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AUGUST
2010

South Dakota
Wildlife
Federation

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OUT OF DOORS

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 7

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They believed and they achieved.

On Saturday and Sunday, July 3rd and 4th, not only fire works were booming in Rogers, Arkansas (the home of Daisy air gun), so were the Marshall County Sharpshooters from Britton, SD and surrounding towns. With a total team score of 2384 and 71 center shots, the team of Jena Lunzman (483.15), Shayla Olson (482.13), Aimee Allcock (479.13), Natasha Albro (478.18) and Jessie Allcock (462.12) won the Daisy National BB Gun Championship. Shooting as the alternates for the team were Abby Flanery (475.17) and Lyndsey Effling (466.16). Olson earned a bronze medal in the standing position, while Effling was the gold medalist in the alternate prone position. The local team topped a field of 43 teams from 18 states. This is Marshall County's second straight national crown, topping the national field in Rogers, Arkansas by a whopping 18 points. Rules prohibit a shooter from competition two straight years, unless an alternate the previous year, so the squad was an entirely different bunch from a year ago.

Coached by Harlan Hilleson and Mike Kraft, these young

ladies evidently set their sights on the top spot from day one. "Marshall County won the Nationals last year and we came home with "the gun" the team trophy of the traveling Daisy Model 499 Plaque", these girls said, "we're going to nationals". They reached the standards set for them, showing their coaches in April that if you believe you will achieve when they won two state matches, becoming the South Dakota State BB Gun Team Champions and scoring one point higher than the score of the previous team that won nationals last year. It was the combined team effort that seemed to foster a real belief in the girls that they could be national champions.



(left to right: Shayla Olson, Natasha Albro, Jessie Allcock, Abby Flanery, Lyndsey Effling, Aimee Allcock and Jena Lunzman.)

The squad had plenty of support from behind the scenes from Rose Kraft and Linda Flanery who helped shooters study for the written test and handled the necessary paperwork. Pat Flanery and Brian Maxwell also served as loaders and assistant coaches, and parents filled a variety of support roles. The team wishes to thank the Britton, Hecla and Lake City communities for their financial support that brought them to Rogers and for their belief in their abilities.

... Continued on page 3

2010 65th ANNUAL SDWF CONVENTION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27

6:00 PM Cash bar and meal available at the Marshall County Sportsmen's Clubhouse, about 8 miles South of Britton on Hwy 20.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

7:30 AM REGISTRATION- Marshall County Sportsmen's Clubhouse

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM SDWF ANNUAL CONVENTION MEETING

9:30 AM GF&P, Dir. Of Wildlife Tony Leif

1:00 Lunch on your own and there will be archery and target shooting available.

5:00 PM - 10:00 PM DINNER, AUCTION, CONSERVATION AWARDS

Marshall County Sportsmen's Clubhouse

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

8:00 AM SDWF ANNUAL CONVENTION MEETING

Marshall County Sportsmen's Clubhouse

"There is no quiet place in the white man's cities, no place to hear the leaves of spring or the rustle of insects' wings. Perhaps it is because I am a savage and do not understand, but the clatter only seems to insult the ears."

Chief Seattle (1786-1866)

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SDWF Annual Commemerative Gun Giveaway



Your chance to win a Savage .17 Caliber rifle Model # 93r17fxp

Buy a chance to buy one of the hottest new calibers to plink with, Synthetic Stock, 3-9 X 40 scope mounted and boresighted, 5 round clip. Drawing at the 65th Annual Convention in August 2010.

Void where prohibited by law. Your presence or contribution not necessary to win. SDWF reserves the right to offer a cash settlement in lieu of the shotgun.

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\$10 each



It is looking like it is going to be a great year for wildlife and the outdoors here in South Dakota.

Executive Director's Update *by Chris Hesla*

Mark your calendars for the dates of August 28-29 for the SDWF's 65th Annual Convention to be held in Britton. The Marshall County Sportsmen's Club has scheduled many fun things for our enjoyment. The schedule of the convention has changed and allows for some free time to enjoy other activities. See the schedule printed in this Out-of-Doors for times and planned activities. Details outlining the events planned for spouses will be available at the registration table on Saturday morning.

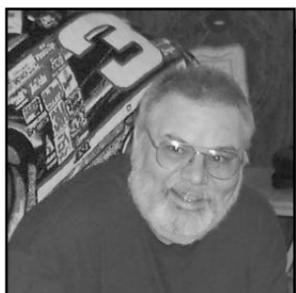
During the Convention, we will be drawing the winners for the 2010 Pheasant Hunt and the 2010 Buffalo Shoot. Good luck and a big THANK YOU to all of you that purchased chances on both of these exciting hunts.

Everyone, is welcome to come to our Annual Convention. Come up to Britton and see the beautiful clubhouse/range that the Marshall County Sportsmen have built and enjoy. There is camper parking right in the lot of the clubhouse. It is located about 7 miles south of Britton.

"When the Earth is sick, the animals will begin to disappear."

Chief Seattle (1786-1866)

President's Column *by Rieck Eske*



I hope you will have enjoyed yourself at the convention this year.

It's that time of year again for our Annual State Convention and Elections. This year we are holding our Convention in Britton, South Dakota. August 28th and 29th.

I believe that I am repeating myself here but we really need to show support for the SDWF. The Federation does a lot for all Sportsmen, weather it is habitat, conservation issues or legislative issues, youth education. We are a major force in South Dakota and we need to come together and unite as one.

I hope you will have enjoyed yourself at the convention this year. If you ran for an office or Directors, thank you. If you would like to be on one of the following committees, please let us know.

