

Brookings Wildlife Federation

Box 104, Brookings, SD 57006

Affiliated with: South Dakota Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Federation

Board: Spencer Vaa, President; Rich Widman, Past-President;
P. Wagner, D. Micko, B. Flynn, T. Wiczorek, Bd Members;
L. Novotny, Treas.

Newsletter Editor: C. Berry



April 2017

Infolunch April 7: Public water and public land – the state supreme court ruling

The Brookings Wildlife Federation will host Emmett Keyser, Regional Supervisor for GFP who will talk about the recent supreme court ruling on state water jurisdiction at our April 7 Infolunch at the HyVee Club Room. Keyser has worked in GFP supervisory capacities rising to Assist. Director of the Wildlife Div.

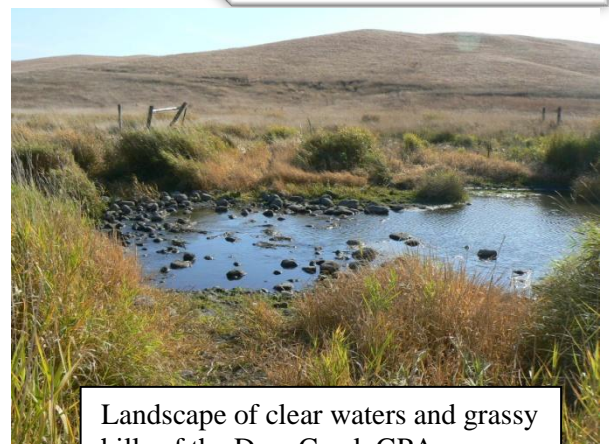
His long tenure with GFP makes him uniquely qualified to review the SD supreme court's long awaited decision on what is and what is not "water in the public domain." The SDWF has been involved in this law suit for several years and is now apparently on the losing side.

In 2014 Keyser requested a "voluntary demotion" to take the vacant Regional Supervisor position in Sioux Falls. He oversees the GFP operations in the southeast 20 counties in SD from the GFP offices at the Outdoor Campus.

Emmett received both BS and MS degrees from SDSU and claims to be an early member of the Brookings Wildlife Federation. Did those SDSU courses long ago help him make recent decisions that landed him on the front page of many regional newspapers? Yes, he is the one who bravely defended Sioux Falls against a rogue moose by having it tranquilized and moved to Brookings. We've got to ask him about that!

Keyser will be joined by Andy Gabbert and Steve VanderBeek, biologists from the Sioux Falls GFP regional office, who will talk about land acquisition and management of Game Production Areas (GPAs). Land acquisition by GFP is usually controversial, but the outdoors community usually wins over legislators with the reasoning that "a landowner should be able sell their land to whomever they want." Many landowners want to sell to the GFP so that their land can be managed for public wildlife and hunting.

GPA's are managed for all wildlife species. South Dakota has approximately 730 GPAs, totaling more than 281,000 acres. Attendees at the Infolunch will hear the inside story about two new purchases in Miner & Beadle County, the latter having a connection to Brookings. The 320 acre tract in Beadle County is Bob Roe's land. For more info contact BWF President Spencer Vaa 695-6867 .



Landscape of clear waters and grassy hills of the Deer Creek GPA.

South Dakota Supreme Court and the Public Water Decision

SD Supreme Court just ruled against us on the non-meandered water issue. SDWF is reviewing with our attorney, but should be a wakeup call for all South Dakotans who use water! People better start getting involved. SDWF WAS THE ONLY SPORTSMEN/CONSERVATION GROUP THAT WAS FIGHTING!

March Infolunch Review: Spring Snow Goose Hunting

The Brookings Wildlife Federation hosted Mark Grovijhan and Rocco Murano (standing) who talked about spring goose hunting at our March 3 Infolunch at the HyVee Club Room. Grovijhan shared how-to information and success stories about snow goose hunting during the spring migration. Murano talked about the status of the snow goose population and the liberal hunting regulations designed to reduce the population.



