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Natural Resource Management

Winter 2008

Wildlifer's Log

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Wildlifer's Log

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES SCIENCES ■ SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Changes everywhere!

by Dave Willis

There must be thousands of traditional sayings on change. Change is inevitable. Nothing is constant except change.

Change also is happening here! Chuck Scalet retired. I still am not sure that my mind completely grasps that concept. After all, Chuck had worked to improve this program for well over 30 years. Chuck agreed to provide a little update for everyone on his "first-year retirement impressions." Look for that a little further into the newsletter.

New faculty members! Alumni from 1995-2005: most of you probably remember only the "older" faculty members! Now we have three relative youngsters in assistant professors Susan Rupp, Brian Graeb and Katie Bertrand. What a wonderful change to have their enthusiasm in our hallways. Susan and Brian wrote "first-time impressions" in the last

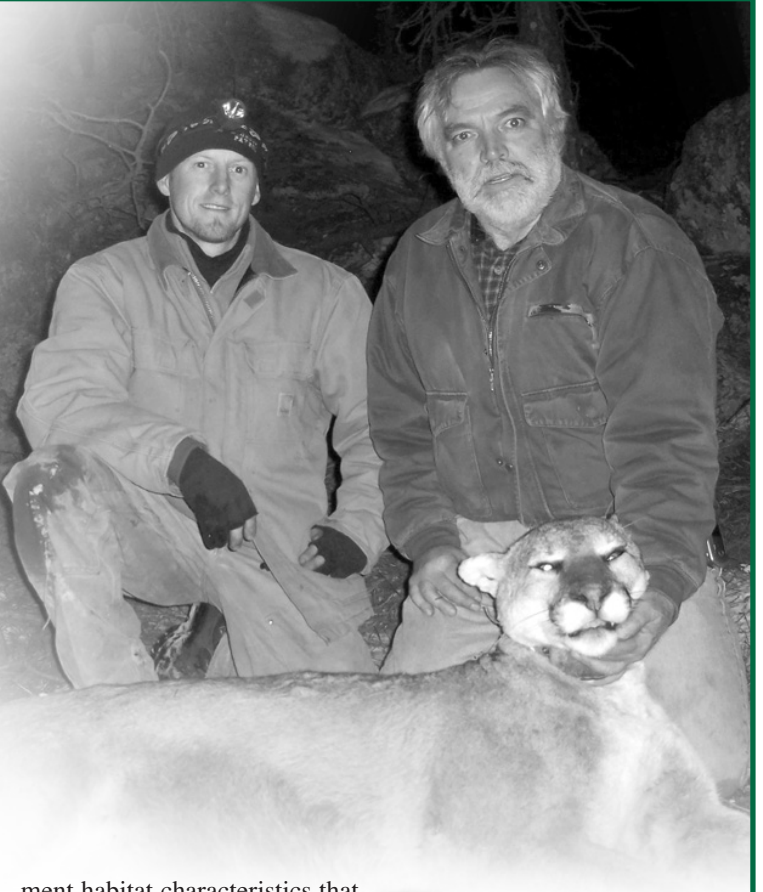
See **CHANGES** Page 2

Update on the Mountain Lion Project

by Jon Jenks

After close to a decade of studying mountain lions in the Black Hills and surrounding lands, the project continues with new objectives, new students, and new understanding.

Over the course of these projects, three students have been involved in the study: Dorothy Fecske (currently the Furbearer Biologist with North Dakota Game and Fish), Dan Thompson (currently completing his Ph.D. on the project while functioning as a Biologist with the Trophy Management Section of Wyoming Game and Fish), and Brian Jansen (currently in the field collecting data). Our new objectives include evaluation of the mountain lion harvest, documenting aspects of mortality (e.g., compensation between mortality agents), and evaluating dispersal patterns of subadult mountain lions during and after they travel out of the Black Hills. Currently, we have over 80 mountain lions fitted with radio collars in the Black Hills. To further evaluate dispersal patterns of lions, we have been fitting subadult males with GPS radio collars that store data on satellites, which allows daily download of up to 4 locations per lion per day. Those data will be used to improve understanding of lion movements through prairie habitats and to docu-



ment habitat characteristics that support lions that establish territories/home ranges on the prairies. We also have been working closely with South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks to develop a new project that will begin in 2009. This new project will evaluate the effect of mountain lions on bighorn sheep populations in the Black Hills and document prey use of lions that use habitats in areas without bighorn sheep.



