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South Dakota Wildlife Federation

www.sdwf.org

OUT OF DOORS

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“ South Dakota Walleye Unlimited State Director Rocky Niewenhuis(L) is presenting a check to SDWF's Camo_Coalition Executive Director Chris Hesla. Thank you to the members of SDWU for your support and help!



50 Years of SDWF Youth Conservation Camp

In its 50th year, the South Dakota Wildlife Federation (SDWF) in partnership with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks will sponsor its annual Youth Conservation Camp, June 2 – 8, at Camp Bob Marshall in the Black Hills near Custer State Park. High School students, both boys and girls are eligible to attend camp. Young people who enjoy the out of doors, hunting and fishing will find camp a unique learning experience. Campers will have the opportunity to select from a number of classes that range from shooting which includes rifle, shotgun, handgun and muzzle loading, archery, fly fishing, reservoir fishing, turkey hunting, deer hunting, waterfowl hunting, stream ecology, GPS skills, birding in the Black Hills and many

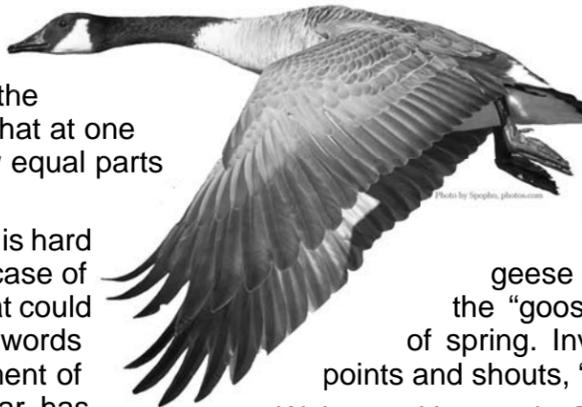
more. Campers also will be learning the message of conservation.

Photos from past camps can be viewed at our Facebook page: SDWF Youth Conservation Camp. The cost for camp is \$300/camper which includes transportation to and from camp. Sportsman's clubs and many Soil Conservation Districts across South Dakota sponsor students to attend camp. A camper application can be printed from the South Dakota Wildlife Federation website, go to www.sdwf.org and click on the conservation camp section. For more information, contact Camp Director, Mike McKernan, PO Box 246, Murdo SD 57559, phone 605-669-2829, email hdmac@goldenwest.net

The Fowl Line - Is the Canada Goose spring management program a good or bad thing?

Like most fathers, I suspect, having a 2-year old boy at home has redefined many aspects of my daily life. Meals, chores, even getting out the door in the morning to go to work – what at one time were all mundane tasks are now equal parts comedy, drama and suspense.

Life changes. Sometimes that change is hard to accept. Other times – such as the case of this blondehaired bundle of energy that could blow a duck call before he said his first words – it is a new normal worth every moment of the Terrible Twos. Bedtime, in particular, has become a favorite of mine. My son, Miles, loves to read books to end the day. Naturally, my wife and I have stocked his shelves with loads of titles that reflect a love of nature and the natural world. Orange, Pear, Apple, Bear was an immediate hit, and Robert McCloskey's Make Way for Ducklings is starting to grow on the little guy. Lately, our favorite (or at least mine) has been the book Goose Moon – a simple story of a girl and her grandfather, an elderly farmer who helps her mark the passing of the seasons by the departure and arrival of Canada geese to the wetlands near his manicured



fields of corn.

I love to read the words while Miles gets a kick out of pointing at the illustrations, especially the geese. Just as in the story the suspense builds as we page near the end of the book to discover a flock of Canada geese riding a night sky illuminated by the “goose moon,” signaling the arrival of spring. Invariably, Miles sees the birds, points and shouts, “Duck!”

We're working on it. Someday he'll know the difference.

And if Miles takes anything from his old man, I'm guessing that someday the sight of a goose – on paper, on the wing in spring, landing in the decoys in the fall – will elicit a different reaction from him, one of excitement for the moment and hopefully a reverence for what the bird has come to represent.

Like most waterfowl hunters, ducks and geese and their environs provide me with connections to friends and family and the cycles of the natural world. I credit

Cont on page 7

Farmers- need a tax deduction this year? Consider donating some grain or land to the SDWF.

You will get a tax break and your support of the SDWF will help protect the land and wildlife you love.



