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Natural Resource Management

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South Dakota State University

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NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



Department of Natural Resource Management South Dakota State University

Volume 72, Number 1, June 2013

Newsletter Update—Dave Willis (Department Head)

Hello, everyone! We decided on some newsletter changes! Despite the certain knowledge that change is never especially welcome (humor intended), we have *so much* newsletter content these days that we thought it was time to move to two newsletters per year. Of course, the cost of layout, printing and mailing would be prohibitive. Thus, we have embarked on the path of digital newsletters and distribution. Our plan was to send an email with a link to the newsletter to every graduate and friend of the program for whom we had an email address.

You can help! 1. Please get all email addresses to us. Office Manager **Terri Symens** will be glad to gather them (Terri.Symens@sdstate.edu)! 2. Let us know if you or anyone else wants a hard copy of the newsletter, and we will print and mail it! Yes, we understand that emailing a call for hard copies is not likely to be especially effective.... 3. Please share this email and newsletter link widely with other alumni and friends. 4. Keep those alumni (and friends) updates coming!

South Dakota DU honors Kurt Forman

South Dakota Ducks Unlimited named U.S. Fish and Wildlife Partners for Fish and Wildlife Project Leader **Kurt Forman** (B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries 1990) as its 2013 “Friend of the Ducks.” Forman was given the award at DU’s state convention in Watertown during January, 2013. “Kurt is strongly dedicated to working with private landowners to protect, restore and improve wildlife habitat—especially waterfowl production habitat in South Dakota,” said Rick Warhurst, DU manager of conservation programs for South Dakota. He says hundreds of small wetlands have been restored on Conservation Reserve Program grassland tracts by Forman and his team of biologists, located in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) offices across the state. A Windom native, Forman developed his love of waterfowl and wetlands while hunting the marshes of

southern Minnesota’s Heron Lake. He began working with FWS on private lands conservation in the 1990s and has written numerous successful grant proposals for South Dakota wetlands conservation. “It is certainly an honor to receive this award,” Forman said. “I have always had the utmost respect for Ducks Unlimited and look forward to continuing our partnership together for a shared vision of wetland and grassland conservation in the Dakotas.” Warhurst said Forman has courageously led the effort to establish responsible management practices for wetland resources in South Dakota and throughout the [Prairie Pothole Region](#). “Kurt always handles himself professionally and diplomacy is his strong suit,” Warhurst said. “He certainly has ‘ducks in the gut’ and is a member of the ‘mallard mafia fraternity’—a designation given to those biologists who fight hard for the ducks.” Kurt’s wife, **Lucy**, works at the SDSU Foundation and frequently helps our NRM department!

Range Club Teams Compete at SRM in OK

Competitions were held at the 66th Annual Society for Range Management meetings in Oklahoma City, OK on Feb 27, 2013. The Undergraduate Range Management Exam Team placed 11th out of 24 teams and the Range Plant Identification Team placed 5th out of 25 Teams.



*2013 Range Club, Plant Identification and Undergraduate Range Management Exam Team. Back row: **Andrew Krcil** (RC, PI, URME), **Dr. Lora Perkins** (URME Coach), **Sophie Strubbe** (RC, URME), **Nicole Schwebach** (RC, URME), **Cody Young** (RC, URME), **Patrick Pesicka** (RC, URME), **Brant Douville** (RC,*

URME), **Morgan Myers** (RC, ID, URME), **Jared Brown** (RC, URME), **Hunter Henderson** (RC, URME), **Dr. Gary Larson** (ID Coach). Front row: **Melisa Kafka** (RC, URME), **Kelsey Duchenaux** (RC, URME), **Cady Olson** (RC, URME), **Emily Helms** (RC, ID, URME), **Helen Lauth** (RC, ID, URME), and **Dr. Sandy Smart** (RC Advisor). RC = Range Club, ID = Range Plant Identification Team, URME = Undergraduate Range Management Exam Team.

Annual Meeting of the Dakota Chapter AFS

The 2013 annual meeting of the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was held February 26-28 at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Bismarck, ND. Undergraduate students involved in presentations were **Anthony Rodger, David Bogner, Luke Leischner, and Seth Sparks**. Graduate students involved in presentations were **Jeremy Kientz, Kjetil Henderson, Jacob Krause, Alexander Letvin, Jason Breeggemann, Andrew Carlson, Michael Barnes, Tanner Stevens, David Deslauriers, Jessica Howell, James Sholly, Mark Kaemingk, Daniel Dembkowski, Jeffrey Grote, Jake Mecham, Tobias Rapp, Bradley Smith, Natalie Schiebel, Matthew Wagner, Cari-Ann Hayer, Laura Heironimus, Adam Janke, and Todd Kaufman**. Faculty members involved in presentations were **Drs. Larry Gigliotti, Katie Bertrand, Brian Graeb, Michael Brown, Steven Chipps, David Willis, and Melissa Wuellner**. The *Outstanding Young Professional Award* was presented to **Dr. Katie Bertrand**. **Natalie Scheibel** and **Jeffrey Grote** earned co-Best Poster Awards, and **Andrew Carlson** earned the *Best Student Presentation Award*.

Adam Janke wins Prestigious Graduate Fellowship

Adam Janke, Ph.D. student in the Department of Natural Resource Management, was awarded the prestigious *Edward D. and Sally M. Futch Graduate Fellowship* from the Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research of Ducks Unlimited Canada for the coming year. This fellowship carries an award of \$7,000, which can be used for any purpose associated with his graduate research project. This award is renewable for two additional years for Ph.D. students. Dr. David Howerter, National Manager for the Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research, told Adam "Congratulations; you surmounted plenty of competition to become the winner of this prestigious award." Adam's major advisor for his Ph.D. program is **Dr. Joshua Stafford**, with the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Adam's research project is entitled "Evaluating Wetland Ecosystem Health in the Prairie Pothole Region of South Dakota Using Real-Time Nutrient Dynamics of Waterfowl."