Wuellner awarded prestigious Allen Scholarship

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) awarded Ph.D. student Melissa Wuellner the prestigious J. Frances Allen Scholarship in 2008. The award goes to the outstanding female doctoral fisheries student, primarily in, but not limited to, North America. The scholarship was established in 1986 to honor Allen, who was a promoter of women's involvement in AFS and the field of

fisheries. This award is quite an honor both for Melissa and for our department.

Ms. Wuellner is part way through her Ph.D. program of study. She earned her bachelor's degree from Ball State University, and her master's degree at Montana State University. Her dissertation topic involves potential competition between smallmouth bass and walleye with field studies being conducted in Missouri River mainstream reservoirs in South Dakota.

Melissa receives her award from AFS President Mary Fabrizio.



DR. ROBERT ARLINGHAUS IS A PROFESSOR with the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Department of Biology and Ecology of Fishes, and Humboldt-University of Berlin, Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture, Institute of Animal Sciences, Berlin, Germany. His early October trip to Brookings was supported by the F.O. Butler Foundation and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Robert provided two presentations for our students. First, he spoke to the advanced fisheries management class "A primer to anti-angling philosophy and consequences for recreational fishing practice in Europe: Relevance for the United States of America?" Then, he spoke to the SDSU Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society on "Status, threats and management of freshwater fish and fisheries in Germany." Robert wanted to catch a walleye, and we were able to accommodate that request (see photo). He also spent time with many of the graduate students, especially being interested in the common carp research at Brant Lake.

Dr. Robert Arlinghaus and his first walleye! The smallmouth and largemouth bass that he caught that day dwarfed his walleyes, but he had previously caught both of those species and walleyes were the target to add to his lifelist.

List of Contributors:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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| Pete and Lisa Bergmann | Scott V. Larson |
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| Todd R. and Kim S. Bogenschutz | Matt T. Mangan |
| Marvin L. and Jean Bouska | Aaron Matos |
| Mike and Elaine Brown | Thomas S. McComish |
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| Rebecca R. Ewing | Stacy L. Salvevold |
| Darryll D. Farmer | Charles G. and Ginger Scalet |
| Kurt J. and Lucia B. Forman | Jim H. and Karen L. Schramm |
| Jan E. Fredrickson | SD Walleyes Unlimited |
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| Daniel E. Hubbard | Eric and Ruth West |
| James J. and Marjorie J. Hubert | Roxanne Savaryn-Wicks |
| Thomas J. and Amy L. Hudson | and Zeno W. Wicks, III |
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| David R. Kraft | |
| Robert J. and Susanna G. Kramer | |

THANK YOU!

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CHANGES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(2007) newsletter. Katie has her impressions here. Dr. Jon Jenks is the "Director of Graduate Programs" for the department, which actually was suggested by Dean Gary Lemme. However, that brings me to additional changes. Dr. Lemme has resigned, and Drs. Don Marshall (Associate Dean for Academic Programs) and John Kirby (Associate Dean and Director of the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station) are combining to handle the duties of "Acting Dean" until a replacement search can be conducted.

Changes also reached our friends with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. The relatively new secretary is Jeff Vonk (a darn good choice). The Wildlife Division Director is Tony Leif. The agency then restructured into three new sections: Terrestrial, Aquatic, and Administration. Tom Kirschenmann filled the Terrestrial "chief" position, John Lott the Aquatic, and Scott Simpson the Administration. All great people, but changes nevertheless! Hmm, there just might be a "few" alumni imbedded within these changes. © Changes mean that long-time friends and supporters such as Doug Hansen, George Vandell, and Dennis Unkenholz are on to their new pastimes.