Executive Director
Chris Hesla

Executive Director's Update by Chris Hesla

It finally happened. Most of South Dakota has gotten a fair amount of moisture and welcomes Spring with better moisture rates. Northeastern parts of SD have an overabundance of snow to melt and I'm sure it will cause flooding of the James River and possibly some in the Sioux River drainage basin. I have been reading reports where our friends in North Dakota are preparing their sandbags and levies for flooding in the Red River Valley.

Talking about snow and moisture, an article I read at least 2 weeks ago reported the mountains of Montana were at 85% of annual snowpack. The flats and prairies of Montana and North Dakota were at 80% annual snowpack. There's been a lot of snow blowing all over the upper Midwest in the last two weeks so I suspect the totals are higher now. Two years ago, those same prairies were responsible for the moisture that caused widespread flooding along the Missouri River here in the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Iowa. Here on Lake Oahe we can use all the run-off and hope for a slow-rising water level when the smelt hatch and the river is rejuvenating its forage base.

There are a lot of new members and I want to make sure every member is aware of our camp. Please bear with me for one last pitch;

The first week of June is always a very special time for SDWF. There have been 50 Conservation Camps held since Dr. McClellan had the idea and started the first Conservation Camp. In June 1964, Doc took the

first group of young adults to the Hills to teach them about conservation. Doc spent the next 25 years running the annual camp while donating countless hours of his time. Doc made sure the camp ran smoothly and would continue after his retirement and ultimately, after his death. Doc had the great fortune to have one very dedicated volunteer, Tom Putzier. Together, they understood how special camp is and how important it is to young adults. Tom ran the camp for years after Doc retired and shared his experience with Mike McKernan. In the past few years, Tom passed the reins over to Mike who is currently the Camp Director. Mile shares many duties with Dan Opp.

SDWF is very fortunate to have such dedicated and special people involved in the running SDWF's Conservation Camp. We are also very fortunate and THANKFUL that so many others are willing to dedicate their time and knowledge to teaching our young adults the importance of conservation in their everyday life. You've impacted countless young people's perspectives and actions. Hopefully, conservation camp begins a lifelong learning experience for the kids.

SDWF maintains a Restrictive Endowment Fund dedicated solely to the operation and viability for our Conservation Camp. For more information, please contact me.

We can and do make a difference!

"Don't blow it - good planets are hard to find." Quoted in Time Magazine

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President,
Rich Widman

President's Column *by Rich Widman*

Do you ever wonder what it would have been like to be in South Dakota before the white man arrived? I know this is starting out like an Andy Rooney commentary, but I would have liked to see the unspoiled land and all the animals that once called it home. Hundreds of thousands of buffalo (bison is actually the correct species), along with prairie grizzlies, wolves, deer, antelope, and grouse. (Remember, no pheasants yet!) No power lines, fences or buildings. Just wide open spaces unchanged for thousands of years. Sure, my wife and daughter probably wouldn't enjoy it as much as I would. Heck, they don't even look when I'm pointing out pheasants along the road or deer in the field! I bet they'd look if a thousand bison were coming right at us, though!

From our history lessons, we know the Native Americans were able to survive the often harsh environment by hunting the tatanka (bison) and using almost every single item from the animal. We also know that ended when the European settlers came. Greed, along with ignorance, pushed several animals to the brink of extinction and forced the original inhabitants to give up the only life they had ever known.

As most of you know, the movie *Dances with Wolves* was filmed in South Dakota and shows both the beauty of the land and the bad side of some people. Although the film's characters were fictional, the story still included a lot of historical fact. For me, one of the saddest parts was when Lt. Dunbar (Kevin Costner) found the herd of tatanka and went to share the good news with the Lakota people he had befriended over several months while stationed at the abandoned post. Together, they followed the mile-wide swath cut into the prairie until they thought they had caught up to the huge beasts. When they reached the herd, their expressions showed viewers that something was horribly wrong. The camera then panned the field, showing the aftermath of a massacre. Viewers saw a vivid depiction of the greed of those who chose to kill hundreds of the sacred animals only to take their prized tongues and leave the remains to rot.

With the help of a lot of good people and hard work, the bison and several other animals have been brought back to continue their legacies. It wasn't easy and took several generations to keep God's creatures on this planet that they inhabited long before humans. Unfortunately, we've also lost countless other species and are on the verge of losing countless more. That's where we come in. I know it's hard to get too excited about some little fish that's dying in our streams because of pollution. And there are probably already plenty

of people working to save the polar bears, right? So why do we or should we even care? I know each of you reading this does already care about South Dakota's wildlife, or else you wouldn't be a SDWF member. And maybe we can't save all of the world's wildlife, but it sure would be nice to say to our grandkids, "I helped save the _____," instead of showing them a picture and saying, "we used to have _____, but they all died." When animals become extinct or endangered, I believe it is almost always caused by the greed of man. Chief Seattle is sometimes quoted as saying, "When the earth gets sick, the animals will start to die." And I believe when the animals start to die, man will be close behind.