Annual Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter TWS

The 2013 annual meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society was held February 25-27 at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, SD. Graduate students involved in presentations were **Brandi Crider, Joshua Smith, Indrani Sasmal, Cody Warner, Brian Pauly, Mandy Orth, Julie DeJong, and Brian Schaffer**. Faculty members involved in presentations were **Drs. Troy Grovenburg, Chuck Dieter, Jonathan Jenks, Kent Jensen, Josh Stafford, and Extension Range Field Specialist Pete Bauman**. The *Outstanding Student Presentation Award* was earned by **Mandy Orth** whose talk was entitled "Distribution and landscape attributes of greater prairie-chickens and sharp-tailed grouse outside of their traditional range in South Dakota." The *Outstanding PhD Student Award* was presented to **Adam Janke**, while the *Outstanding MS Student Award* was presented to **Brynn Parr**.

2013 Celebration of Faculty Excellence

I am so pleased to inform our Alumni and Friends that **Dr. Michael Brown** earned the distinction of being named the fourth *Distinguished Professor* in the Department of Natural Resource Management. This honor was well-deserved and earned during the years of his hard work at SDSU. I always say that Mike has two full-time jobs: one as a teaching and research faculty member, and another as an aquaculture and fish nutrition researcher. Our most sincere congratulations go out to Mike, along with our sincere appreciation! In addition, I hope our alumni and friends are proud that 4 of the current 11 distinguished professors at SDSU are part of the Natural Resource Management Department (Brown, Jenks, Carter Johnson, and Willis). Due to secretive nomination by Drs. Gary Larson and Katie Bertrand, department head Dave Willis (me) received the *Dr. Harold and Barbara Bailey Award for Excellence in Academic Department Leadership* at the 2013 Celebration of Faculty Excellence. I hope that everyone reading this newsletter knows how proud I am of our program, and how strongly I believe that our faculty members are among the hardest-working on campus. So, I accepted the award on their behalf. They do the work – my job is to help them.

Ben Turner in the News

Ph.D. student **Ben Turner**, working under **Dr. Roger Gates**, was featured in the *isee systems* spring newsletter. They were interested in Ben because as a PhD student in Biological Sciences at South Dakota State University, he is using Systems Thinking in the classroom and for his dissertation research. "Using Systems Thinking as an educational tool to help students investigate and understand agricultural related problems,

like range management and forage supply and demand, is very appealing,” said Turner. “My research builds on that interest by using Systems Thinking to develop a greater awareness of major land use changes in the northern Great Plains, particularly the loss of grassland ecosystems.” For more information on Ben and Roger’s work, check the following newsletter link.

http://www.iseesystems.com/community/connector/Zine/2013_Spring/AgEduResearch.aspx

Alumni news

Dawn Roush (M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries 1998) wrote to us. “It makes me feel old that another professor (Dr. Hubbard) who was there during my time in South Dakota is retiring. This winter I applied for and got a statewide specialist/monitoring coordinator position with the Water Resources Division for Michigan DEQ. This is the job I’ve wanted for a very long time, so I’m very happy. As part of the job, and I met with a professor at Michigan State University for statistics help the other day. It just so happens he was an SDSU undergraduate student, **Dr. Travis Brenden**. I thought that was pretty cool to meet with another SDSU graduate.”

Matt Ward (“the elder”) (M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries 2003) is the Large Lake Specialist for the Minnesota DNR at Leech Lake in Walker. Daughter Emma Ward was age 2 (actually 26 months) at Christmas of 2012. Matt says “Emma is now able to cast her Barbie fishing pole in the living room and hit our dogs with the little blue fake fish it came with. They don’t seem to appreciate her casting ability...”



Emma Ward

Matt Ward (“the younger”) (M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries 2005) is the Biologist at the SDGFP Blue Dog Fish Hatchery. Matt and his wife Andi have a new baby

boy. Eli was born early and spent an extra 100 days in the hospital in Sioux Falls. As of April 25, Eli went home, was doing well and weighed in at 7 lb, 14 oz.



Eli Ward

Easton James Ermer was born January 14, 2013 at 4:02 pm. He weighed 6 lb, 10 oz and was 20 inches long. Parents **Jacquie** (M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries 2000) and **Mark** (M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries 2001) are justifiably proud. Fisheries Dad Mark did not tell us what the relative weight value was for Easton despite reporting both length and weight to us!



Easton Ermer

The **North Dakota Game and Fish Department** honored **several SDSU alumni** during their annual winter meeting in December of 2012. **Stan Kohn** (MS Wildlife and Fisheries 1976), upland game supervisor, received their Director’s Award for professional excellence (“Employee of the Year”). **Kent Luttschwager** (MS Wildlife and Fisheries 1991), wildlife resource management supervisor in Williston, was recognized with an Innovations Award for his efforts pertaining to oil and gas activity in the Williston Basin, and for coordinating 2001 flood recovery efforts on several Missouri River wildlife management areas. Finally, **Greg Gullickson** (BS Wildlife and Fisheries 1998), outreach biologist in Minot, received their Public Outreach Award for coordinating state fair renovation efforts.

Nathan (Nate) Olson (BS Wildlife and Fisheries 2002) is in a new position with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as the Area Fisheries Supervisor in Detroit Lakes (May 2013).

Gary Marrone (BS Wildlife and Fisheries 1972) reports that he has been wintering at Port Aransas, TX for the past 11 years and enjoys catching large (10-35 lb) redfish. They caught over 90 (most over 28 inches are released) during the first half of the winter for 2012-13. He has an 18 foot boat and fishes in and around the shipping channel that leads into Corpus Christi Bay. Last year he went out off-shore on a charter and caught a 275 lb Mako shark.



Gary Marrone and a darn nice redfish!

Bethany (Galster) Bethke (B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries 2009) is back in the north country after her M.S. program at North Carolina State University. She accepted a research position as a Fisheries Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in Finland, MN. We can assure DNR folks that this is a good hire!