I am glad to report that things are well within the department. Undergraduate enrollment reached an all-time high of 275 in fall of 2007 and remained high at 263 for fall of 2008. The good news is that we have additional faculty members to help with this workload. Don't fool yourself; we can't add that many students without affecting faculty members and their time commitments on teaching and advising. Graduate enrollment is a little harder to track, but for fall 2008, we have about 40 M.S. and 14 Ph.D. students. Research awards for 2008 totaled \$2.25 million, which is our all-time high. Our Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit remains strong and is truly integrated within our department (more on them later in the newsletter). We've been able to retain our fabulous support staff (Diane Drake, Carol Jacobson, and newsletter editor Terri Symens).

So, the bottom line is that we are doing our best to adapt to change. Are we generalists or specialists? Well, I had always thought specialists, but we certainly are adapting like generalists! I guess that I better do a little more reading on general ecology!

Thanks to all of our alumni for your continued support. We're working hard to make you proud of us.



YES! *I wish to contribute to the SDSU Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences through the Greater State Fund.*

Name _____

Address _____

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Present Employment _____

Amount of Gift Enclosed \$ _____

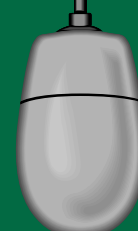
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Mail to:
SDSU Foundation
Box 525
Brookings, SD 57007

Current and Completed Graduate Student Research Projects

To view our list of current graduate student research projects, please visit our Department website
<http://wfs.sdstate.edu>.

Under People, click on Graduate Students. You can also view our completed projects (Under Resources, click on Theses and Dissertations).



Retirement

by Chuck Scalet

This past year (2008), my first in retirement, has been exciting. In short, it has been great – every day is Saturday.

I do miss interactions with faculty, staff, graduate students, and most undergraduate students. However, I do not miss the work. The constant barrage of emergencies, meetings, schedules, and endless things to do (some of which were mind-numbing; what I called administrivia) had really worn me down over the years without my realizing it. It only took a few weeks of retirement for my shoulders to feel much lighter; it was like I had been carrying around a large rock.

I am now able to do mostly things I like to do and with few time interferences. For example, during the year I played golf most days when weather permitted. Surprise – the more I played the better I got. I only read things that interest me; reading has always been one of my hobbies. I like afternoon naps. Appointments can be scheduled on any day at any time. We can travel or do something without long-term planning (Ginger is also retired, in fact she beat me to it). In short, life is just less complicated and more time is spent doing what we want to do not need to do.

Ginger and I are both well – no reoccurrences of the 2007 cancers and my arthritis is in check. We traveled a good deal this year (Paris, London, Southern California, Chicago, Detroit, and Phoenix) and plan more for next year (Southern California, Oregon, Florida, Minnesota, Florence, and Venice). We put our golf clubs in the car or plane (Ginger

plays), take the dogs to the kennel, and take off. Speaking of dogs, Jake, Mack, and I got to hunt pheasants a number of times this year. I was unable to hunt last year because of illness – the first year I had not hunted since 1954.

We plan on staying in Brookings, but will also spend a month each winter at our time share in the Southern California desert (a fantastic golf location). To keep in shape, while not golfing (kind of), we have an elliptical trainer. To keep my brain moving I try to spend 30 minutes or so a day on French lessons (computer program Rosetta Stone). Ginger, as always, has been sewing a lot. This year we added onto our house, including a large sewing studio for her. My reward was a new couch and a widescreen, high-definition, TV.

We enjoy our full days at home. Jake and Mack also like us being home all day, but they are not fond of going to the kennel when we travel.

In short, life is good. We have not failed retirement.



First Year Impressions

by Katie Bertrand

Most faculty accumulated many teaching, research, and service experiences while still graduate students or post-docs. In other words, we knew the nuts and bolts of our profession, but until we became faculty, we didn't have to balance all of those responsibilities simultaneously and at such a high tempo. Like most would-be-faculty, I read about the tenure track and about the first years of a new faculty position, and like most who read these accounts (many of which

would be good material for Halloween

stories), I asked myself, "do I really want this???" Of course, my answer was always, "Yes!

Absolutely! This is what I love...a challenge!"