The snow geese moved through Brookings County this year for over one month, beginning in early February. The photo shows a lone snow goose among Canada geese and speckled belly geese near Lake Campbell in mid March.

Ultimate Hunting Package Giveaway - SDWF Camo Drawing in May

It's a heck of a deal!
Browning x-bolt rifle & Leopold scope
Vortex rangefinder
Vortex spotting scope
Yeti Cooler

\$20/ticket - 3 for \$50 - 7 for \$100

Buy all 7 tickets for \$100 and receive 1 free chance in a bonus drawing for a Beretta A400 shotgun. Send to SDWF Camo, Box 952, Pierre, SD 57501.

The SDWF Camo Coalition is the leading advocate for sportsmen/women in South Dakota. We are the only organization with a daily presence during the legislative session and monthly GFP Commission meetings. We strive to preserve quality opportunities for South Dakota outdoor enthusiasts. If

you enjoy hunting, fishing, boating, bird watching, biking and many other outdoor recreation activities in South Dakota, please consider supporting SDWF Camo Coalition!

SDSU Scholarship Banquet Coming Up, April 18, BWF Award to be Presented

From Terri Symens, SDSU: The NRM Awards and Scholarship Banquet will be held on Tuesday, April 18 at the McCrory Gardens Education and Visitor Center (across from Wal-Mart). Social is at 5:30pm, meal served at 6pm followed by the awards and scholarships presentations. Meal tickets will be available starting April 3 in the NRM main office (McFadden Biostress Lab Room 138 or terri.symens@sdstate.edu). Terri is the long time Office Supervisor, Department of Natural Resource Management 688-6121. She helps BWF quite a bit and even sees that our newsletters are posted on the Department website.

SAVE YOUR HY VEE RECEIPTS FOR BWF

The BWF is collecting Hy Vee receipts. Hy Vee will give BWF a \$1000 for every \$150,000 worth of receipts turned in. Bring your receipts to the InfoLunches or mail them to BWF, PO Box 104, Brookings SD 57006.

BWF Event at Wooden Legs: 13 new members

Wow! What a great crowd at the Wooden Legs brewery on Feb 28th. They stopped by to eat some pizza and see some whitetail mounts including 2 of the largest whitetails ever shot in SD (241 pts and 201pts Boone and Crockett Trophy Bucks).

The photo shows Austin Earley with his big nontypical buck. Austin joined the BWF along with 12 other new members (see box below). Ben Burris and Neil Thomas renewed their memberships.



Austin Earley	Scott Kindt	Lynn Dahl	Andrew Ellis	Richard Schardin
Ron Koerner	Charles Fenster	Kevin Dahl	John Pohaska	Allen Lee
Scott Underwood	Ken Main	Fixit Shop		

BWF Winter Raffle Results: Prizes to members, \$900 netted for conservation

Board Number	Prize	Winner
98	Quigley Ford Custom Made Scope	Allen Lee
52	Camo Savage Axis 0.270 Rifle w/ Busnell Scope	Dean Halajian
33	Chamberlain fishing trip (guided) for 2	Autumn Wiczorek
84	Rough Tough Dog Kennel	Tom Yseth
80	Pheasant Mount by Jerry Nissan	Scott Pederson
26	Outdoor Adventure Center Gun Pass	Ross Jensen
51	Outdoor Adventure Center Archery Pass	Rich Widman
57	Terry Redlin framed print	Tim Peterson
13	Terry Redlin framed print	Chris Hesle
16	Goose rags	Brian Ernst
63	Mystery box	Andy Ellis

Earth Day April 22 <https://www.youtube.com/embed/dE-vOscpiNc>

Apollo 8 astronauts took the famous earthrise photo as they circled the moon on Christmas Eve 1968 - the blue Earth suspended in the blackness of space contrasted with the barren moonscape. The photo is the grandfather of all space photos, and is an image that helped people understand the need to care for Earth, “our island home.” Go to the youtube site above and ride with the astronauts, listen to the tape of their conversations, and learn why the lack of a roll of color film almost canceled the photo session. The first Earth Day was in 1970 and soon after, Congress passed the National Environmental Policy Act which was the first time the USA put in words our philosophy of environmental stewardship.