Stephen B. Smith (M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries 1971) sent this update. "I was an MS student in Fisheries when Don Hales and Dick Applegate were the Coop Unit advisors. Since that time I have been with Cornell University and then 30 years with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey, ending my career in fisheries in 2007. I was with the Reservoir Research Program, The Great Lakes Research Lab, Fish and Wildlife Ecological Service office, the Division of Environmental Contaminant in D.C. and the last several years with USGS in Reston, VA. All GREAT experiences. The 'get er done' attitude at SDSU was and still is the ambition and the attitude many people acknowledged and appreciated. Many things have changed at SDSU particularly the structure of the facilities and the design of the program. I assume the

old wildlife and fisheries building is long gone. I believe I was the first student to occupy space at the wet lab north of Brookings. It is really nice to see many PhD candidates and to see the diversity of the projects that are being pursued."

Clifford H. Fiscus Waterfowl Research Endowment

We were saddened by news about the passing of **Clifford Fiscus** (B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries 1950) in February of 2013. Cliff was a long time employee of the NOAA National Marine Mammal Lab (NMML). From 1958 through the early 1970s he conducted pelagic investigations of northern fur seals. Later in his career he studied Stellar sea lions and harbor seals in Alaska and pinnipeds on the west coast of the Pacific. Best known for his food habits work on pinnipeds and cetaceans, he became one of the world's experts on the identification of cephalopods. His reference collection of squid and octopus beaks remains in use today at NMML, and is considered one of the best in the country. NOAA is seeking to honor the life of this great man with a memorial bench on site where he worked at the Sand Point Facility. Cliff's nephew, **Joe Greear**, contacted us with the update.

Clifford originally provided a \$25,000 endowment to the Department through the SDSU Foundation in 2004, which was used to bring guest speakers to campus. Between 2004 and 2012, 17 guest speakers, many with international reputations, have spoken to our students as a result of this endowment. We use only the endowment proceeds each year, and thus the principal remains in place and Mr. Fiscus will continue to support our speaker program into the future. In addition, Cliff's estate also provided a new endowment in the amount of \$100,964! After discussion with Joe Greear, these funds were placed into a research endowment to create the *Clifford H. Fiscus Waterfowl Research Endowment*. When paired with proceeds from the *Kenneth F. Higgins Waterfowl Legacy Research Endowment*, we are reaching the point where we can really help our graduate research program.

Please check out our 5 research endowments on our web page. <http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/research-endowments/index.cfm> Many good things are happening, and alumni contribute to one or more of the endowments each month.

Jesse West Fisheries Research Endowment

Another of our research endowments paid dividends this year. Undergraduate student **Kris Stahr** (BS Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences 2012) published a research project that was partially funded by the Jesse W. West

Fisheries Research Endowment. The paper was entitled *Factors Associated with Bluegill Nest Site Selection within a Shallow, Natural Lake*, and Mark Kaemingk helped Kris with the work. The paper came out in a 2013 volume/issue of *Journal of Freshwater Ecology*. Kris is now in an M.S. program with Dr. Dan Shoup at Oklahoma State University. Check the following link for the products produced with Jesse West funding over the past 6 years. <http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/research-endowments/west.cfm>

Another Kristen Sternhagen sighting this year
Alumni and friends may remember the story in our 2012 NRM department newsletter about M.S. student **Kristen Sternhagen** and the compliments she received on her North Dakota deer research project. Well, she received another such compliment this year. **Randy Kreil**, the Wildlife Division Chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (and my former summer technician many decades ago – DW), sent this bit of information. “I took a call this morning from a guy named Corky George who lives in Gilby, North Dakota. He is a lifelong resident of the area and taught school there for 38 years. He wanted us to know just how impressed he and many other people in the local community are with Kristen Sternhagen and the work she is doing on the white-tailed deer project. Apparently Kristen has made a habit of stopping in the hardware store every Saturday morning and updating the local folks on the progress of the project. She has even invited some of them, including Mr. George, to accompany her in the field on occasion, which is very much appreciated. Corky went on for nearly 20 minutes with his accolades and his stories about her work ethic and communication skills. He encouraged us to find a place for her in our agency if at all possible. He made the point that he has interacted with a lot of young people over the years but Kristen is something extra special. I told him we were well aware of her skills and work ethic but we had very little turnover in our department, although when we do have turnover we seek out people with Kristen’s qualities and that you never know how things work out. We rarely receive calls of this nature but when we do it really makes our day. Thanks.” Thank you, Randy!

Scholarship items

Dr. Paul and Jeanette Vohs endowed a scholarship in their name that was initiated in 2012. Starting in 2013, they increased the dollar amount for this single scholarship to \$2,000 per year. Paul was Head of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from 1974 to 1976. From there, he went to work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service as Unit Leader of the Oklahoma Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit until

1979 when he was asked to transfer to Washington, D.C. as the Supervisor of all of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Units across the US. He was appointed Director of the Denver Wildlife Research Center (USFWS) in 1983. He moved to Iowa State University in 1987 as Leader of the Cooperative Fisheries and Wildlife Research Unit and served until 1992. In 1992, he became a Senior Editor and assistant branch leader with the Information Transfer Center in Fort Collins, CO. He retired from the federal government in 1995. We certainly appreciate their generosity!



Dr. Paul Vohs

I am personally (i.e., Willis) very pleased to announce that we awarded the **FIRST Robert L. Hanten** memorial scholarship in 2013! Bob was long-time fisheries chief for the SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks; an enthusiastic supporter for the department; and a true mentor to me as I started my career at SDSU as an assistant professor of fisheries. Bob earned his B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from SDSU in 1960, as did his son **Robert Peter Hanten** in 1995. We very much appreciate the efforts by Bob’s wife, **Dr. Carroll Hanten**, to endow this scholarship. As we were preparing for the Buffalo Banquet (scholarship banquet) this year, I was checking scholarship records, and lo and behold, Bob Hanten received the first scholarship awarded by the Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League in 1959! What goes around, comes around!