My first three months as a faculty member have brought challenges. The challenges came from students, research, service, and of course, the metric that does not appear on annual evaluations, family life. Implementing a creative warm-up activity on

the first day of class with 330-

plus non-majors was, to say the very least, challenging and maybe a little crazy. But, challenging those same students to evaluate evidence, come to a team consensus and write a justified response to a case study was extremely rewarding. As a scientist, I know that basic research and scientific understanding are critically impor-

tant, but we generally do a poor job of translating our findings and the applications and implications of our research to the rest of the voting public. I really enjoy giving students the facts in my classes, and then asking them to discuss issues and case studies for which there are no right or wrong answers. Ideally, my students carry those learning experiences beyond the classroom to their dinner table and their network of friends and family.

The most pleasurable part of my new position is launching my research program. To me, research as an academic means the freedom to pursue interesting questions, generalize my findings to advance the state of knowledge in my field, and hopefully generate solutions to pressing environmental problems. I was educated as a fish ecologist, specializing in stream ecosystems, and I am currently pursuing questions related to understanding and managing invasive fishes and conserving native fishes and stream habitats. Again, before becoming a faculty member, I knew the nuts and bolts of successful research, but since joining the faculty, I am learning a great deal more about assembling productive collaborations, pursuing extramural funding, recruiting students, and complying with institutional policies and practices. There still is a lot to learn and a lot more streamlining to do in the process, but so far, research is my favorite challenge to address.

Service obligations give faculty the excuse we need to step back for a moment and reflect on what's really important and what ignited our passion for this profession in the first place. Professional societies, such as the American Fisheries Society, give their members a louder, collective voice on local, regional, national, and international issues. Presentations at local club meetings, such as the Brookings Wildlife Federation, are a venue to share relevant current research findings and promote resource stewardship at the grassroots level. In general, I have been warned by mentors to minimize service commitments, and although I understand the wisdom of that advice, I also know that serving helps me to feel grounded and in-touch with the ultimate purpose of my work.

The demands of my new position are many and varied. The most important and most difficult thing to learn seems to be prioritizing and optimizing my time. The to-do lists keep growing, the e-mail and phone calls keep coming, and the students are always welcome to walk through my open office door. Taking advantage of 30 minutes between a class and a meeting is critical, but gathering around the supper table as a family each night and exploring the yard (or whatever else) with my daughter on a Sunday afternoon are essential. No matter how urgent one of my to-do list items may seem, I always find that I am more productive, focused, and fulfilled when I return to it after spending an evening, a day, or an entire weekend with my family. This career requires an intense dedication to "work until the job is finished, and then work on the next job...", but for me, being a complete person means balancing career and family. Without either one, I wouldn't be happy, and I wouldn't be making the most of my life.

First impressions are the most important. The Department has impressed upon me that we support one another and work together toward our shared vision. We believe in providing a quality education for our students, and we innovate our teaching and mentoring methods to accommodate changing student needs. We believe in (and are darn good at) conducting quality research that answers basic and applied questions. We believe in serving at all levels because we are committed to protecting and sustaining natural resources for future generations. Each of us has our own expertise, and we each have our own strengths and weaknesses. We complement one another and contribute to the ongoing success of the Department, which is measurable in the network of alumni and friends who continue to support our mission and the national recognition we have earned with our peers. I am grateful and proud to be a part of this organization, and I hope that the impressions I made on others during my first months have been as positive and lasting as those that my fellow colleagues, staff, and students have made on me.



60th Annual Buffalo Banquet

2008 Scholarship Recipients

Spring 2008 – Fall 2008 Wilbur Allen

Scholarships (24th Year)

Ryan T. Andvik (Spring)
Jonah D. Dage (Spring/Fall)
Ryan M. DeVore (Spring/Fall)
Jessica M. Howell (Fall)
Kyle J. Hubert (Spring/Fall)
Joshua A. Lefers (Spring)
Kyle B. Monteith (Spring/Fall)
Kevin A. Robling (Spring/Fall)
Benjamin J. Schall (Fall)
Aaron J. Schneider (Spring)
Heidi J. Walkling (Spring)
Luke E. Vander Ley (Spring/Fall)

Wildlife Outstanding M.S. Graduate Student (13th Year)

