota. A record 78 bird species were tallied on census day. Oak Lake

monitoring efforts recorded a precipitous drop in lake level through the summer, dipping to 75 cm by September in mid-basin. Here's hoping we don't have another dry, hot summer like last year.

Nine NRM faculty representing Oak Lake Field Station and the Wildlife and Fisheries Laboratories submitted a planning proposal this fall to the National Science Foundation to develop the joint Dakota Ecosystem Science Laboratories. This umbrella structure would help lay the foundation for a five year strategic plan to create a common vision for both off-campus facilities and increase facility grant competitiveness. We remain excited about future possibilities as we await the reviews.

Finally, station staff were dismayed at the September retirement of long-time groundskeeper Leon Svoboda. We all wish Leon well in his retirement and look forward to regular visits as he now lives only a few miles away. Please welcome Kevin Olson as the new station groundskeeper. Kevin brings great enthusiasm for natural resources and a great background as a contractor, avid hunter and local farmer.



Participants of the USDA Beetle Identification Workshop held at Oak Lake Field Station, June 2012.

Donations to Department of Natural Resource Management

DECEMBER 28, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 21, 2012

3M — Matching Gifts

Robert Bartling
Peter J. and Bridget K. Bauman
Pete and Lisa Bergmann
Robert G. Best
Richard N. Bjorklund
Marvin L. and Jean Bouska
Brookings Wildlife Federation
Mike and Elaine Brown
Carrol O. and Janice M. Calkins
Valerie and Thomas M. Cheesbrough
David D. Cook
Randall A. and Karen Craft
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Rebecca R. Ewing
Clifford H. Fiscus
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Michael J. Hawkins
Jeremy J. Higgins
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Matthew M. Holland
Daniel E. Hubbard
James J. and Marjorie J. Hubert
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James A. and Emily H. Jennings
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Jerry D. Kobriger
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Morris L. and Marcene J. Radack
Stacy L. Salvevold
Charles G. and Dorcas S. Scalet
David C. Simon
Sioux Falls Chapter of
Izaak Walton League

South Dakota Cable
Television Association
SD Soybean Research &
Promotion Council
SD Walleyes Unlimited
Rollin D. Sparrowe
Richard T. and Suzanne G. Speer
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Daryl E. Tasler
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YES!

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

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Amount of Gift Enclosed \$ _____

*All donations should be made payable to the
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Department of Natural Resource Management.*

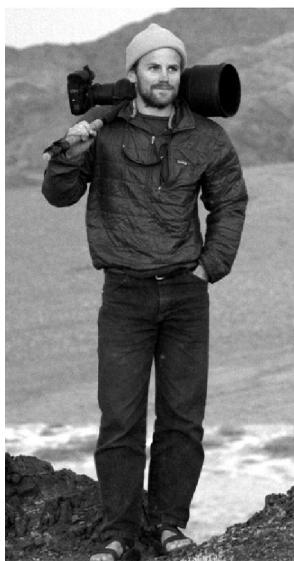
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Clifford Fiscus Speaker Fund

Proceeds from the Fiscus endowment were used to bring two guest speakers to campus during the fall of 2012. First, Jim Schneider visited from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University (MSU). We had a good exchange on comparisons between our two programs, and Jim provided useful information on the new advising model that they use at MSU. During early December, our department teamed up with the Brookings Wildlife Federation to bring Joe Riis to campus. Joe, son of former SDGFP fisheries biologist Jim Riis, is a wildlife biologist and photographer for the National Geographic Society. His two fabulous presentations, open to the entire community, were entitled “Pronghorn Passage and Other Conservation Photo Series,” and “Conservation Photography around the World.” You may read more about Emmy Award winning Joe Riis and view some of his photographs at www.joeriis.com.

Joe Riis on assignment at the Gobi Desert in Mongolia.

Ring-Necked Pheasants: Thriving in South Dakota

Authors: Lester D. Flake, Andy E. Gabbert, Thomas R. Kirschenmann, Anthony P. Leif, and Chad T. Switzer

A 254-page book entitled *Ring-Necked Pheasants: Thriving in South Dakota* has been published and will soon be available from the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks for \$15.00 per copy (including postage). The book can be ordered under merchandise or books over the Internet at the Department of Game, Fish and Parks website. The senior author, Dr. Les Flake, was a faculty member in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences (Department's former name) from 1972 to 2003, when he “retired.” Well, retired meaning that he kept writing books for us! Dr. Flake currently resides in Springville, Utah. All of the other coauthors work closely with the current Department of Natural Resource Management at SDSU in various ways and most are alumni of the program. The book targets a broad audience including hunters, land owners, and wildlife professionals. The information contained in the book is extensive and fairly in-depth but written so non-biologists will clearly understand the text. Approximately 200 color photos are distributed throughout the book to illustrate information covered in the text. Chapters deal with historical information, the biology of pheasants, habitat, surveys, hunting, conservation, and a variety of other topics. We think you will find this to be an interesting and informative book.

Those interested in this book may also be interested in two other books senior authored by Les Flake and available through the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks website. These books are: *The Wild Turkey in South Dakota* (2006) and *Grouse of Plains and Mountains--The South Dakota Story* (2010).

Les enjoys hearing from former students and can be reached on his cell phone at 801-318-7793 (Home phone: 801-491-0854) or at ldflake@yahoo.com.

Graeb and Willis Involved with AFS Small Impoundment Textbook

A new AFS book entitled *Small Impoundment Management in North America* was the brain-child of Dr. Wes Neal at Mississippi State University, and supported by the Small Impoundment Technical Committee of the Southern Division of AFS. Coeditors for the book were Dr. Neal and Dr. David Willis. The book is intended to be an in-depth textbook for use in graduate-level courses and by working professionals. Authors included academicians, agency biologists, and private sector biologists. Southern and northern biologists were often paired as coauthors to cover the spectrum of pond management on this continent. Dr. Brian Graeb was co-author on Chapter 8: Stunted Fish in Small Impoundments: an Overview and Management Perspectives. We hope this chapter will be the stimulus for

renewed study of “stunting,” based on the broad definition that was proposed in this chapter. Dave Willis coauthored the introductory Chapter 1 on Small Impoundments and the History of their Management and Chapter 7 on Assessment and Harvest of Largemouth Bass-Bluegill Ponds. Despite the likely interest in this textbook from the southern part of the country, we were quite proud of our local agencies! The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks was a Gold Sponsor of this project, while the North Dakota Game and Fish Department was a Silver Sponsor. In the total list of sponsors, only six state agencies provided financial support. Thanks SDGFP and NDGFD!!

Northern Great Plains Joint Venture – Roger Gates

The Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (NGPJV) is one of several Joint Ventures supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to coordinate habitat conservation efforts of cooperating groups, focused primarily on migratory, non-game birds. Western South Dakota falls within the NGPJV region. NGPJV encourages State Action Groups within its region of responsibility and groups already exist in Montana, Wyoming, and North Dakota. Twenty-two individuals, representing U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, USDI Bureau of Land Management, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Pennington County Weed and Pest Board, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Butte County Conservation District,

and Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership, responded to an invitation from SDSU Extension to consider organization of a NGPJV State Action Group for South Dakota. The group met at SDSU West River Ag Center in Rapid City on October 25.

An initial effort of the newly formed collaboration will be development of an online Landowner's Directory to Conservation Assistance, which will be housed on iGrow.org, the SDSU Extension website. The Directory will provide a “one stop” collection of conservation technical information, financial assistance and contact information for appropriate agency personnel for further information. The collaborative format provides a forum to encourage development of additional habitat conservation efforts.