Department Head Emeritus **Dr. Chuck Scalet** presented the inaugural **Robert L. Hanten Memorial Scholarship** to **Matthew Perrion** at the 2013 Buffalo Banquet.

Lyle and Garnet Perman also endowed their **Rock Hills Ranch Scholarship** this year. The scholarship was initiated in 2006 and goes to students enrolled in the Range Science program. Lyle and Garnet established their ranch near Lowry, SD in 1976, and Lyle is active in the South Dakota Grassland Coalition. The entire Perman family has quite a connection to SDSU with their degrees: Garnet in Biology with minors in German and Athletic Training, Lyle in General Agriculture, Luke in Range Science, and Kajsia in Consumer Affairs with a Spanish minor. Our sincere appreciation to the Perman family!

Willis: general thoughts on scholarships

We are extremely appreciative of all of our scholarship donors. As indicated above, many new donors came forward this year. The Range Science scholarship program is wonderful, reaching such a high percentage of our students. Our sincere thanks go to **Lyle and Garnet Perman, Jim and Emily Jennings, and Barry and Jane Dunn**, among others. Similarly, I was proud to watch Assistant Department Head **Nels Troelstrup Jr.** institute his fund-raising efforts, mostly among faculty and Environmental Management graduates from SDSU, to increase the number of scholarships for our Ecology and Environmental Science majors. We also appreciate all the work done by SDSU Foundation staff. At the risk of missing someone, we especially want to thank **Mike Barber, Elaine Brown, Lucy Forman, Heidi Fields, and Lisa Skovlund**. In addition, we sincerely appreciate the fine work by SDSU Scholarship Coordinator **Monica Jorgenson**. We announced over \$43,000 in scholarships, with over \$12,000 coming from just the **Wilbur Allen** scholarships, at the 65th Annual Buffalo Banquet in April of 2013. The sheer number of scholarship winners is challenging to address in this newsletter! We will provide the list later in this newsletter.

Brookings Pheasants Forever Research Endowment

Our sincere appreciation is extended to the Brookings County Pheasants Forever chapter for their \$25,000 to a pheasant/upland game research endowment. **Dr. KC Jensen** has been working with the chapter and helped to make this happen. At their 2013 banquet, they presented KC with a check for the SDSU Foundation. Paired with the *Curtis M. Twedt Upland Game Research Endowment*, we are on a good path toward an ongoing assistantship for a graduate student.



Dr. Kent Jensen accepts an endowment donation from Wayne Avery of Brookings County Pheasants Forever.

New addition!

Lily Denise Wuellner was born March 25, 2013 at 4:10 pm, weighing 9 lbs. 6 oz, and was 20 inches long. Mother **Melissa**, Assistant Professor of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, and father **Ryan** are also doing well.



Lily Wuellner

Dr. Patricia Johnson – an SDSU Woman of Distinction

Dr. Pat Johnson was recognized with the SDSU Woman of Distinction Award in the Faculty Category during a ceremony in April of 2013. Dr. Johnson has had a distinguished career as a faculty member in Range

Science at SDSU. She earned her B.A. in Mathematics and B.S. in Biology from Fort Lewis College in Colorado, and her M.S. in Range Ecology and Ph.D. in Range Science from Utah State University. She began her academic career at SDSU when she was hired as an assistant professor in 1986; she rose through the academic ranks, earning the rank of Professor in 1997. Her areas of expertise include plant-animal interactions; patterns of cattle grazing on individual plants; plant responses to grazing; prairie dog-livestock competition and impacts on vegetation communities; plant ecology; grazing management; vegetation measurement techniques; and GPS tracking of livestock. During her SDSU career, she has garnered \$4.4 million in research grants (principal investigator [PI] or co-PI), published 50 papers in peer-reviewed journals, and mentored 20 M.S. and 6 Ph.D. students as major advisor or graduate committee member. Finally, she was honored with her election as a Fellow by the Society for Range Management (SRM) in 1998; she was the 4th woman to receive this recognition, and is 1 of only 5 women selected out of 196 total awardees over the past 17 years. In addition, SRM compiled a list of faculty members in Range Science across North America, and Dr. Johnson was the 2nd female faculty member hired on this continent within this discipline. One of the letters of support for Pat's nomination was provided by three of her professional colleagues: Dr. Karen Launchbaugh at the University of Idaho, Dr. Karen Hickman at Oklahoma State University, and Dr. Susan Marshall at Humboldt State University.



Dr. Pat Johnson (right side, white sleeves) celebrates after her Woman of Distinction award with West River SDSU friends at the Olive Garden in Rapid City. Thanks to **Dan Oedekoven** for the digital image.

Alumnus Doug Austen new Executive Director for American Fisheries Society

Dr. Douglas J. Austen (B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries 1981) was selected by the American Fisheries Society

(AFS) as its new Executive Director. He will remain with US Fish and Wildlife Service until August 2013, where he serves as the National Coordinator of the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. Dr. Austen has extensive executive leadership and management experience in the public and private sectors, including serving as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (2004-2010), and with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as the Head of the Technical Support Section (1996-2004) and Head of the Fisheries Analysis Section (1994-1996). He began his career as a fisheries scientist with the Illinois Natural History Survey (1984-1994). He has served as President of the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA), and a member of the governing board of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). He has also served in a variety of roles as a member of AFS, including President of the North Central Division, President of the Illinois Chapter, Associate Editor of the North American Journal of Fisheries Management, co-chair of the Fisheries Action Network, a member of the Continuing Education Committee and Professionalism Committee, and Apple software librarian for the Computer Users Section. Doug will start work at AFS in mid-August, which will give him time to prepare for the upcoming annual meeting in Little Rock as he transitions into the position.