Joshua A. Delger

Brookings Wildlife Federation (22nd Year)

Christopher L. Houck

Norgren Memorial Award Scholarship (5th Year)

Ryan M. DeVore, Timothy M. Janke, Nicholas A. Pohl,
Christopher S. Uphoff, and Andrew M. Dierks

South Dakota Trappers Association Award (20th Year)

Tanner C. Pruess

Madison Izaak Walton League Scholarships (20th Year)

Julianna E. Gehant and Andrew J. Wuestewald

Streeter Scholarship (6th Year)

Brett F. Kleinschmitt

Lloyd Fredrickson Memorial Award (7th Year)

Matt A. Bahm

Bob Wakeman Memorial Scholarship (5th Year)

Nicolle P. Lorenz

Lake Campbell Wildlife Club Scholarship (33rd Year)

Ryan J. Vrchota

Norgren Memorial Award – Fisheries Ph.D. Student (5th Year)

Melissa R. Wuellner

Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League Scholarship (50th Year)

Nathan N. Glanzer

Gay Simpson Memorial Award – Central Flyway Technical Committee (19th Year)

Tandi L. Perkins

Joyce and Mayo Kjellsen Hunting Heritage Award (11th Year)

Tyler J. Stubbs

McCook Lake Izaak Walton League Scholarships (15th Year)

Ryan T. Andvik, Kyle B. Monteith, Tanner C. Pruess,
Matthew M. Weegman, Andrew J. Wuestewald, and
Blake M. Gipson

Dr. Gerald Spawn Memorial Scholarship (45th Year)

Nathan M. Kuntz

David Bartling Scholarship (4th Year)

Jamin D. Hartland

Fisheries M.S. Graduate Student of the Year – Great Plains Fishery Workers Association (25th Year)

Lucas J. Borgstrom

Larry and Jo Kallemeyn Scholarship (4th Year)

Benjamin J. Schall

Robert Eng Scholarship (2nd Year)

Jonah D. Dage and Jeffrey D. Potts

Steven Zebarth Scholarship (3rd Year)

Caleb J. Thielbar

South Dakota Conservation Officers Association Scholarship (13th Year)

Allen A. Stegeman

Bjorklund Memorial Scholarship (9th Year)

Bethany J. Galster

Heartland Pheasants Forever - Huron, South Dakota (2nd Year)

Travis J. Runia and Jeffrey D. Potts

South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited Scholarship (1st Year)

Bobbi M. Adams, Jenna L. Frank, Karmen J. Powell,
and Brandon M. Tycz



WILBUR ALLEN SCHOLARSHIP

(L to R) Benjamin Schall, Ryan DeVore, Kevin Robling, Ryan Andvik, and Kyle Monteith



LLOYD FREDRICKSON MEMORIAL AWARD

Dr. KC Jensen and Matt Bahm

Kjellsen Hunting Heritage Award

At the 2008 (60th) Buffalo Banquet, Joyce and Mayo Kjellsen presented a shotgun to one of our undergraduate students for the Kjellsen Hunting Heritage Award. This was the 11th year that the award has been presented. Those of you who have attended a banquet know that Mayo is renowned for his lead-in jokes, and he certainly continued that tradition this year.

Students are asked to write an essay on the heritage of hunting. These essays are then read by a panel of faculty, and they select the winner. This year, Tyler Stubbs was the winner of a Mossberg over/under shotgun with both 12 and 20 gauge barrels. His winning essay follows.



BROOKINGS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Dr. Charles R. Berry (BWF Newsletter Editor) and Christopher L. Houck



NORGREN MEMORIAL AWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Dan Hubbard, Andrew Dierks, Nicholas Pohl, Ryan DeVore, and Christopher Uphoff



GAY SIMPSON MEMORIAL AWARD

Spencer Vaa (MS 1968) and Tandi Perkins



FISHERIES
MS GRADUATE
STUDENT OF
THE YEAR
Lucas Borgstrom



WILDLIFE
OUTSTANDING
MS GRADUATE
STUDENT
Joshua Delger

Kjellsen Hunting Heritage Award Essay

Webster's Dictionary defines hunting as the chase or search for game or other wild animals for the purpose of catching or killing. In the following text I will explain to you what exactly Webster has missing from its definition.