One way to prevent this is by educating our youth about caring for the land and the animals. This year will be the 50th Youth Conservation Camp. I remember attending the week-long camp 30 years ago, having fun, making new friends, and gaining knowledge about the outdoors that I use to this day. If you know a high school boy or girl who is interested in the outdoors, have him or her contact your local affiliate or call Chris Hesla to sign up soon because camp begins on June 2.

SDWF had a great first quarter with several members sending in extra money above and beyond their dues to help pay for our lobbyists. We were able to pay off our 2012 debt, but still need \$15,000 for our 2013 legislative efforts. I again ask everybody to send in an extra \$10 to the Camo Coalition so we can start out next session without any debt.

We also will need to hire an attorney this summer to work on the water access bill that will come back next session. As you recall, this was arguably one of the most dangerous bills SDWF has ever fought, and we will need funds to protect South Dakotans water rights. This bill would have closed some or all access to fishermen/women, hunters, and recreational users on over 8,000 bodies of water. The proponents of this bill tried to claim it was brought on behalf of farmers whose land had flooded, but SDWF investigation showed that it was primarily funded by out-of-state interests that wanted to privatize and commercialize fishing in those areas. Unsurprisingly, the proponents didn't tell legislators that fact. We need to be well prepared to get our message out in the next legislative session. Remember to ask "JUST ONE" friend to join SDWF. With more members we can be more effective. Every ethical sportsman/woman needs to join SDWF if they truly want to protect and continue our great South Dakota outdoors way of life.

Outdoors Impact On Economy Re-printed with permission from Yankton Press & Dakotan

Some folks might think of hunting and fishing isn't that big of a deal when it comes to our countries and states economy. Some believe that the outdoors, fishing and hunting is something a few folks do in South Dakota and other states, not generating much revenue, when in fact, the purchases, state/federal taxes collected and jobs created by outdoorsmen and women in all states is BIG!

More than \$882.4 million in excise tax revenues generated in 2012 by sportsmen and sportswomen will be available to all 50 states and territories through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration programs. Revenues come from excise taxes generated by the sale of sporting firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, fishing equipment and tackle.

Because of the efforts of outdoorsmen and women, we have larger populations of several species of wildlife now than we did when our grandfathers came to the Midwest. The populations of deer, wild turkeys, Canada geese, Snow geese and Wood ducks are at all time highs. The reason for this is simple, the individuals that hunt and fish have dug deep into their pockets to help wildlife and create habitat. In 1937, because of the support of the hunting and shooting sports industries, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act was passed, placing a special excise tax on firearms and ammunition which would be shared among state wildlife agencies to be used in supporting conservation efforts.

Since its inception, hunters have contributed over \$7.2 billion to state conservation efforts. With the way current firearm and ammunition sales are going, hunters now contribute over \$371 million annually.

More than \$882.4 million in excise tax revenues were generated in 2012 by sportsmen and sportswomen through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration programs. Revenues come from excise taxes generated by the sale of sporting firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, fishing equipment and tackle, and electric outboard motors. Recreational boaters also contribute to the program through fuel taxes on motorboats and small engines.

That funding doesn't end here. Add in the \$796 million spent on license and permit sales, which go directly to the state's wildlife agency, along with the \$440 million in annual contributions directly to conservation and sportsmen's organizations, hunters contribute over \$1.6 billion annually to conservation.

Let's look how these things have affected us in our area. In an economy such as we're facing these days, a billion dollars spent in one state is a pretty good boost to the overall economy of a state.

In South Dakota, 430,000 sportsmen contribute over \$1.04 billion annually and support 14,780 jobs. Working with the CSF in a coordinated effort to protect and promote the sportsmen's traditions in South Dakota are three members of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and Governor Dennis Daugaard.

In Nebraska, more than 289,000 hunters and anglers spent \$780 million annually and support 12,085 jobs. Working with the CSF in a coordinated effort to protect

and promote the sportsmen's traditions in Nebraska are four members of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, and the Nebraska Legislative Sportsmen's Forum.

That's a lot of dollars and the jobs created, helping people to pay their bills, injecting dollars into the community and the area, creating a huge snowball effect.