SDSU Subunit of AFS wins Board of Regents Award

The SDSU Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society (hereafter Subunit) was honored by the South Dakota Board of Regents at their April 2013 meeting with the *Award for Organizational Leadership*. This award is presented to only one student organization per university. The Subunit is committed to community and university service as well as education and professional development of members. Since April 1, 2012, the Subunit educated youth about aquatic resource conservation at a Fisheries Research Fun Day and Cub Scout Fishing Derby, events featured in the *Brookings Register* (local newspaper). Undergraduate and graduate students taught children important skills for conducting scientific aquatic resource studies and acting as responsible stewards of our environment. Subunit members also served as judges at a Pinewood Derby hosted by a local Cub Scout troop, serving as role models for the next generation of young adults. Through these service activities, Subunit members built lasting relationships in their community and embraced the critical human component of natural resource management. At the university level in 2012, Subunit members formed partnerships with other environmentally themed organizations to pursue mutual goals. The Subunit joined forces with the SDSU PREXY

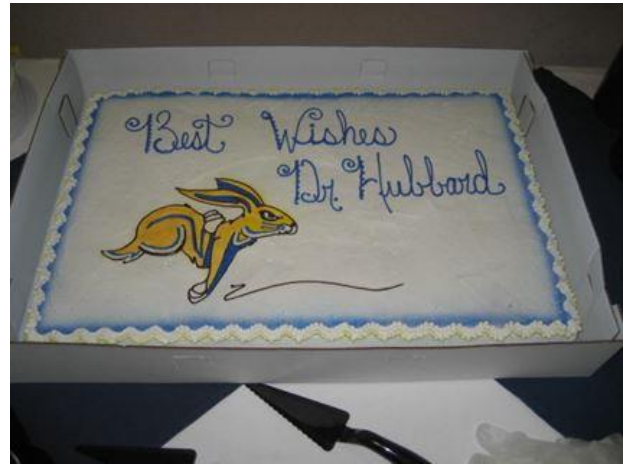
Council to foster development and service in student organizations on campus. The Subunit hosted a Natural Resource Management Job Fair to provide undergraduate students across disciplines with valuable information about summer internships with state, federal, and university employers. Subunit members also invited two natural resource professionals (**Kristen Grohs**, US Fish and Wildlife Service; **Dr. Quinton Phelps**, Missouri Department of Conservation; both SDSU graduates) to speak with students about their important research. Finally, the Subunit funded four scholarships for undergraduate student travel to the annual Dakota Chapter American Fisheries Society meeting, an important research and networking event.



*Left to right: SDSU President **Dr. David Chicoine**, Regent **Dean Krogman**, Subunit President **Andrew Carlson**, **Laura Heironimus**, and BOR Executive Director **Dr. Jack Warner** at the presentation of the Award for Organizational Leadership from the South Dakota Board of Regents.*

Dr. Dan Hubbard retires

Dr. Dan Hubbard retired from his position as Professor of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in May of 2013. Dan has been a big component of our teaching program, and he is one of the most appreciated instructors in the department based on both course evaluations and our exit interviews. He earned his B.S. in fisheries and wildlife from Michigan State University in 1975, his M.S. in wildlife and fisheries sciences from SDSU in 1979, and his Ph.D. in agronomy from SDSU in 1988. He was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in 1989 and earned the rank of full professor in 2000. He has long been our specialist in wetland ecology, human dimensions, and wildlife law enforcement. He and **Sandy** plan to stay in Brookings, and we suspect that his horse chores will help keep him busy. Dan hopes, and we certainly hope, that he can continue to occasionally help us teach various departmental classes.



*M.S. student **Matt Gottlob** (right) presents **Dr. Dan Hubbard** with a plaque in appreciation of his 21 years of service as advisor for the SDSU Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club.*

Changes in faculty teaching responsibilities

Dr. Hubbard's teaching responsibilities in the department will be covered by a variety of other faculty members. This plan was precipitated when SDSU decided in 2011 to no longer allow the use of non-tenure track faculty members. Instead, faculty members must either be on the tenure-track or in an instructor series (a series that does include promotional opportunities). That left **Dr. Melissa Wuellner**, our distance education coordinator, in a state of limbo for a time. Fortunately, Provost Nichols gave us an extra year to resolve the situation. While Melissa could have opted for the instructor track, she instead chose to take the tenure-track path that was created by Dan's retirement. Thus, Dr. Wuellner will teach NRM 110 Environmental Conservation, WL 220 Introduction to Wildlife and Fisheries (team taught), and WL 430-430L Human Dimensions in Wildlife and Fisheries, courses

previously taught by Dr. Hubbard. She will also teach WL 792 Teaching Strategies because of her expertise in the scholarship of teaching and learning, and will continue as our distance education coordinator. Our Ph.D. students certainly appreciate the opportunity to teach online course sections (for additional pay, too!). **Drs. Chuck Dieter** and **Troy Grovenburg** will pick up Dan's portion of WL 230 Wildlife and Fisheries Techniques, and Troy will teach the WL 420 Wildlife Law and Enforcement course (although we hope that Dan might be able to teach this course for us the next time it is offered in fall of 2014). Finally, **Dr. Carol Johnston** will teach the WL 712-712L Wetland Ecology and Management course for us (thanks, Carol!). So, it takes a *team* of folks to replace Dr. Hubbard!