We also have to appoint committees. This is a volunteer positions and appointment is for 1 year. Some committees only meet when needed and a lot of the work can be done by email

and phone. The committees are Resolution (consider resolutions presented, redraft resolutions presented not in proper form, vote "do pass", "do not pass" or "table"). Articles of Incorporation & Bylaws (Continually examine the articles and by laws in the light of violations and to suggest deletions or additions), Endowment Fund (Responsible for the direction of investments and expenditures of any and all SDWF endowment funds), Nominating (Seek potential leaders for key positions in SDWF and prepare nominating list of at least one candidate for each office in advance of annual meeting), National Affairs Committee (Constitute the official liaison between SDWF and NWF), Credentials (Responsible for certifying delegates to annual meeting).

Carry on the Tradition.



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They believed and they achieved . . .

... Continued from page 1

Opening Ceremonies began with Olympic Gold Medalist from the 2000 Sydney Olympics, Nancy Johnson, speaking to the group. She told the shooters it all starts here, finish what you start. She also told the group that more important than a medal is to love what you do. You need to learn the value of hard work, there is not time for whining and complaining, she said. The Marshall County team took those words to heart. They knew that with lots of hard work and dedication you can become national champions.

ot to take anything away from the boys but....no less than four out of the 43 teams at the Daisy National BB Gun Championship were all girl teams. Additionally, the Daisy Junior 3-P Precision & Sporter Air Rifle competition immediately followed the national 5-meter BB competition and some of the same ladies excelled there as well. The Marshall County Sharpshooters have claimed the saying "We give new meaning to you shoot like a girl!"

Further description of the event:

The competition was held in a new environment for the girls. It was an enclosed football complex on artificial turf. It was not air conditioned but they liked the feel of the turf and it was easy for the girls to become comfortable with their environment. The first day of the tournament they shot prone and standing. According to Rose Kraft, who scores the targets for the Sharpshooters, "They shot their best prone as a team they have ever shot, 481. I knew it was a great start. Following this they shot a 462 in standing, which is 12 points higher than what we were hoping for." After all the teams' scores were posted from the opening day the Sharpshooters

were 7th and Kirley Junior Shooters were 4th.

Comments from the team:

"Nationals taught me your dreams can come true if you believe in your teammates as well as yourself, keep trying with your heart and never under any circumstances give up," said Jessie Allcock. Her sister Aimee added, "If you have a strong passion for something deep within your heart you can go forward and be the best, not exactly because you have all the



Picture 2010 National Champs (girls and coaches), Coaches left to right are Mike Kraft and Harlan Hilleson
Team Members (standing) Jessie Allcock, Natasha Albro, Aimee Allcock, Jena Lunzman, Shayla Olson
Alternates (kneeling) Lyndsey Effling and Abby Flanery



South Dakota teams that compete against each other through out the season. Front to back are Marshall County Sharpshooters (1st place), Kirley Junior Shooters (4th place), Highmore Junior Shooters (8th place), Humboldt Sharp Shooters (10th place) and Pierre Junior Shooters (11th place).

were in second place and 11 points out of first place. That afternoon was the safety test. Kraft stated, "After I read the test I felt confident. The girls have spend four months and several hours studying, taking practice tests, going through power points and quizzing each other."

The second day of competition, humidity filled the complex which had an effect on all of the shooters of the tournament. The team started the sitting position with one team member having gun problems. Jessie Allcock shot a score of 95. This is amazing considering she shot her last two shots without sights! The rest of the team shot well also. The final position was kneeling. Although Jessie's gun had new sights, getting it sighted proved to be somewhat harried. She had erratic shots from left to right and top to bottom before the coaches called for a disabled gun. Jessie finished the position shooting her twin sister, Aimee's gun. Her professionalism came through as she was able to keep composure and finish shooting her last six shots only missing seven points.

After completion of all the shooting the girls left the building for lunch while the coaches stayed for the posting of the scores. After test scores and sitting scores were posted Marshall County was sitting on top by an 18-point margin. Finishing second was Washington, MO and third was Penns Valley, PA. The same three teams placed in the top three a year ago with Penns Valley in second and Washington third.

Six teams that the sharpshooters shoot against throughout the year competed in the competition with all finishing in the top 11. Pierre Junior Shooters took 11th, Humboldt Sharp Shooters were 10th, Highmore Junior Shooters were 8th, Buffalo Youth Shooting Sports from Buffalo, MN

skills necessary for the task at hand but because you believe that you do." Shooter, Jena Lunzman who has only been shooting for two years, added, "you have to believe. We believed from the beginning and that is what took us to the top. The hardest part is keeping yourself calmed down and not obsessing over scores." Shayla Olson shares, "To shoot at nationals was such an honor and opportunity and getting the best you can get is an accomplishment. Being with the girls on this long road has been just awesome and the coaches are awesome and amazing. We won nationals because we believed we could do it and believed in ourselves." Natasha Albro who shot as an alternate on the team last year stated, "I had an idea of what to expect this year, but it is still stressful. The key is not to freak out and stay focused. It is just awesome to see the tears come to our coaches eyes when we won!"

"I was so excited that we had won first place but when my name was announced for the gold medal in the alternate prone position I was speechless," said Lyndsey Effling. "I had no idea I was getting this award because the coaches had kept it a surprise." The youngest member on the team, Abby Flanery said, "I was very nervous at first. Once I started shooting, I just tried to do my best. By the second day, I was a little more calm. My dad, who loads for me, would be silly and make me laugh before I had to shoot so I would not be so nervous. It was worth all the practicing and studying that we had to put into it to be the best we could be. We believed all year we could do it and we did."



Team members (Jena Lunzman) in the standing position with her coach Brian Maxwell.

47th Annual SDWF Conservation Camp a Big Hit with SD Youth

By Mike McKernan, Camp Director

We want to thank all the presenters and volunteers who worked so hard to make camp a success.