I hale from a town of 500 people in the "black desert" of central Iowa. Although central Iowa is given a negative connotation from outsiders, I am very proud of where I came from. When you think of Iowa, what do you think of? Farming, tractors, pigs, covered bridges, little school houses dotting the landscape? Even if these examples don't cover it; it is a sure bet that it isn't hunting. I happen to be lucky enough to be in a family that owns 120 acres of heaven tucked away on a dead end dirt road in west-central Iowa. I have also been lucky to have been brought up in a family that appreciates and respects the outdoors and all it has to offer. If it wasn't for them, I probably would not have chosen this career path that I am on.

Let me paint you a picture. It's 1998, 24°F and overcast in the middle of an Iowa winter. There is a fairly crunchy snow pack this year. Perched up on a stump on the side of a bluff that looks over the frozen Raccoon River is a 13 year old boy with his dad waiting for magic to happen. Suddenly off in the distance, a brown object appears trampling through the timber. It's a doe deer. Sitting ever so still, the little boy raises his single-shot 20 gauge, waiting for his dad's signal to fire. The doe moves in closer, with every step of her

hoof, the little boy's heart beats twice as fast until it feels like it is pumping out of his chest. Then, the dad nudges the boy, and softly whispers, "Take her son". With one single shot the doe falls to the ground in a heap. Right then and there in that boy's eyes he became one of the guys. That little boy was me nearly ten years ago. I will never forget that

son. That is one thing that Webster did not cover in its definition. Hunting to me not only involves killing, but also camaraderie with friends and family. Nothing brings me closer to my father and grandfather than a day out in the woods or marsh. It is tradition with us.

As I mentioned earlier I happen to be lucky enough to be in a family that owns land. I am frankly appalled at some of the practices that I have seen here in South Dakota. Where I come from it isn't much of a problem to find private ground to hunt on. Here, you almost need a contract to hunt it. Hunting has a bad enough reputation as it is. It doesn't need to have dollar signs on it. When I grow old I want to be able to take my kids out like my dad and grandfather did. I hold those moments very near and dear to my heart, and I want my kids to have the same opportunities. One way to fix this is to promote government programs that set aside tracts of land for conservation practices. We also need to support such agencies as Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited. My kids deserve to have what I had.

To conclude, hunting is not only the search to kill, but the search to bond with one another and to learn to respect the great outdoors and all of the critters it holds. Current generations like mine need to step it up and protect our natural resources. It is vital for us to do it because we remember what it was like when we were kids. After all, it's hard to figure out where something is going unless you know where it came from.



Tyler Stubbs (center) received the Joyce and Mayo Kjellsen Hunting Heritage Award.

day, my first deer. Hunting can be an everlasting memory when it is shared with a great group of men and women. I am sure that you to have plenty of hunting stories with friends and family that you will never forget.

I have since moved away from home. But there is one thing that has and will always bring me home; hunting sea-

AFS Distinguished Service Award for Mike Brown



Dr. Mike Brown, along with SDSU alumnus Dr. Chris Guy (currently with the Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit at Montana State University), received the 2008 American Fisheries Society Distinguished Service Award for coediting the new *Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data* book for the society. The amount of work that went into this book was truly amazing, both by the chapter authors and the editors. This book was a particularly challenging task for the editors, in part because the numerous chapter authors represented a host of fishery disciplines. The editors were careful to produce a text that was balanced, in terms of being at an understandable level for students, yet

cutting edge for the most advanced researchers. The editors contracted with two independent statisticians to review each chapter, and Mike and Chris then had the "pleasure" of communicating between the statisticians and the chapter authors. The integration of the statistical software throughout the book makes it an even greater contribution to both practicing fisheries scientists and fisheries educators. *Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data* fills a necessary niche in the fishery profession, and is sure to enhance understanding of the complex topics it covers. Through the leadership of Drs. Guy and Brown, this text will undoubtedly become one of the most useful and referenced texts in the field of fishery science. If you would like more information, go to the AFS web site: www.fisheries.org.