Sigma Xi Graduate and Undergraduate Research Awards

Three of our NRM students won Sigma Xi Graduate Research Competition awards out of a total 12 such awards. Congratulations to these students and their advisors. The Sigma Xi banquet was held on Monday, April 22. M.S. proposal awards went to **Brianna Graff** (First place; advisor **Dr. Troy Grovenberg**): American Kestrel nest box occupancy, fidelity, and fledgling success; and **Diane Narem** (First place; advisors **Drs. Lan Xu** and **Gary Larson**): Mapping and classifying native grassland habitats and characterizing Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*) habitat on South Dakota's Prairie Coteau. A Ph.D. research paper award went to **Joshua Smith** (Third place; advisor **Dr. Jonathan Jenks**): Estimating primary prey consumption rates for cougars in the Black Hills, South Dakota. NRM students also performed quite well in the undergraduate research competition as well, which was also held on April 22. The Sigma Xi undergraduate awards went to **Lyntausha Kuehl** (Second place; mentor: **Dr. Nels Troelstrup, Jr.**): Relationships between net primary production, water transparency, chlorophyll a, and total phosphorous in a shallow prairie pothole basin; and **Jason Augspurger** (Third place; mentors: **Drs. Mark Kaemingk** and **Dave Willis**): The influence of water level fluctuations on lake productivity and invertebrate communities in Nebraska Sandhill lakes. **David Bogner** (mentors: **Drs. Melissa Wuellner** and **Mark Kaemingk**) received awards of excellence from both the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences and the Department of Natural Resource Management. Finally, **Matthew Perrion** (mentors: **Drs. Mark Kaemingk** and **David Willis**) received a Joseph Nelson grant and **Tony Rodger** (mentors: **Dr. Brian Graeb** and **Mr. Jason Breeggemann**) received a Shultz-Werth award.

Niall Hanan earns tenure

Dr. Niall Hanan is Professor and Senior Research

Scientist with the Geographic Information Science Center of Excellence, and his tenure home is in Natural Resource Management. During the 2012-13 promotion and tenure cycle, Dr. Hanan earned tenure at SDSU, so our congratulations to him! His expertise is in savanna ecology, vegetation and biophysical modeling, grazing lands, climate change and coupled natural-human systems, including Africa. His research responsibilities involve earth system dynamics and ecology, integrating theory, field-based experimentation and geospatial technologies (modeling and remote sensing).

Kaemingk earns NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Dr. Mark Kaemingk (Ph.D., Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, 2013) has earned a highly competitive National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology. Mark's \$140K proposal was entitled "Recruitment Dynamics of *Galaxias maculatus* in the Oceanic Phase: Addressing the 'Uncharted' Patterns of Larval Dispersal." Populations of this galaxiid fish form the basis of a culturally important fishery in New Zealand (comprising up to 95% of the 'whitebait' fishery), and populations are currently declining. This research will enhance understanding of recruitment dynamics of *G. maculatus* by providing critical and lacking information on mortality rates, growth rates, metapopulation dynamics, and potential factors influencing their dispersal patterns during the marine life stage of this diadromous fish. *G. maculatus* is culturally important to the Maori and the proposed research will require consultation with local Maori groups. The research ensures that *G. maculatus* will remain a sustainable and important cultural fishery for future generations in NZ. Mark will work with Dr. Jeffrey Shima at the University of Victoria-Wellington in New Zealand and will be stationed at the Victoria University Coastal Ecology Laboratory. He will be in New Zealand from approximately November 2013 to October of 2015.



Dr. Mark Kaemingk

GP*IDEA Grassland Management Graduate Certificate Program receives recognition

The Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GP*IDEA) awarded their Persistence Pays Off Award to the Grassland Management Graduate Certificate program. SDSU is a partner within this certificate program, and **Dr. Sandy Smart** teaches the grassland fire ecology course for that program. For more information on this online program, check the SDSU website at the following link.

<http://www.sdstate.edu/cee/distance/degrees/gm.cfm>



Roger Gates work in China

Dr. Roger Gates, Professor and Range Extension Specialist, and his wife, Vonda, spent April 2013 at Northwest A & F University in Yangling, Shaanxi, China. Roger taught their Forages class, helped graduate students with editing of journal manuscripts, and made initial plans with Chinese scientists for research on evaluation, establishment and selection of switchgrass. In addition, he met with University and College administrators who are eager to establish cooperative agreements that facilitate student and faculty exchange and collaborative research. NWA&F University makes a strong commitment to international scientists by providing convenient housing and warm hospitality. Roger and Vonda enjoyed both during their stay!



Dr. Roger Gates (second from left) at Northwest A & F University in Yangling, Shaanxi, China.

Carol Johnston an SWS Fellow

Dr. Carol Johnston has been selected as a Fellow of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS). She earned this prestigious acknowledgement based on her distinguished contributions to the field of wetland science. The Fellows Award Subcommittee of SWS made the following evaluation of her nomination. “Dr. Carol Johnston has made many important scientific contributions to understanding landscape-scale perturbations of wetlands and water quality across a range of wetland types and settings. She has published five books and many seminal original research papers that still are widely cited today. She is considered a pioneer in the use of geographic information systems in ecological research and has been a major contributor to development of wetland soil science. Her service to the scientific community, including numerous invitations to serve on National Research Council and National Science Foundation panels attests to her high level of competence and respect she receives from her peers. She has also provided significant service to SWS, notably serving as its President in 1992-93.” Her Fellow Award was announced at the Awards Lunch on Tuesday, 4 June 2013, at the SWS annual meeting in Duluth, Minnesota.

Also announced at the SWS meeting was an award for **Victor Garrett**, a graduate student under Dr. Johnston. They actually received news from two sources about funding for his research on beaver impoundments at Voyageurs National Park. Victor was selected as a recipient of the 2013 NPS George M. Wright Climate Change Fellowship for approximately \$11K, which will pay him for two months this summer and provide research funds, and he also received a \$750 award to support his research from the North Central Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS).

Brown and Gibbons win Governor’s Award

Drs. **Mike Brown** (Natural Resource Management) and **Bill Gibbons** (Biology/Microbiology) were winners in the April 2013 Governor’s Giant Vision Business Competition for new start-up companies incubated by South Dakota’s growing focus on university-based research. Mike and Bill earned second place in the competition for their Prairie AquaTech work at SDSU, which utilizes proprietary technology to develop a fish meal replacement, using South Dakota crops such as soybeans, that reduces the use of marine-derived resources currently used in aqua-feed production. “Each of these companies has already partnered with established industry partners, and demonstrated the potential to add significant value to existing resources exported around the U.S. and the world from South Dakota,” said Paul Turman, system vice president for

research and economic development at the South Dakota Board of Regents.