What a glorious week, great weather. It was wonderful to conduct our camp activities with for the most part warm and sunny weather. 77 delegates along with counselors and staff gathered in the beautiful Black Hills to spend the week of June 6– 12 learning about wildlife and conservation. The 47th annual SDWF Conservation Camp provided these young people the opportunity to make new friends, hear the message of conservation, and have a fun-filled, exciting time.

With the weather cooperating, the week's activities really brought out the enthusiasm of the young people. Monday campers were divided into two groups. In the morning half the campers loaded onto a bus and traveled to the new Cleghorn Hatchery. Will Saylor, hatchery manager arranged a tour and hands on activities for the campers. The other delegates spent the morning fishing in Bismarck Lake. In the afternoon the two groups switched places. The hatchery tour was well received by the delegates. On Tuesday morning the staff of Custer State Park provided programs for the delegates. The young people had the opportunity to select from the following hikes: Prairie Trail, the Lover's Leap Trail, or Little Devil's Tower. The afternoon sessions included Fire Ecology, Forestry in the Park, and Bison Herd Management. On Wednesday and Thursday, delegates selected sessions ranging from .22, Handgun, Shotgun, and Muzzle Loading shooting, Archery, Lake Survey, Fly-Tying & Fishing, GPS and Orienteering, Lake Fishing, Waterfowl Hunting, Boating Safety, Can you Canoe, Solve the Case, Elk Hunting and Turkey Hunting. Because campers get to select which programs they attend the response was overwhelmingly positive.

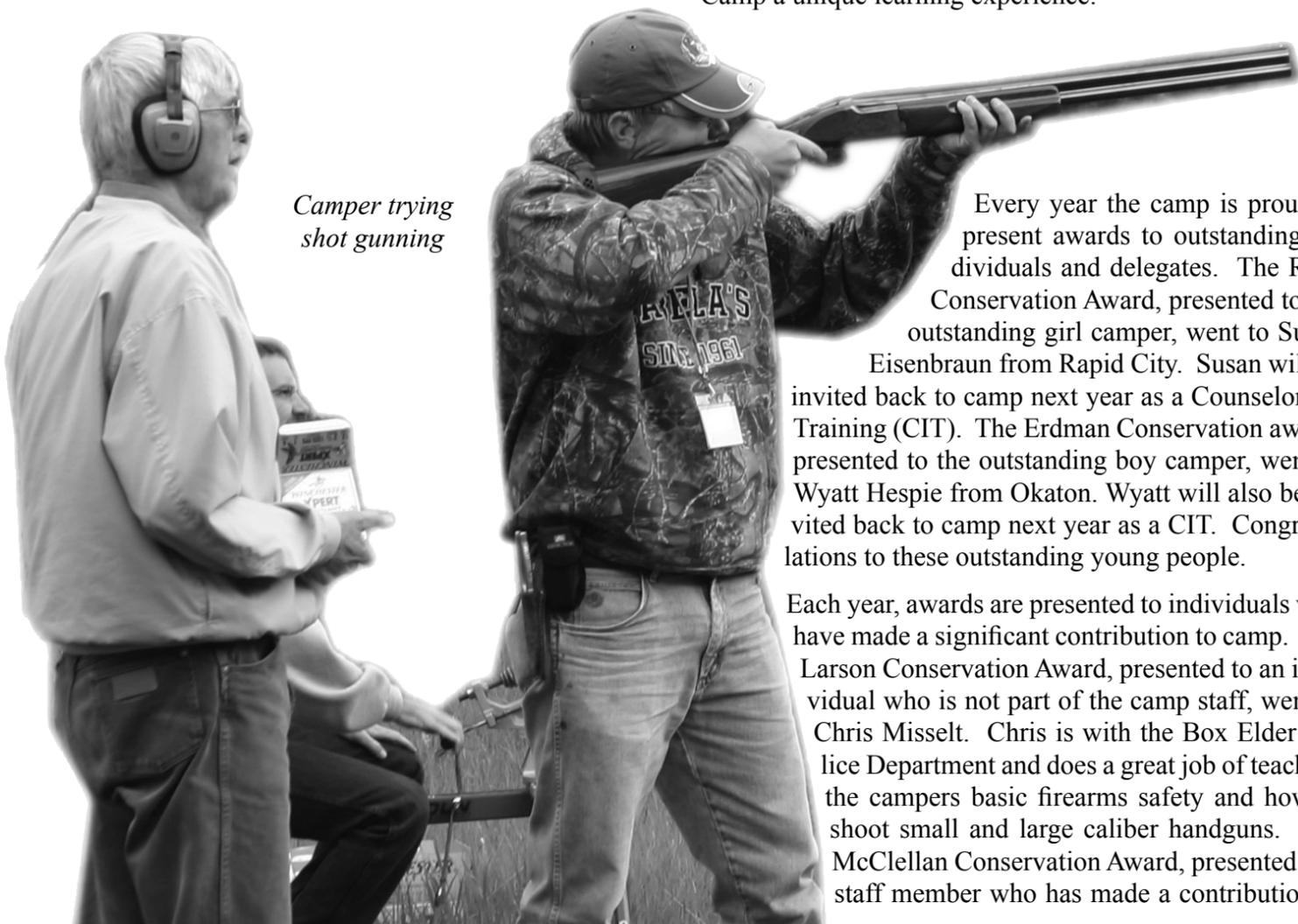
Friday's programs included the following: a presentation from SDSU Department of Wildlife by Dr. Brown, a program on the South Dakota Wilderness proposal, recently introduced by Senator Johnson by Jim Margadant. Jim's presentation was followed by a letter writing campaign to the South Dakota congressional delegation in support of the Wil-

derness legislation. A demonstration of trained retrievers by Stan Lieberman. The final program on Friday was a trip to nearby Crazy Horse Monument. The evenings were also filled with interesting presentations. Guy Tillit, an avid wildlife photographer, showed an awesome PowerPoint on Bighorn Sheep. Chad Tussing from Game, Fish & Parks presented a program on Mountain Lions in the Black Hills. Dan Opp, assistant camp director, presented an historical reenactment of early trappers and mountain men. Wednesday evening, all campers traveled to Mt. Rushmore for the lighting ceremony. We ended up with a beautiful evening for the lighting ceremony. On Friday night, a PowerPoint presentation of the week's activities was warmly received. The presentation was followed by both fun awards, that got a lot of laughs, and some serious awards.