SDSU American Fisheries Society hosts Cub Scout fishing derby

From the Brookings area Cub Scouts

On Sept. 20, students from the SDSU American Fisheries Society student subunit hosted more than 50 local Cub Scouts and their families for a fishing derby at the Southbrook Ponds on 22nd Avenue. Scouts from Brookings Packs 4 and 24 along with 10 boys from Pack 110 in Lake Preston enjoyed perfect fishing weather.

The Scouts rotated through five fun learning stations: casting technique, knot tying, fishing tackle, aquatic and fish biology, and shooting sports. After short sessions at each station, the Scouts and their families were sent to the ponds to try to catch some fish. The fisheries students provided fishing equipment and bait for anyone who needed it, and also helped rig fishing lines and bait hooks. Many fish were caught, and for some it was their very first fish.

The Brookings area Cub Scouts would like to thank the SDSU AFS students for sharing their fishing knowledge through the fishing derby, and look forward to doing it again next year.



Members of the SDSU AFS Subunit that helped with the Cub Scouts Fishing Derby are (front) Tom Bacula and Tyler Berger, (back) Nathan Stroh, Travis Schaeffer, Will French, Andy Jansen, Will Schreck, and Nikki Lorenz.



News from the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

We know that many of our alumni are quite interested in our Coop Unit. The Unit produces a monthly report entitled "Factivities." You can keep track of this monthly report on our departmental web page (<http://wfs.sdstate.edu>). Under Resources, click on Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

Alumni News

Katie (Herman) Brunson (BS 2004, MS 2007) – Currently employed at Campbell County School district as a Para Education/science coordinator in Gillette, WY. We welcomed Allie May Brunson on July 29, 2008, 6.5 lbs, 18 inches.

Jeremy Duehr (MS 2004) – Currently, I am working for Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. as a Project Environmental Scientist. I am working from my home during the day and going to law school at night at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. Busy times. My wife and I had our first child in August. A little boy named August (photo). Augie and mom are doing well and we are enjoying our time together.

Nathan Gosch (BS 2006) – I got a full-time, permanent position with the Missouri Department of Conservation. I am going to be the Fisheries Staff Biologist in Sedalia, which is about 90 miles east of Kansas City. My duties are primarily conducting workshops on watersheds/landuse and conducting stream habitat sampling with some GIS computer stuff thrown in there too. I am starting around November 3.

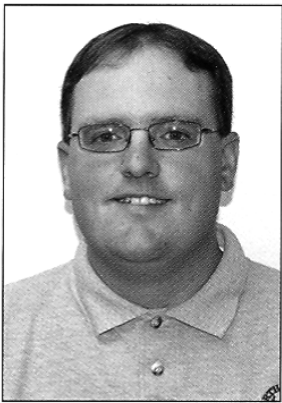
Chad and Brenda (Kothman) Kopplin (Both BS 1996) – Abigail Grace Kopplin (photo) was born on October 9, 2008. She weighed 5lbs. 5.7oz., she was 19 ¾ inches long, and she has a

healthy set of lungs. Both Brenda and the baby are doing well. She joins a sister, MaKayla (age 5). Chad is the state GIS Coordinator for Wyoming DEQ, Cheyenne. If anyone is coming through this area please stop by.

Matt (MS 2004) and Karen (Arnold, MS 2005) Mangan – Married September 1, 2007 in Sugarcreek, OH. We currently live in Marion, IL and both work for the USFWS. Karen is a refuge biologist for Cypress NWR and Matt is a fish and wildlife biologist for the Ecological Services Office in Marion. We both miss our days in Brookings and spending time with fellow graduate students.

Jamie Rader (MS 2005) – I now live in Charleston, SC and work for SC DNR managing 27,300 acres in Charleston and Georgetown counties. We are adjacent to the Francis Marion National Forest and Cape Romain NWR. We have a wide diversity of habitat, birds, and mammals and hope to begin graduate studies again in the future as well as start renovating a 5,000-8,000 square foot historic hunt club house.