Bird species list, Oak Lake Field Station

Dr. Gary Larson submitted this list of bird species found at the Oak Lake Biological Field Station's Bird Walk on May 11, 2013. Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay Colored Sparrow, American Crow, House Sparrow, Ring-necked Pheasant, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Robin, Barn Swallow, White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Veery, Common Grackle, Eastern Kingbird, Canada Goose, Song Sparrow, Double-crested Cormorant, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-crowned Night Heron, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-tailed Hawk, Blue-winged Teal, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Belted Kingfisher, Mallard, Tree Swallow, Ring-billed Gull, Bald Eagle, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Least Flycatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Gray Catbird, Tennessee Warbler, Blue Jay, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Lincoln's Sparrow, Blue-headed vireo, Northern Flicker, Brown Thrasher, Northern Cardinal, Great Egret. The list only has 44 species this year, far below the expected number in the 70s. Another effect of the late spring in 2013?

Survey of Amphibians and Reptiles

Curriculum changes seem to occur at a relatively fast rate these days. One course that has long been requested has been herpetology. During spring of 2013, Dr. **Chuck Dieter** taught our first such course: WL 361 Survey of Amphibians & Reptiles. Because we do not yet have a specimen collection, the course was taught as lecture-only for 2 credits. However, Dr. Dieter and undergraduate student **Gabrielle Maltaverne** are making the first field collections for us this summer.



Liz Opitz and Dr. Chuck Dieter with a young alligator at a WL 361 class period.

65th Annual Buffalo Banquet

The 65th Annual Buffalo Banquet (scholarship and awards banquet) was held April 16, 2013. Following are our winners; what a great group of students it was!

Paul and Jeanette Vohs Scholarship: **Jason Augspurger**;
Claude V. Lamoureux Memorial Scholarship: **Ella Woroniecki**;



Dr. Sandy Smart (right) presented both the James K. "Tex" Lewis Memorial Scholarship and the Smith Award in Range Sciences to **Morgan Myers**.



Gabrielle Maltaverne (left) with **Nelda Holden** after presentation of the David J. Holden Memorial Scholarship.

Edward Crozier and Caryl Kinkner Crozier Scholarship: **Hayden Palmer**;



Left to right: **Matthew Phayvanh**, **Jeff Decker** (SDSWU), **Rachel Portwood**, **Darrel Solberg** (SDWU), **October Greenfield**, and **Matthew Perrion** for the South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited Scholarships (not pictured is **Brianna McEntee**).

Oak Lake Undergraduate Research Grant: **Gabrielle Maltaverne**; Robert L. Hanten Memorial Scholarship: **Matthew Perrion**;



Larissa Martinmaas (left) received the Lake Campbell Wildlife Club Scholarship from Kaitlyn Van Beek.



Dr. Carter Johnson with Outstanding Biological Sciences Graduate Student **Malia Volke**.



Geneva Kettering Hogue (left) presented her Geneva Kettering Hogue and Jerome O. Hogue Scholarship to **Heather Runeberg**.

James and Barbara Jessen Scholarship: **Emily Holm**;



Brianna McEntee (center) received the Brookings Wildlife Federation Scholarship from BWF President **Spencer Vaa** (left) and **Dr. Chuck Berry**.



Cody Warner (second from left) received the Gay Simpson Memorial Award from **John Simpson** (left), **Dr. Chuck Dieter**, and current state waterfowl biologist **Rocco Murano** (far right).

Brent Wilbur Scholarship: **Katte Muza**; Elvin and Eloys Bjorklund Memorial Scholarship: **Jonathan Manning**; Ecology and Environmental Science Scholarships: **John Elverson**, **Collin Kjose**; and **Jennifer McLaughlin**;



Troy Lambert received the Mabel Adams Eberly Memorial Scholarship from **Dr. Lan Xu**.

Ward Miller Scholarship: **Alex Boger**; McCook Lake Izaak Walton League Scholarships: **Elise Berheim, David Bogner, Kody Conlon, and Ty Hamar**; South Dakota Conservation Officers' Association Scholarship: **Jonathan Manning**; Streeter Family Memorial Scholarship: **Thomas Zinter**;



*The Lloyd and Alice Fredrickson Memorial Scholarship for the outstanding fisheries Ph.D. student went to **Daniel Dembkowski**, pictured with co-advisor **Dr. Melissa Wuellner**.*



***Datta Shubham** (left) received the Lloyd and Alice Fredrickson Award for Outstanding Wildlife Ph.D. student from graduate advisor **Dr. Troy Grovenburg**.*

Jerome Norgren Scholarships: **Bailey Gullikson, Joseph Lucas, and Wyatt Mack**;



***Dr. Lora Perkins** with **Cady Olson, Shelby Simon, and Patrick Pesicka** (l to r); three winners of Jennings Upland scholarships in Range Science. Not pictured are **Tyler Swan, Lance Wheeler, and Daniel Zenk**.*

Larry & Jo Kallemeyn Scholarship: **Sean Riesenberg**;



*The Great Plains Fishery Workers Association Scholarship for Outstanding Fisheries M.S. student went to **Eli Felts**, pictured with advisor **Dr. Katie Bertrand**.*



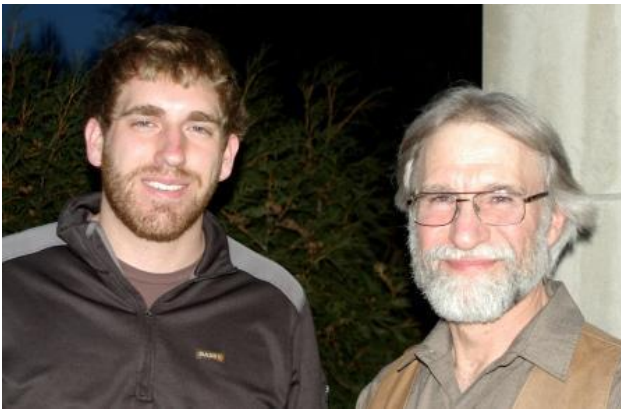
*Outstanding Wildlife M.S. Graduate Student **Brian Schaffer** with advisor **Dr. Jon Jenks**.*

Rock Hills Ranch Scholarship: **Morgan Myers**; Stephen M. Zearth Scholarship: **Ryan Johnston**; David Bartling Scholarship: **Morgan Kauth**;



***Rachel Portwood** (right) received the Sioux Falls Chapter Izaak Walton League Scholarship from **Mike Thuringer**.*

Brookings Pheasants Forever Scholarship: **Luke Winge**;



Dr. Dan Hubbard (right) presented the Jeffery and Pamela Donahoe Scholarship to **Riley Schubert**.