We want to thank all the presenters and volunteers who worked so hard to make camp a success. A special thanks to the professionals of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks and Custer State Park who devoted their time and expertise to make the SDWF Conservation Camp a unique learning experience.



A whopper netted at lake survey class



Camper trying shot gunning

Every year the camp is proud to present awards to outstanding individuals and delegates. The Rohr Conservation Award, presented to the outstanding girl camper, went to Susan Eisenbraun from Rapid City. Susan will be invited back to camp next year as a Counselor-in-Training (CIT). The Erdman Conservation award, presented to the outstanding boy camper, went to Wyatt Hespie from Okaton. Wyatt will also be invited back to camp next year as a CIT. Congratulations to these outstanding young people.

Each year, awards are presented to individuals who have made a significant contribution to camp. The Larson Conservation Award, presented to an individual who is not part of the camp staff, went to Chris Misselt. Chris is with the Box Elder Police Department and does a great job of teaching the campers basic firearms safety and how to shoot small and large caliber handguns. The McClellan Conservation Award, presented to a staff member who has made a contribution to



How do we hunt waterfowl?



Young ladies getting ready to hit the target



*Dan Opp (Assistant Camp Director)
—having fun dressing up campers*



Black Powder fun!



Archers at your mark

camp. This year we presented a special McClellan award to Sandy McKernan from Twin Brooks, Sandy has been coming to camp as counselor since 1974. Sandy indicated this would be her last year, but we are going to work on getting her to come back next year. Congratulations Sandy

I would like to give a special thanks to Dan Opp. Dan and I have been working as a team for many years to make sure Conservation Camp runs smoothly. Dan handles all the counselors and CIT's, puts on programs, and is a big part of the success of the camp. I also want to thank some of the individuals who make contributions to the camp. Cory Aker came to camp first as a camper, then a CIT, and is now a counselor. Cory has volunteered to line up the CIT's for camps in the future. Dennis and Margaret Skoog have been great camp supporters. Dennis is our head camp inspector and Margaret is our camp nurse. I would like to give a special thank you to all the preceding individuals. Thanks to Maggie Lindsey, Education Services Coordinator for G, F&P. Maggie coordinates

and lines up all the programs from Custer State Park and Game, Fish & Parks. Maggie is new to her job and she did a great job lining up all the programs from Game, Fish & Parks.

I also want to thank all the counselors, CIT's, and the clubs and individuals who helped make the 2010 edition of Conservation Camp a success. Thanks to Chuck Rokusek, an avid supporter of our camp, who recruits kids in the Sioux Falls area and raises the money to send them to camp. Also thank you to SDWF Executive Director Chris Hesla for all his help and support. And last but not least, I want to thank Brenda Manning. Brenda organizes the bus rides and handles the finances. We are in our third year of bus scheduling and Brenda handles it brilliantly

The entire staff is privileged to have spent a week with a group of great young people from all across South Dakota, and we are looking forward to next June 5 – 11, 2011.

We would like to thank the following organizations and clubs who supported and sponsored kids to attend the 2010 SDWF Youth Conservation Camp. The camp was again a huge success and could not have been accomplished without your support. We thank you!

- Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation
- Pepsi of Sioux Falls
- Minnehaha County Chapter of Pheasants Forever
- Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League
- Sioux Falls Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited
- Minnehaha Archers Inc.
- Greg Boddicker
- Central Valley Struttin' Gobblers
- Lincoln Conservation District
- Turner Conservation District
- Valley Exchange Bank
- Three Rivers Wildlife & Gun Club
- Big Sioux Chapter of RMEF
- Wells Fargo Bank
- Quality Deer Management Association
- Minnehaha Conservation District
- East Dakota Chapter of NWTf
- First Premier Bank

- Midwest Tri state NAVHDA
- Mark Anderson – the Wildlife Artist
- 29 – 90 Sportsman's Club
- Grass Lake Conservation Club
- Last of the Fast Guns
- High Plains Wildlife Association
- McPherson Conservation District
- Leola Sportsmen Club
- Brookings Wildlife Federation
- John & Tammy Magilke
- Minnkota Sportsman's Club
- Hamlin County Conservation District
- Beadle County Sportsman's Club
- Mary Sue Corey
- Gregory Haak
- Pennington Conservation District
- Black Hills Sportsmen
- Sportsman's Club of Brown County

- SD Walleyes Unlimited WR Chapter
- SD Chapter NWTf
- Milbank Lumber & Twin Valley Tire
- Jones County Conservation District
- Jones County Sportsman's Club
- NE South Dakota Walleye Club
- Whetstone Sportsman
- Milbank Ford & Mercury
- Al's Body Shop
- DeFea Transportation
- Faulk County Conservation District
- Spink County Conservation District
- Capital City Bass Club
- Dacotah Bank
- Marian Hoor
- Pioneer Enterprises, Inc.
- Whitetails Unlimited
- Pheasants Forever

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.