Nationally there are more people who hunt or fish than go bowling, and their spending would land them at number twenty-four on the Fortune 500 list," according to Jeff Crane, President of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. In South Dakota, sportsmen and women, those spending time in the outdoors spent \$1.04 billion on hunting and fishing in the state, which is more than the receipts for wheat, one of the state's highest grossing agricultural commodities (\$1.04 billion vs. \$858 million)."

The CSF data spotlights some of the most compelling information about hunters and anglers in every state.

Those resident as well as non-residents who hunted or fished in South Dakota in 2011, are people than the combined population in the state's top three metropolitan statistical areas — Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen (430,000 vs. 402,000).

Perhaps most importantly, hunters and anglers support more jobs in South Dakota than the combined employment of Sanford Health and Avera McKennan Hospital, the state's two largest employers (14,780 vs. 13,963 combined employees).

Nationwide, the impact is even more impressive. There are more than 37 million hunters and anglers age 16 and up in this country — about the same as the population of the entire state of California.

These sportsmen and women spent \$90 billion on hunting and fishing in the United States in 2011, which is comparable to the combined global sales of Apple's iPad® and iPhone® that year. In difficult economic times, it is important to note that both participation and spending by people who hunt and fish went up in 2011.

Beyond the impact to businesses and local economies, sportsmen and women are the leaders in conserving fish and wildlife and their habitats.

When you combine license and stamp fees, motorboat fuels, excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment and membership contributions to conservation organizations, hunters and anglers directed \$3 billion towards on-the-ground conservation and restoration efforts in 2011 - that is over \$95 every second. This does not include their own habitat acquisition and restoration work for lands owned or leased for the purpose of hunting and fishing, which would add another \$11 billion to the mix.

The dollars generated by hunters and fisherman, bring big bucks into our economy, supporting our Game & Parks, generate tax dollars and creating much needed habitat, giving both hunters and non-hunters land where they able to enjoy all the outdoors has to offer.

"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear." Mark Twain



Bill would drop corps' Mo. River wildlife focus

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Four Republican members of Missouri's congressional delegation contend the federal government should put less attention on wildlife preservation when making decisions about the Missouri River.

Their proposal would strip "fish and wildlife" from the list of eight authorized purposes for which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can undertake a river management project. U.S. Rep. Sam Graves said in a news release that doing so would allow the corps to focus on navigation and flood management.

The corps has said previously that environmental spending is required and that it doesn't reduce spending for other purposes.

The issue gained attention after the massive flooding of 2011, which began after the corps began releasing large amounts of water from upstream reservoirs that had been filled with melting snow and heavy rains. The onslaught lasted for more than 100 days, busting levees, carving gouges in farmland and dumping debris on fields.

"The Corps should not have to waste precious resources on building wildlife habitats, a duty they are not suited for and should not have to fulfill," Graves said in the release. "Our bill will help reduce the likelihood of future flooding, which our families, farmers, and small businesses deserve."

Tom Ball of the Sierra Club called the legislation, which was introduced Wednesday, a "terrible idea." He said the corps has a legal obligation to mitigate the negative effects caused by damming the Mis-

souri River and narrowing its channel.

While changes to the river aided navigation and improved flood protection, the number of pallid sturgeon, piping plover and interior least tern have shrunk so much they are now listed under the Endangered Species Act. The corps is taking several steps to help the species, including recreating thousands of acres of shallow water habitat along the river.

Ball also said that proponents of the legislation are misrepresenting the cause of the 2011 flooding by suggesting that fish and wildlife projects were diverting attention away from flood control.

"The 2011 flood was not caused by two birds and a fish," he said. "What caused it was we had unprecedented historical snowfall in April in the Rocky Mountains, followed by historic rainfall in April and May. And the system, as constructed, couldn't accommodate all that water. There was no way to predict it and the Army Corps of Engineers did what they could."

But U.S. Reps. Blaine Luetkemeyer, Vicky Hartzler and Billy Long, who also signed onto the legislation, weren't sold.

"While preserving wildlife habitat is important, we cannot allow these narrow interests to take precedence over the lives and activities of farmers, businesses, and residents on or near the river," Hartzler said in the news release. "The wellbeing of our citizens must be government's top priority."

"Elk calves pushing the limit" photo by Dennis Barrett, Deadwood, SD



ELK SEASONS FINALIZED

The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission has finalized several elk-hunting seasons for 2013.