“To declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts that will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of men; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental quality.”

The Brookings Earth Day celebration will be on Earth Day this year – Saturday, April 22. The event is being held at Dakota Nature Park from 10 am – noon and will feature a program on the importance of pollinators. Various organizations will have information tables. The event is free and open to the public.

Legislative Action: BWF Letter to Governor on Riparian Bill

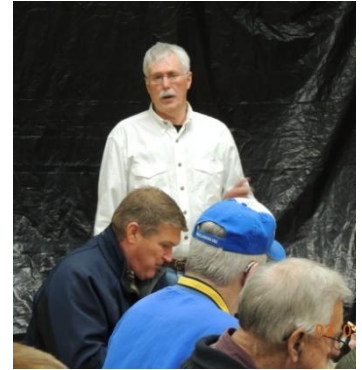
This year there are only 12 bills about hunting and fishing. This compares to 25 in 2016, 13 in 2015 and 24 in 2014. The riparian conservation bill SB66 was passed. BWF President Spencer Vaa’s photo and letter to the Governor is on the next page.....

Governor Dennis Daugaard,

The Brookings Wildlife Federation, an affiliate of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, would like to commend you for your vision and leadership in the passing of Senate Bill 66, the Riparian Buffer Strip Bill. Placing perennial 50-120 foot wide buffer strips along lakes, rivers and streams will enhance water quality and wildlife habitat. It will also benefit participating landowners by lowering taxes on land enrolled in this program. We are hopeful that many landowners participate in this program, as it has a good chance to significantly enhance our South Dakota environment. Thank you for your efforts and a job well done.

Enclosed is a BWF brochure describing our numerous activities.

Spencer Vaa, President, Brookings Wildlife Federation



South Dakota Waterfowl Association Wants Our Help

Our SDWF Exec Secretary Chris Hesla and SD Waterfowl Assoc. VP George Vandell wrote a long letter to the GFP Commission about licenses. The letter outlined their positions and you may have received a copy. Following is a synopsis...

Unfortunately, the issue of increases to nonresident waterfowl hunter numbers is still a major concern. We need your help in urging the GFP Commission to give this issue a fair hearing. At the March meeting in Pierre, the Commission voted to solicit input from the public on this issue. They also directed the GFP staff to develop action sheets on ideas they hear from the public. One of the action sheets presented to the Commission at their April meeting (in Watertown on April 6 & 7) will be a recommendation jointly developed, and supported by the SD Wildlife Federation and the SD Waterfowl Association.

Here is what we need – please take the time to write, call or e-mail the GFP commission urging them to formally propose our recommended rule changes regarding a decrease in nonresident 3-day license and to tie the number of nonresident 10-day permits to 8% of the resident waterfowl hunter numbers. Individual contact with individual Commissioners would be the best. I also request for those that can to attend the April meeting in Watertown. Once we get a set date/time on the agenda for the issue I will provide you with the meeting details. I also encourage you to contact your local legislators asking them to send a letter or e-mail the Commission requesting that they propose the recommendations submitted jointly by the SD Wildlife Federation and the SD Waterfowl Assn. The goal is to get these recommendations proposed so they will get a fair and open hearing. Thanks much!

Here is the link to the GFP Commission: <http://gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/commission-members.aspx>

GFP Commission Meeting in Watertown, April 6-7

If you respond to the request above, your opinion will be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the Commission in Watertown.

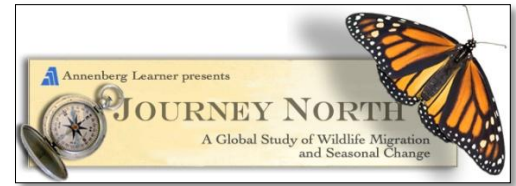
You can keep up and even stay ahead of the Commission by looking at their agenda at <http://gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/default.aspx>. An informative part of the meeting is called “Division of Wildlife Information Items.” This is when GFP biologists give the commission updated information on a variety of subjects. Check out the details on their website.