The Legacy Council consists of five different donation levels: Level V Eagle \$1,000 & Above; Level IV Buffalo \$500 - \$999; Level III Elk \$250 - \$499; Level II Deer \$100 - \$249; and Level I Pheasant \$50 - \$99.

July 2010

Level IV Buffalo WORDEN II, JAMES - CA	HEEDUM, ROGER - NE KIEFT, LARRY - MI KNUDSON, DAVE - SD KUHL, THOMAS - NV LOUCKS, JEROME - AZ MCCLELLAN, JR., DR. HERBERT - WI - SD SCHERSCHLIGT, JEFFREY - SD SEELEY, GARY - KS	Level I Pheasant BURTON, DON - CO CAPUTA, EDWARD - MN COMSTOCK, FRAN - MI <i>(Memorial for Fran)</i> DOMEIER, TED - MN DOMINIANI, DAVID - NE FEWELL, KENT - MO GROSSLEIN, ROBERT - MN HALL, SHAWN - WY HOWELL, TOMMY - MI KEELER, CHARLES - MN KERN, LARRY - MN KETTER, JEFFREY - WI	LICKTEIG, CRAIG - SD LIVINGSTON, LARRY - CO LOOS, PAUL - MI LUTZ, BOB - MT MCMANNIS, GENE - NJ MEYERS, RICHARD B. - OH PARKIN, NORMAN - CA PAUL, K-LYNN - SD PAXTON, GARY - OK SIMON, DARREL - SD SPEER, JR., HOY - AR STRANDELL, JOHN - MN WALKER, JIM - ID
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June 2010

Level V Eagle ROBERTS, STEVEN - MN	Level II Deer BELL, III, HARRY - MS BUXCEL, NORMAN - SD	FULLER, LESLIE - AL GILBERT, DAVE - SD GRIFFIN, JOHN - OK HALVERSON, KENNETH - SD HEIM, MERRILL - SD KLUNDT, SCOTT - SD KUCK, MICHAEL - SD MILLER, RICHARD - SD NELSON, GERALD - MN	OLSON, JEFF - SD OLSON, TERRY - SC SAMPSON, TERRY - SD SMITH, DR. PATRICK - MI SWEDLUND, KEN - SD TRAVERS, MD, HENRY - SD WEISENBURGER, ROBERT - MI WILTSEY, BOB - MN
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May 2010

Level III Elk JOHNSON, VIRGIL - SD OAHÉ SPORTSMAN CLUB - SD ROCKY MTN ELK, BIG SIOUX CHAPTER - SD	LEVEL II DEER FELL, TOM - AL MADSEN, ROYCE - SD WHEELER, STEPHEN J - SD	LEVEL I PHEASANT ABELN, DAVID - SD HEX, DOUGLAS - SD GAGEBY, CHARLES - SD HATCH, DUANE - SD	HEPPER, GREGORY - SD MATSUKAGE, FAY - CO POLENZ, ALLAN - OR ROBERTS, TOM - SD
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April 2010

LEVEL III ELK 3M FOUNDATION - SD KOCVARA, FRANK - NV STADTFELD, CRAIG - SD	LINDNER, RONALD - SD MADLAND, JON - SD MCMASTERS, LEIGH - SD METTE, LARRY - SD O'REILLY, LARRY - MO SCOTT, STEVE - SD WELCH, HARVEY - IL	ELBE, ROBERT - WI EVANS, RALPH - FL FARMERS STATE BANK - SD FICK, HAROLD - CA FREESE, MARK - SD GEBHART, RONALD - AK HEFFRON, GEORGE - CO HEX, DOUGLAS - ID HOFTIEZER, GREG - SD HOWELL, TOMMY - MI JAFFREY, DR. BRETT - TN KIRCHGASLER, ARTHUR - SD KURTENBACH, AELRED - SD LINTON, RODNEY - IL MCQUEARY, PETER - TX MELBY, DAVID - MN MORRIS, MEL - MI	MURPHY, KIRK - SD O'BRIEN, SCOTT - FL OCONELL, ANDREW - MN PICKER, SCOTT - WI PLETZKE, DANIEL - MI RITER, JR., ROBERT - SD RUKUSEK, CHARLIE - SD SNAZA, ANTHONY - NY VAN MAANEN, TODD - SD WARE, BEN - NC WHITE, JIM - SD ZAJECHOWSKI, JOHN - WI ZIMMERMAN, HERB - CO ZLONIS, JEFF - MN
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March 2010

LEVEL V EAGLE DILLON, RICHARD - MN HIGH PLAINS WILDLIFE - SD REPUBLIC NAT'L DIST - SD	STAMMER, MARLIN - CA THE ROOSTER - SD TOSCANO, VIC - SD	PAULETTO, JOE - WA PEDERSON, TIM - SD PICEK, LARRY - SD WALLEYE MASTERS, INC - SD	MCGUIRE, ARVID - WI MCHUGO, LAWRENCE - MN OCHOCKI, ROBERT - CA PAUL, K. LYNN - SD PORISCH, ROBERT - IA
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February 2010

LEVEL V EAGLE BEADLE CO SPRTS CLUB - SD CHAPMAN, JOHN W. - PA DAKOTA SPORTSMAN - SD NWTF SD CHAPTER - SD	PHEASANTS FOREVER - SD STEINBERG, ROGER - MN	MAYES, TERRY & LA REE - SD MEYERS, BILL - SD O'REILLY, LARRY - MO PESEK, RON - SD RANEY, THOMAS - KS SCHUPP, TERRY - AZ STYLES, GREGG - FL WEST, JOHN - SD WHETSTONE SPRTS CONS - SD	BORMANN, DANIEL - WI CLAYTON, BILL - SD FICK, HAROLD - CA FREESE, MARK - SD GILBERTSON, DARWIN - SD JONES CO SPRTS CLUB - SD KETTER, JEFFREY - WI LANDMAN REAL ESTATE - SD McMULLEN, CHUCK - SD SIEMON, DAVE - SD WIDMAN, RICH - SD
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January 2010