Dr. Gerald B. Spawn Memorial Scholarship: **Katie Lind**; Wilbur Allen Scholarships: **David Bogner, John Christensen, Paige Ellensohn, Jacob Fernholz, Alyse Homola, Brett Miller, Bradley Mullen, Megan Norman, Riley Novak, Garrett Rowles, Victor Tuschen, Brandon White, and Rebecca Willprecht**.

The South Dakota Coop Unit Turns 50! – by Steve Chipps

The South Dakota Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit was formally established at SDSU in 1963. Since then, the Fisheries Unit was added (1965) and the Unit was then combined as a “Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit” (1985). I’ve always wondered why we were not called the “Cooperative Wildlife and Fish Research Unit” because we started off as a Wildlife Unit. I thought the wildlife folks were getting short-changed – but apparently, alphabetical order is more important than pedigree in Federal names. So ‘Fish’ would come before ‘Wildlife.’ Glad I’m a fish guy. The reality is that we have much to be proud of over the last 50 years, regardless of semantics. Since 1963, the Unit has graduated about 235 students – or about 4 students per year. Starting with our first Unit Leader (Paul Springer) to yours truly (Steve Chipps), we have had 7 Unit leaders and 11 Assistant Unit Leaders over the years. This year marks our 50th Anniversary, and to celebrate this event – we will be hosting a half-day of activities at Oakwood State Park (Brookings County) on **September 18, 2013** from 1 pm to ?. Activities will include a catered picnic, area tours, a Unit history slideshow, door prizes, and more.... And most importantly, we look forward to catching up with Unit alumni, friends, and colleagues. To help our planning efforts, please RSVP Kate Tvedt if you plan to attend at Kathryn.Tvedt@sdstate.edu or call 605.688.4785. We hope to see you in September!

Is this an Anniversary Year?

Visiting with Coop Unit Leader **Dr. Steve Chipps** got me wondering about anniversary years. After all, the SD Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit clearly was initiated in 1963, making this a 50th anniversary year for them. The Fishery Research Unit was added in 1965, and the two units were combined in 1984. Steve pointed out to me that the Department of Wildlife Management split from the Department of Zoology and Entomology at SDSU also in 1963, making this a potential anniversary year for the department. However, the Conservation and Management of Wildlife curriculum actually dates back to 1939. The Wildlife Club was initiated in 1940, the Wildlifer’s Log (previous name for the departmental newsletter) was initiated in 1942, and the first Buffalo Banquet was held in 1959. So, perhaps 2013 is the 74th anniversary for the department?

The other issue is one not easily addressed. Did the former Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences evolve into the new Department of Natural Resource Management (NRM)? Functionally, that is what actually happened from an administrative perspective – we kept many of the account numbers and names and just changed them to NRM. However, part of the reason for creation of the new, combined department was to bring together faculty members from four previous departments based on their common interests in ecology and natural resources (others might say organismal biology, field biology, or applied ecology). Personally, I believe our strategy of maintaining the three applied undergraduate degree programs (i.e., Ecology and Environmental Science, Range Science, and Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences) makes this discussion rather moot. All three programs are alive, well, and moving forward in a positive manner.

All of the information referred to in this brief article was provided in the department history that **Department Head Emeritus Chuck Scalet** so carefully preserved for us. Thanks, Chuck. If you are interested, the short version of the department history can be found here: <http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/about/history.cfm>, with a link to the long version at the bottom of that page.

Graduate Program Enrollments

As of the end of May, 2013, we had 84 graduate students enrolled in our programs. The breakdown was M.S. Biological Sciences = 20, Ph.D. Biological Sciences = 3, M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences = 40, and Ph.D. Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences = 21. This is the first time that we have ever exceeded 20 Ph.D. students in the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences program. Overall, you

can see that the hard work by our faculty members has resulted in quite viable graduate programs!

Donors via SDSU Foundation (Dec 2012 – Mar 2013)

Many thanks to these good friends of the Department! We realize that this is just a 3-month snapshot, and many others of you have donated before or after the time frame used for this list. Andrew T. Kopp, Brian L. Dykstra, Brookings Wildlife Federation, Bruce H. Bleakley, Carroll Hanten, Christine A. Cordts, Clifford H. Fiscus Estate, Curtis M. and Sara C. Vacek, Daniel E. Hubbard, David L. Gilbert, David W. and Susan E. Willis, Eric and Ruth West, Gary E. and Pamela J. Larson, James I. and Barbara L. Jessen, James J. and Marjorie J. Hubert, James W. and Geraldine Matthews, Jayme P. and Rebecca Trygstad, JoAnn A. Willgohe, Kenneth J. Grymala, Kent A. Luttschwager, Kent C. and Sandra A. Jensen, Kerry A. Lucke, Kristel K. Bakker, Lee Roy Mitchell, Nels H. Troelstrup, Jr., Paul A. Vohs, Jr., Pete and Lisa Bergmann, Pfizer Foundation, Robert Bartling, Robert G. Best, Roger N. and Vonda L. Gates, Rollin D. Sparrowe, SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council, Sioux Falls Chapter of Izaak Walton League, Stephen M. Zebarth, Thomas S. McComish, Thomas W. and Mary C. Gengerke, Troy W. Grovenburg, Valerie and Thomas M. Cheesbrough, William C. Thorn, Xu Lan.

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Please be sure to send all corrections for and additions to our email list! Thanks!





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