Citizen Science this Spring by using Journey North: Monarchs Left Mexico March 23

Check out a great site called Journey North. <https://www.learner.org/jnorth/>. This is where local citizen scientists will be recording the first sightings of Monarchs, hummingbirds, robins and other animals as they return to our area. You’ll really like to watch the map of North America fill up with observations. And, you

can look at data from your area and even see who is reporting. Photographers! The Journey North site accepts your photos to go with your data. The “go to” place to find a citizen science project besides the ones I like is <https://scistarter.com/finder>.



BWF – SDWF – NWF Newsbytes



Infolunches: Have an Infolunch speaker or a story to tell? Contact Spencer Vaa 692-7219.

Membership: Membership Year: July 1 – June 30; BWF dues \$30 (single) or \$40 (family) to BWF, Box 104, Brookings SD 57006. Thanks to Treasurer Lawrence N. for keeping member data

Board of Directors: Met Friday, March 17th, at Perkins at 6:45 AM. Discussed April & May’s Infolunch programs, SDWF’s youth conservation camp in June (we have 2 campers so far), the membership appreciation evening at the wooden leg (13 new members) and mailing list.

BWF Newsletter: Posted at the SDWF website <http://www.sdwf.org/>, and mailed monthly to 152 email and 15 snail mail addresses; Contact cberry@itctel.com with news or photos for the next newsletter or address change. Thanks T. Wieczorek and Barbara Horten for copying and mailing paper copies.

South Dakota Wildlife Federation: <http://www.sdwf.org/> and <http://www.sdwfcamo.net/>,



21 gun drawing in May- \$20 each ticket – see last page of *Out-of-doors* or website above.

National Wildlife Federation: The NWF has a cool public lands website <http://keepitpublic.nwf.org>. The *National Wildlife Magazine* is from the National organization (\$15/yr at www.nwf.org or write to NWF 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston, VA 20190-5362). \$5 goes to the magazine, \$10 deductible.



Washington, D.C. (March 16, 2017) – The Trump administration released its budget blueprint today, with massive cuts to a wide range of programs that protect wildlife, public lands, clean air and water, and public health and safety. The NWF says: “America’s wildlife are facing an unprecedented crisis, battered by challenges of habitat degradation and impaired water quality, exacerbated by disease, drought, invasive species, and climate impacts, all at a scale inconceivable thirty years ago. These cuts would be devastating for America’s outdoor economy, which supports 6.1 million jobs and generates \$646 billion in consumer spending every single year. America’s National Parks and Refuges would see mass layoffs and perhaps even closures, sending shockwaves through the local communities that depend on these special places to support hotels, outdoor shops, and guide businesses. I hope this budget starts a national conversation about the kind of conservation legacy we want to leave. We hope Republicans and Democrats can work together on developing a sensible spending blueprint that makes smart investments to build a better America.”

Do unto your downstream neighbors as you would have your upstream neighbors do unto you.

***Lake Campbell Sportsmen’s Club Fish Fry April 22 Saturday 5:00
At the clubhouse, call C. Berry for details 693-7750***

Brookings Wildlife Federation

Celebrating 37 years in Brookings

Affiliated with: National Wildlife Federation
South Dakota Wildlife Federation

Interests: Conservation, hunting, fishing

Activities: Kids Fishing Weekend
SDSU Scholarships
Information meetings, seminars
Monthly newsletter
Black Hills Conservation Camp
Brookings County Conservation
State Policy Watch
Conservation Small Grants
Public information, education, awards

Inside the April Newsletter

April 7 Infolunch: The Court Decision
March Infolunch Review: Snow goose hunting
Member Appreciation Night: 13 new
Citizen Science Opportunities
Big Raffle for CamoCoalition
BWF Letter to Governor
SDSU Buffalo Banquet & BWF Award
GFP Commission in Watertown
Waterfowl Association Help!
Winter Raffle Winners
Earth Day April 22
BWF/SDWF/NWF Tidbits



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