Archery elk hunters will have 92 "any elk" and 15 "antlerless elk" licenses available for the season. The 2013 Archery Elk Season will run from Sept. 1-30.

The Black Hills Firearms Elk Hunting Season will run from Oct. 1-31 for the "any" elk license holders. Antlerless elk seasons will run from Oct. 16-31 and Dec. 1-15. Black Hills Firearms Elk hunters will have 620 licenses available, comprised of 445 "any" and 175 "antlerless" licenses.

The Prairie Elk Season will have 45 "any" elk and 51 "antlerless" elk licenses available, which is four less than 2012. Other changes from 2012 are:

* Boyd County, Nebraska will no longer be part of Unit 30.

* The season dates for Unit 30A will run from Sept. 1 - Dec. 31.

* The season dates for Unit 11B will run from Sept. 1 through the Friday before the third Saturday in October (2013 season dates are Sept. 1 - Oct. 18)

* Unit 11D was added with season dates of Sept. 1-Dec. 31.

GFP staff presented the Commission with results of a Black Hills-wide aerial elk count and the history of the elk hunting seasons in the Black Hills. That presentation can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpglvK1LtrQ>

SD Wildlife Federation Donors

At the 2003 Winter Board Meeting, the SDWF Board created the SDWF Wildlife Legacy Council. The Council was created to allow recognition of the people who support SDWF above and beyond their membership and raffle donations.

Thank you to the following donors for their contributions to the SDWF. Please consider becoming a member of the Wildlife Legacy Council. SDWF is a 501(c3) non-profit, all donations are tax deductible. These tax-deductible contributions will speak volumes for the future of the SDWF's Wildlife Legacy Council! Please consider your donation today. Donations can be sent to SDWF, PO Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501.

The Legacy Council consists of five different donation levels. These donation levels were revised October 2011 to: Level V Eagle \$1,000 & above; Level IV Buffalo \$501 - \$999; Level III Elk \$301 - \$500; Level II Deer \$201 - \$300; and Level I Pheasant \$100 - \$200.

March 2013
LEVEL IV BUFFALO NATURE CONSERVANCY - SD CARLSON, JR., HENRY - SD DIVICH, DUANE - TX
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February 2013
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LEVEL III ELK BRICK, RICHARD - CA DENISON, LARRY - VA RUMPCA, HAL - SD
 BROOKINGS WILDLIFE FED - SD PESEK, RON - SD ELBE, ROBERT - WI SIMPSON, JOHN - SD
 COTEAU PRAIRIE PHEASANTS WHETSTONE SPORTSMEN GRASS LAKES CONSERVATION STULTS, MARK - SD
 FOREVER - SD CONSERVATION CLUB - SD CLUB - SD
 GRIFFIN, DEL - SD

January 2013
LEVEL III ELK BOWAR, PAT - SD GOGGINS, ROBERT - MN OLSON, MURDEAN - SD
 JOHNSON, ERIC - MN CAMPBELL, STUART - SD HAY, MARY & JERRY - WI OLSON, RICHARD - MN
LEVEL II DEER DAVIDSON, JOHN - SD HOCH, JAMES - CA PICKART, PHILLIP - SD
 CAMPBELL, STUART - SD DRESSING, BRIAN - SD HOFFMAN, CHARLES - SD POLENZ, ALLAN - OR
 LEVISEN, ARLO - SD ECKERT, DENIS - SD KRETCHMAN, CHARLES - SD RANEY, THOMAS - KS
LEVEL I PHEASANT EVANS, RALPH - FL LEPP, DONALD - SD RITER, JR., ROBERT - SD
 BAGGAUS, TERRY - MN FAST, DAVID - OH MCQUEARY, PETER - TX ZOELLNER, KENNETH - CA
 BECKMAN, LEON - SD FICK, HAROLD - CA METRY, MARK - WI

December 2012
LEVEL IV BUFFALO DRAKE, ROBERT - SD KALLEMEYN, LARRY - SD PICEK, LARRY - SD
 OLSON, JEFF - SD FORMAN, KURT - SD KING, T. CLEVE - MI PORISCH, ROBERT - MN
 SCALET, CHUCK & GINGER - SD FOXWORTHY, ROBERT - KY KRODINGER, LAWRENCE - MO RILEY, MIKE - MO
LEVEL II DEER FRYBARGER, JIM - NM MILLER, O. LARRY - SD SATTLER, ARNOLD - SD
 GILBERT, JIM - CA FUERST, KEVIN - SD MILLER, RICHARD - SD STANFORTH, WINFIELD - CO
LEVEL I PHEASANT HEEDUM, ROGER - NE MUNDON, KENT - SD
 BLACKBURN, JOHN - SD HEPPEL, GREGORY - SD PARCEL, KERRY - SD
 JOHNSON, LYNN E. - SD PETERS, DUANE - SD