LEVEL IV BUFFALO OLSON, JEFFREY - SD	ECKERT, DENIS - SD FINK, JAMES - MN FOXWORTHY, ROBERT - KY KELLEY, JOHN & KATHLEEN - SD LAMAACK, JAMES - CA LOUCKS, JEROME - AZ PARCEL, KERRY - SD SIMPSON, JOHN - SD WIDMAN, MARK - SD	DAVIDSON, JOHN - SD DENISON, LARRY - VA FAST, DAVID - OH GROVE, DAVID - CO HANSEN, VIRGIL - SD HENNEN, LEE - MN HOCH, JAMES - CA HOLM, DALE - SD HUBER, DANIEL - SC KLIPSTEIN, ARLIE - WI KOUTSKY, JOHN - IL KRANZ, MORRIE - SD LESER, GEORGE - FL LEWIS, HOWARD - CA	MATOUSEK, WILLIAM - SD MILLER, O'Larry - SD MURPHY, STAN - SD PEDERSEN, C.J. PETE - NC PLUMB, GLENN - SD SCHMIDT, JAMES - SD VAA, SPENCER - SD WAHL, STAN - SD WENTLAND, FRED - WI WHETSTINE, HERBERT - MN WORSHAM, JERRY - WA
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December 2009

No donations this month.

November 2009

LEVEL II DEER BORING, W. HAROLD - GA JACOBSON, ROBERT J - SD PALMER, GARY - SD SATTTLER, ARNOLD - SD	SATTTLER, DONALD - SD LEVEL I PHEASANT BREVIK, ALAN - SD BROWN, MARK - VA BUCKNER II, WILLIAM - AR	KELLER, GARY - OH KELLER, LEWELLYN - MN NEISSL, E.J. - AR NELSON, GERALD - MN SAMPSON, TERRY - SD	SMITH, LEY - FL WALDRON, HOWARD - MA
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October 2009

LEVEL IV BUFFALO WORDEN II, JAMES - CA	HETLAND, H. A. - MN LEMONDS, JIM - SD MCGARRY, PAT - SD PROKOP, PETER - MI SCHROEDER, KENNETH - SD	DEPAUW, MARLOW - SD Dieleman, Gail - MN ENGBRITSON, SCOTT - MO FISCHER, JIM - IA FRYBARGER, JIM - NM GARVEY, GARY - OH GREENWOOD, KEN - OK GREGORY, J.T. - GA GROVE, DAVID - CO KING, T CLEVE - MI LARSON, GREG - SD	MURRA, VERN - SD NELSON, LAWRENCE - SD PARKIN, NORMAN - CA PAULSON, JOHN - MN PETERS, DUANE - SD ROMANS, DARREN - MN SCHMID, JOHN - CO SEELEY, GARY - KS STANFORTH, WINFIELD - CO ZOELNER, KENNETH - CA
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September 2009

LEVEL III ELK RAINEY, TIMOTHY - MN	LEVEL II DEER KIEFT, LARRY - MI OLSEN, MAURICE - SD	LEVEL I PHEASANT CUMMINGS, DENNIS - SD HUSS, MICHAEL - IN	WENZEL, ROGER - SD
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August 2009

LEVEL II DEER BEALKA, ROBERT E. - WI LUTZ, BOB - MT MOHS, GERALD - ND	LEVEL I PHEASANT CANNON, MILES - IL COWLES, GARY - AL DOMINIANI, DAVE - NE	FEWELL, KENT - MO GOEDE, DAN - SD GRIFFIN, JOHN - OK LARSON, ROBERT - MN	MANNING, DAVID - MN MANSFIELD STATE BANK - SD MUNDON, KENT - SD STRANDELL, JOHN - MN
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SD Walk-In Area Rundown

Producing a pheasant population numbering in the double digit millions lays your claim as a world-class pheasant hunting destination. Giving hunters successful options keeps them coming back to South Dakota.

If you have the greenbacks, you can pay to hunt. Hire a guide and bird dog(s). Lease land. Pay private landowners to hunt. Stay in a lodge so luxurious that the absence of a moat is the only thing keeping it from being a castle. It's a special treat that some circle on their calendar and point toward all year.

Some hunters abhor this pay-to-hunt style. Others don't, but simply lack the money. And I know non-resident hunters who have the money, but draw the line at a \$110ish license + fuel, food and a small-town hotel last seen in the movie Vacancy.

South Dakota isn't unique in privatization of hunting land, but does stand out in offering a successful counter-option. Its Walk-In Area program – the state leases private land and opens it to public hunting – last year created 1.2 million acres open to access for the general pheasant hunting populous, including yours truly.



A recent study (postal and email surveys to a random sample of hunters) by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department also states the Walk-In Area program helped boost South Dakota's economy by at least \$15 million last year. Considering the state spent \$2.2 million to lease the 1.2 million acres, and considering the tough economy, that's something to crow about.

South Dakota's Walk-In Areas Program Survey Results

- The study found about 37 percent of residents and 29 percent of nonresidents surveyed used walk-in areas for part of their hunting last year. Residents spent about 10 percent of their total hunting time in walk-in areas. The Game, Fish and Parks Department estimates there were 69,959 South Dakota hunters and 97,350 from outside the state last year. Do the math, and that's more than 54,000 Walk-In users.
- Most of the hunters who pursued pheasants and other game on the more than 1.2 million acres of land in the Walk-In Areas Program also said they were satisfied with it – 69 percent of resident hunters and 72 percent of non-resident hunters were satisfied with the program.
- Most hunters said the program included good wildlife habitat and was important to their overall hunting.
- Many hunters would like to see a list of what species are available at each specific Walk-In area.

Note

Kansas, Montana, North Dakota and Nebraska also offer some unique public lands access programs for bird hunters. In fact, last week's USDA "Open Fields" announcement also opens up \$50 million more in federal money for states to create their own Walk-In program or add to existing lands.

Goose Hunters Wanted!

By: Bill Antonides is a retired wildlife conservation officer, a certified wildlife biologist, and an officer in the South Dakota Wildlife Federation. He can be reached at billantonides@abe.midco.net

Giant Canada geese, once abundant residents of the Great Plains, were at one point thought to be extinct. However, in the early 1960's, state and federal game and fish agencies realized remnant populations of giant Canada geese still existed in captive flocks in the lower 48 states. Several programs around the country were initiated to augment reproduction of the birds and reintroduce them into the wild.

Landowners who were the lucky recipients of a few Canada geese protected them like a mother hen protects her chicks. No goose hunting was allowed, wetlands were protected from disturbance, and goose nesting structures were built and maintained at great expense. More than one farmer made sure feed was available near the nesting sites to make it easy for the geese to have a nutritious meal without leaving the eggs unprotected.

The pampered geese flourished. Then somewhere in the late 1990's, farmers began to

realize the geese were seemingly everywhere and were eating their sprouting crops. Other people noted the giant Canada geese were attracted to parks and golf courses, and the slimy gunk on the bottom of their shoes was not mud. The extremely successful goose reintroduction program turned into a nightmare for wildlife officials inundated by demands for assistance. What was once a grand and majestic bird was reduced to the status of a flying rodent in the minds of far too many people.

Since most of the giant Canada geese migrate from the areas they were hatched long before the regular October hunting season, a September season was established. This had the effect of killing more geese closer to home, but didn't really stop any crop damage. The fields were either harvested or had grown past the point where geese would enter the tall foliage of maturing corn and soybean fields. Even with the early season, the goose population continued to grow. Weather patterns produced wetlands where none had existed in decades, if not centuries. Land is often farmed to the edge of wetlands. In the absence of a grassed buffer strip, the combination means ideal habitat for Canada geese and depredation for the landowner.

The management goal for South Dakota is 80,000 to 90,000 birds. In 2009, the estimated population was 166,500. While sportsmen were happy, many landowners were not, and they made it known loud and clear. A task force was formed to investigate ways to reduce the population to acceptable levels, and public meetings were held around the state. It soon became clear a wide variety of opinions existed on how to take care of the problem. While sportsmen asked for higher limits and better access to private land, and unhappy landowners wanted remedies that worked earlier and were simple: an August season, more depredation assistance, kill permits and nest destruction.

In the end, many of the various recommendations were implemented to a certain degree, including an August season in the fifteen counties with the most severe

depredation problems. A major bone of contention was that many landowners and other interested parties wanted nonresidents to be allowed to hunt in the early season, or "Early Management Take," as it is known. Resident hunters have lost access to large amounts of private land due to commercialization. They felt allowing nonresidents to participate in the Early Management Take would reduce access for residents, increase pressure on public land, and would ultimately result in a lower goose harvest. Many individuals and groups, including the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, worked to be certain the August season was for resident hunters only.



The Game, Fish and Parks commission agreed to limit the August season to residents. However, the commission gave South Dakota sportsmen fair warning that if they didn't get out and harvest more geese, nonresidents would be allowed to hunt in subsequent years. They also noted landowners must allow reasonable access if they want the

giant Canada goose population reduced. The GF&P has pledged to do their part to provide opportunities for sportsmen.

Whether they supported having the August season or not, sportsmen have a decision to make. They can ignore the season and face the potential for even more loss of opportunity next year, or they can enjoy the tremendous natural resource we have. One way or another, the giant Canada goose population is going to be reduced to a manageable level. Hunters should make use of the opportunity they have been given and take as many as the law allows and they can use without waste. However, they must remember hunter ethics and sportsmanship are more important than harvest. What was once a grand and majestic bird is still a grand and majestic bird and should be treated as such.

All eyes are on South Dakota sportsmen, and there will no doubt be criticism no matter how well they do. It is important the Federation has feedback on the August season. Were you allowed access, or were you rejected? Who allowed you to hunt, who didn't, and were any reasons given? How successful was your hunt? Let the Federation know by e-mailing sdwff@mncomm.com or by calling Chris Hesla at 605-224-7524.

- Eligibility:** South Dakota residents
- Season Dates:** Aug. 14-29, 2010
- Open Area:** Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Hamlin, Grant, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, and Roberts counties.
- Daily Bag Limit:** 8 Canada geese
- Possession Limit:** 32 Canada geese
- License Requirement:** Annual Small Game or Combination license AND State Migratory Bird Certification. Federal Waterfowl Stamp is not required.
- Shooting Hours:** 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset. All other restrictions are the same as the Early Fall Canada Goose season and regular season

The Game, Fish and Parks commission agreed to limit the August season to residents.

S. Dakotans push for climate bill, but Congress won't act

WASHINGTON - For more than two decades, wildlife biologist George Vandell has been studying South Dakota's ecologically sensitive wetlands and the critical role they play come springtime in the migratory patterns of waterfowl such as mallards, pintails and gadwalls.

And he's worried about what global warming is doing to his part of the planet: the disappearance of pheasants in southern Iowa - and their emergence in North Dakota, where they never used to be; Canada geese along the Missouri River that show up later every year; and duck migrations that used to occur in the first week of November now taking place after Thanksgiving.