November 2012
LEVEL III ELK BARRETT, DENNES - SD **LEVEL I PHEASANT** COOPER, JOHN - SD MCMASTERS, LEIGH - SD WALKER, JIM - ID
 TOSCANA, VIC - SD GREENWOOD, KEN - OK OLSON, MURDEAN - SD WISWALL, F. HERBERT - SD
 MADDOX, ALEX - TN PAUL, K-LYNN, AZ SORNA, MICHAEL - TX ZOELLNER, KENNETH - CA

October 2012
LEVEL III ELK JOHNSON, VIRGIL - SD

September 2012
LEVEL II DEER HALLSTROM, KEN - SD **LEVEL I PHEASANT** BUCKNER, EVERETT - AR GREGORY, J.T. - GA
 STAMMER, MARLIN - CA BUCKNER II, WILLIAM - AR KERN, LARRY - MN SCHMID, JOHN - CO

August 2012
LEVEL V EAGLE CHAPMAN, JOHN W. - PA **LEVEL I PHEASANT** ADAMS, MEL - TN DILLON, JOHN - UT SCHERSCHLIGHT, JEFFRY - SD
 AYLER, JOHN - KS JOHNSON, DARRELL - SD VAA, SPENCER - SD
LEVEL II DEER CASLER, DAVID - MO MESSERSCHMIDT, LOYAL - SD WILDMAN, DENNY - OH
 LEMONDS, JIM - SD CHRISTOPHERSON, M.E. - SC OCHOCKI, ROBERT - CA RAINEY, TIMOTHY - MN

July 2012
LEVEL IV BUFFALO WORDEN, JAMES - CA **LEVEL I PHEASANT** ANDERSON, EDDIE - TN JONES, DONALD - CO SIMON, DARREL - SD
LEVEL III ELK BEALKA, ROBERT - WI LUTZ, BOB - MT MCGUIRE, ARVID - WI SWORDS, L.F. - MS
 CARLSON, HENRY - SD BRAKEBUSH, CARL - WI PAXTON, GARY - OK WARE, WILLIAM - MS
 STEINBERG, ROGER - MN DENNIS, JACK - NV RITER, JR., ROBERT - SD WELCH, HARVEY - IL
LEVEL II DEER GEBHART, RONALD - AK GRIFFIN, JOHN - OK SAMPSON, TERRY - SD WHEELER, STEPHEN J. - SD
 BERRY, CHUCK - SD HEFFRON, GEORGE H. - CO SCHEURENBRAND, BRUCE - CA WORSHAM, JERRY - WA
 POPOWSKI, JOHN - SD HUBER, DANIEL - SC SCHLUTER, BOB - MN SEELEY, GARY - KS

June 2012
 There were no legacy donors this month.

May 2012
LEVEL V EAGLE JOHNSON, ERIC - MN KEELER, CHARLES - MN TESCH, CURT - SD
 Nat'l Wild Turkey Federation - SD STADTFELD, CRAIG - SD KOUTSKY, JOHN - IL WALKER, GALE - SD
LEVEL IV BUFFALO **LEVEL I PHEASANT** LINDNER, RONALD - SD WINTER BROS
 LEE, KARL O. - SD BAKER, FRED - OH LIPPINCOTT, ROB - TX UNDERGROUND - SD
LEVEL II DEER FLINT, FORREST - MN MATSUKAGE, FAY - CO ZOELLNER, KENNETH - CA
 FENSTRA, HARRY - MN HANSEN, VIRGIL - SD SCHUPP, TERRY - AZ

April 2012
LEVEL IV BUFFALO THE SPORTSMAN'S CLUB OF BROWN CO. - SD **LEVEL II DEER** O'REILLY, LARRY - MO ECKERT, DENIS - SD PAHL, CHARLES - SD
LEVEL I PHEASANT CONNELL, CRAIG - SD KIEFT, LARRY - MI HIX, DOUGLAS - ID
 MAYES, TERRY & LA REE - SD

"JUST ONE"

New Member Program

The SDWF has approximately 3,000 members. We are constantly fighting to keep our outdoor heritage and to conserve our natural resources. We can't continue without our members and we can't keep fighting unless we grow our membership.

Encourage your friends that enjoy the outdoors to join the SDWF directly or through a local affiliate club. "JUST ONE" new member can make a world of difference!



Love the outdoors and need a tax deduction this year?
 If you have a car, van, truck, ATV, or boat that's in reasonably good shape and you aren't using, donate it to the SDWF. You'll get a nice tax break and will feel great knowing you helped our great organization protect South Dakota's outdoors.



888-OVERBAG

SDWF Membership Application

To continue our conservation efforts - we need your help! Please donate generously.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

SDWF \$20/Yr Membership Fee \$ _____

SDWFCamo-Coalition lobbying donation:\$ _____

Send Donation and Membership Application to:
 SDWF

P.O Box 7075
 Pierre, SD 57501-0952

CC _____ EXP _____ CV _____

Check - make checks payable to SDWF



my brother for leading me toward my own life filled with this love of whistling wings, wetlands and sunrises over the decoys.

When I was still too young to go hunting with him, I would wake early on those weekend mornings to study pictures of different ducks and geese on an identification chart ripped from the pages of some hunting magazine.

When he returned home from the slough, I would promptly tell exactly what he had shot.

But the real spark came in the form of a goose. A big goose.

From the tip of its beak to its leathery, webbed feet, the giant Canada goose I found hanging in my parents' garage one morning as a 10-year old boy was a sight to behold. I had never seen a goose up close before, and I was immediately impressed with everything about it.

The bird's black beak gave way to a large, blocky head that wore a small patch of white underneath closed eyes. Long and sleek, the black neck met a barrel of a chest that wore a layer of feathers, down and fat – insulation needed to ride on top of those frigid waters in that still remained free from ice.

My father had to help me extend the wings to a length that was greater than I was tall, and I marveled at the power held in that collection of muscle, bone and primaries.

My brother walked out of the house while I was inspecting the large black feet and retold the story of how he shot the goose while duck hunting near Lake Poinsett. It was simply a case of being in the right place at the right time, he said, considering that he'd never been that close to one before, either. "First one I've ever shot," he said. "Pretty cool, huh?"

Cool? The goose was simply amazing. It still is.

Perhaps this is all why I'm struggling so much to ac-

cept the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks plan to enlist volunteer hunters to shoot Canada geese this spring. That there are growing conflicts between the birds and farmers is not a point of

contention for me, but nonetheless, it seems at the very least to be a terrible ending for a bird that represents so much more than sections of corn and soybeans mowed clean.

There is the fact, too, that this situation isn't one of geese exceeding their biological carrying capacity.

Rather, it is a situation where they have far exceeded their social carrying capacity.

I am fairly certain that this special program is weighing heavily on the minds of the folks at SDGFP – men and women who likely chose their profession based on a love for preserving wildlife.

The father of modern conservation, Aldo Leopold, wrote in his Sand County Almanac that one swallow does not make the summer, but "one skein of geese, leaving the murk of a March thaw, is the spring."

When the first dead Canada goose hits the ground this month, we'll know that the birds have come to mean much more. Or less. Or perhaps we are the ones who have changed?

What will come of this story that so far has produced more questions than answers is yet to be seen.

When the final chapter is written, will we look back on this as simply a sad but brief chapter in wildlife management? Or will it have become the beginning of a new normal for wildlife on a changing prairie landscape?

My hope is that it's the former, as the latter is one story that I would be disappointed to pass from this generation to the next.

re-printed with permission from the Farm Forum. And John Pollman

"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value."
Theodore Roosevelt



"All Ears"
photo by Dennis Barrett,
Deadwood, SD

NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL LICENSE NUMBERS, TUNDRA SWAN SEASON FINALIZED

WINNER, S.D. -- The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission has finalized the number of licenses available for nonresident waterfowl hunters for the 2013 season, with no changes from 2012.

The maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses to be issued by a lottery system is 4,000 special nonresident waterfowl licenses, 2,000 early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident licenses, 2,000 fall three-day temporary nonresident licenses, and 10,000 spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses.

South Dakota's waterfowl season dates will

not be set until the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides the federal framework for the 2013 seasons in late July.

The Commission also finalized the 2013 Special Goose Season for Bennett County. Like 2012, 800 resident three-tag and 25 nonresident two-tag licenses will be available. The Special Goose Season will run from Oct. 19-Dec 22.

The 2013 Tundra Swan Season was finalized and will run from Sept. 28 through the end of the light goose hunting season; 1,100 resident and 200 nonresident single tag licenses will be available.