"A few change in degrees in the long run certainly could adversely affect these wetlands," said Vandell, who retired last year as assistant director of the Wildlife Division of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. "I hope it doesn't take a disaster of epic proportions of loss of wildlife before people finally come around."

Vandell was among a group of South Dakotans on Capitol Hill participating Thursday in a town hall on clean energy sponsored by Clean Energy Works, a coalition of environmental groups that wants Congress to pass climate change leg-

islation. They met Wednesday with Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., who calls the legislation an "energy tax" that would hurt farmers, rural cooperatives and consumers. And they met Thursday with the staff of Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., who has backed the plan as a reasonable way to address a potentially catastrophic problem without raising energy costs.

The issue appears moot. On Thursday afternoon, only a few hours after the town hall, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he is abandoning plans to pursue a comprehensive energy bill this year because he couldn't secure the Republican support needed to pass the legislation.

Sen. John Kerry, the Massachusetts Democrat and leading advocate for climate change legislation, all but said as much to almost 200 people at the town hall. But he vowed to keep fighting.

Proponents say the approach to reduce fossil fuel use is good for public health because it would reduce smog and global warming, good for national security because it would cut the nation's dependence on foreign oil, and good for the economy because it would generate hundreds of thousands of clean-energy jobs.

Matt McGovern, state director for Repower South Dakota, estimates the bill would create 5,000 new jobs, many in the burgeoning wind

power industry that is finding the state not only a place to harness wind energy but also a location for businesses integral to its development.

Molded Fiber Glass, an Aberdeen company that makes windmill blades, could see its work force swell from about 200 to as many as 700 under the bill's push for alternative energy, said Jennifer Slight-Hansen, an Aberdeen city council member who attended Thursday's town hall. And Steve Sandven, a Sioux Falls lawyer who represents several South Dakota Native American tribes, said a 190-kilowatt wind farm planned for the Rosebud Sioux reservation could grow fivefold if transmission line expansion called for in the bill brings power from the Great Plains to the country's population centers.

"This is a jobs bill for Rosebud," Sandven said. Upon hearing that Reid had given up on a climate change bill this year, Vandell said he remained optimistic that Congress eventually would address the issue before his home state would see irreversible damage.

So how long can the country afford to wait?

"I don't know I have an answer to that," he said. "It's like planting a tree. You should have planted it yesterday."

EARLY GOOSE HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

PIERRE, S.D. - South Dakota hunters taking advantage of additional Canada goose hunting opportunities will be able to take more geese at an earlier date this year.

Canada goose hunting will begin with an Aug. 14-29 season for South Dakota residents only in the counties of Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Hamlin, Grant, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody and Roberts.

The daily limit for those dates will be eight, with a possession limit of 32. Resident hunters must have a valid Small Game or Combination license, plus the State Migratory Bird Certification. The Federal Waterfowl Stamp is not required.

The Canada goose hunting season will re-open from Sept. 4-30. Residents will be allowed to hunt in most of South Dakota, with the exception

of Perkins, Bennett, Stanley, Lyman, Hughes and Gregory counties, and parts of Dewey, Potter, Sully, Buffalo, Brule, Hyde, Charles Mix, Bon Homme, Fall River and Custer counties. Nonresidents are restricted to those areas; and in addition may not hunt in Beadle, Brookings, Hanson, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Sanborn, Turner and Union counties.

Visit: <http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/waterfowl/goose.aspx> to view the exact boundaries of the new units.

The daily limit for the Sept. 4-30 dates is eight, with a possession limit of 16. Residents must have a valid Small Game or Combination license, the State Migratory Bird Certification, and the Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Nonresidents are required to have a valid Nonresident Waterfowl license and the Federal Waterfowl Stamp.

PROPOSALS WOULD EXPAND WATERFOWL HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

PIERRE, S.D. - Two proposals to be considered next month by the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission would give duck and goose hunters more opportunities this fall.

The proposed South Dakota duck hunting season would allow hunters to harvest two pintails a day; the previous daily bag limit was one pintail.

South Dakota is divided into four duck hunting zones:

The next High Plains Zone season is proposed to run Oct. 9, 2010 - Jan. 13, 2011. The High Plains Zone includes all of western South Dakota and the western portions of Campbell, Walworth, Potter, Sully, Hughes, Buffalo, Brule, and Gregory counties.

The Low Plains North and Low Plains Middle Zones seasons are proposed to run Sept. 25 - Dec. 7. The Low Plains North and Middle Zones include most of the eastern half of South Dakota.

The Low Plains South Zone season is proposed to run Oct. 9 - Dec. 21. The Low Plains South Zone encompasses parts of Gregory, Charles Mix, Bon Homme, Yankton, Clay and Union counties.

The GFP Commission also will consider an increase in the daily bag limit for the South Dakota Goose Hunting Season. Under the proposal, hunters would be able to harvest four Canada geese daily - up from three previously. The possession limit for Canada geese would increase from six to eight birds.

South Dakota has three goose hunting units:

Unit 1 has a proposed season of Oct. 1 - Dec 19. Unit 1 includes most of South Dakota, with the exception of Perkins, Bennett, Stanley, Lyman, Hughes and Gregory counties, and parts of Dewey, Potter, Sully, Buffalo, Brule, Hyde, Charles Mix, Bon Homme, Fall River and Custer counties.

Unit 2 has a proposed season of Oct. 30, 2010 - Feb. 11, 2011. Unit 2 consists of Perkins, Lyman, Stanley, Hughes and Gregory Counties and parts of Dewey, Potter, Sully, Buffalo, Brule, Hyde, Charles Mix, Bon Homme, Fall River and Custer counties.

Unit 3, consisting only of Bennett County, has a proposed season of January 8-16, 2011.