WALLEYE LIMITS WHEN FISHING OAHE AND OTHER WATERS

PIERRE, S.D. - Anglers targeting walleye on one of South Dakota's most popular walleye fisheries will be met with new walleye regulations in 2013. In response to a large number of smaller walleyes produced during the last few years and low food availability stemming from the 2011 flood, anglers are now allowed a daily limit of eight walleye. No more than four may be 15 inches in length or longer and the daily limit may include no more than one 20 inches or longer. The possession limit for Lake Oahe is 24 per angler.

If you are fishing Oahe and another water during the same day, the first four walleye you keep count as your standard, statewide daily limit. You can't keep walleye from another water if you have already kept four or more walleyes from Lake Oahe

that day. Any walleye caught and kept that day, in addition to your standard statewide four-fish limit, must be from Lake Oahe.

Anglers may have up to 24 walleyes from Lake Oahe, in possession, taken according to the daily limit. The possession limit accrues at the rate of eight walleyes a day and 24 walleyes may not be possessed from Lake Oahe until after the third day of fishing. Anglers may possess an additional eight walleyes provided they are taken according to the daily limit from waters other than Lake Oahe.

For additional information on fisheries regulations, please see the 2013 Fishing Handbook at: <http://gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/rules-regs.aspx>.

Judging South Dakota Rangelands For Livestock And Wildlife Values Available

South Dakota Rangeland is one of the richest and most important biological resources in the state. The native vegetation of rangeland is the economic backbone of ranching. Rangeland provides essential wildlife habitat as well as being treasured for recreation and scenic beauty. It is the lifeline of streams, ponds, and lakes.

SDSU Extension and iGrow are proud to announce the revision of a popular publication widely used by South Dakota youth to learn about the management and conservation of South Dakota's largest natural resource. The Judging South Dakota Rangelands for Livestock and Wildlife Values manual has been recently updated and reformatted to be more user-friendly.

Rangeland is a kind of land, not a land use. Rangeland is fragile, yet durable and resilient. Management profoundly impacts the similarity index, a measure of rangeland condition that reflects its value for livestock, wildlife, and humans. The purpose of

rangeland judging is to provide an understanding of rangeland resources and a sense of stewardship in natural resource management.

This manual describes a contest with components that have a strong biological basis for habitat management of both beef cattle and prairie grouse. Beef cattle have been chosen because they are the most common livestock species grazed on South Dakota rangelands. Once stocking rates are determined for beef cattle, conversions can be made to determine stocking densities of other grazing animals, such as horses, sheep and goats.

Prairie grouse represent wildlife because they are affected by management and have the potential to occur throughout the state. There are 3 primary species of prairie grouse that inhabit the state: sharp tailed grouse, prairie chicken, and sage grouse. Management can achieve many desired rangeland uses. Vegetation, livestock, and wildlife respond in a predictable manner to range management practices.

STATE PARK BECOMING AN OUTDOOR FAMILY WEEKEND TAKING REGISTRATION

Roy Lake State Park near Lake City will host the Becoming an Outdoor Family weekend June 28-30.

The event is designed for beginning camping families, families that would like to try new outdoor activities, and those who enjoy the company of like-minded families.

"Becoming an Outdoor Family is a great opportunity to try different activities, learn new skills, and spend a weekend outdoors with your family," said Emilie Miller, program specialist for South Dakota state parks. "It's also a great opportunity to meet other families with similar interests."

Workshop fees are \$50 per family. The fee includes instruction in three skills sessions, program materials, equipment use during the workshop, and an electric campsite for two nights. A campsite reservation will be made for participating families, but they

must provide their own camper or tent.

A park entrance license is required to enter the park and is not included in the registration fee.

Session choices include archery, bio-diversity, shooting sports, dog training, kayaking/canoeing, fishing, disc golf and Dutch oven cooking. On Sunday morning, the group will meet at nearby Fort Sisseton Historical State Park and experience several period activities, including rope making, gold panning and wagon rides. All ages are welcome to take part.

To register for the Becoming an Outdoor Family program, fill out a registration form and mail the form and payment to: South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Becoming an Outdoor Family, 523 E. Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501. Registration forms are available online at <http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/BOF.aspx> or by calling 605-773-3391.

Sportsmen/women- Want to help fund SDWF and the Youth Conservation Camp plus reduce your taxes this year? Donate stocks and land to the SDWF. You not only won't have to pay taxes on those assets, you will pay less tax because of your generosity!