Craig Soupir (BS 1995, MS 1998) – The twins (Thomas and Matthew) were born on January 31, 2008. The girls are 12 (Mara) and 9 (Taylor) (photo). I work for the MN DNR as a Fisheries Specialist at Windom, MN.



Jeff Merchant
(BS, 2002)

Photo courtesy of ND Outdoors.

Fisheries Technician Slot Filled

Jeff Merchant, who has been a seasonal employee with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's fisheries division for several years, has been hired to fill a fisheries technician position in Dickinson.

Merchant, originally of Westbrook, Minnesota, has a degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from South Dakota State University.

His primary responsibility with the Game and Fish Department will be working on district lakes in southwestern North Dakota.



August Dehr



Abigail Kopplin



Craig and Lisa Soupir's kids – July 2008 (Left) Matthew and Taylor, (Right) Thomas and Mara.



Doug Dieterman (M.S., 1995), wife Terrie, and brood: the four girls are (from oldest to youngest) Felicia (12), Wren (9), Abree (4), and Nadia (2).
Christmas 2007

ALUMNI INFORMATION

We enjoy receiving news and photos from our alumni. Have you moved, accepted a new position, married, given talks in your community, received an advanced degree, or had an addition to your family? Let us know.

Send information to Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, SDSU, Box 2140B, Brookings, SD 57007 or email terri.symens@sdstate.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Alumni Thomas Melius is U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's New Midwest Regional Director

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service welcomed a new regional director today as Tom Melius took the helm of the eight-state Midwest Region, headquartered in Ft. Snelling, MN. Prior to his Midwest region post, he completed a successful watch over the vast, rugged expanse of the Service's Alaska region.

In his new role, Melius will govern over a region that employs 1,088 people, manages 1.29 million acres of land and has field offices in eight states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

A native of the Great Plains, Melius has a rich background and brings a wealth of experience to the Midwest. Prior to his stewardship in Alaska, he served as Assistant Director for External Affairs in the Washington Office from March 2003 to April of 2006. He oversaw the national programs for Public Affairs, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and the office of the Native American Liaison. He also provided oversight to the Service's National Conservation Training Center located in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Prior to his time in External Affairs, Melius served as Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs. In that position he developed policy, advised the Directorate, and served as its representative on issues relating to the conservation and management of migratory birds, implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and wetlands programs, Federal Duck Stamps, federal grant programs, and conservation partnerships. He was responsible for and directed the offices of Migratory Bird Management, Bird Habitat Conservation, Conservation Partnership Liaison, and Federal Aid.

From July 1997 to October 1998, Melius was the Director of Conservation Policy and Senior Advisor at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Between January of 1995 and June of 1997, he was a Senior Professional Staff member on the U.S. Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, where he formulated policy for fishery management with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Coast Guard; and for coastal programs with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He also advised the Committee on international conservation matters involving wildlife trade, marine mammals, and endangered species.

Pheasants Forever Selects Ron Leathers for National Conservation Leadership Institute

Ron Leathers, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Government Grants Coordinator, is among the 36 selected for the 2008-2009 cohort of the National Conservation Leadership Institute, a world-class leadership development experience designed to prepare extraordinary leadership for the future of natural resource conservation. The Institute experience incorporates instruction by experts from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency's Management Assistance Team with in-the-trenches, nationally recognized luminaries in conservation and resource management. Focusing on Adaptive Leadership™, the program builds the capacity to lead in an environment of broad, increasingly complex conservation issues.

As Government Grants Coordinator, Leathers oversees public financing efforts by Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. He begins intensive training on October 5th at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Fellows also undertake a leadership challenge as part of that training. From October through April of 2009, participants work on projects and peer consulting. The seven-month program concludes in April of 2009 with final residency at Big Cedar Lodge in Missouri. For more information National Conservation Leadership Institute, visit www.conservationleadership.org.

A native of Laramie, Wyoming, Leathers received his master's (2003) in wildlife science from South Dakota State University. He has been with Pheasants Forever since 2003, when he began in Parker, South Dakota, as Pheasants Forever's first-ever Farm Bill Biologist. Since 2003, Farm Bill biologists have provided conservation technical assistance to 18,000 landowners. Those relationships have translated into over 1 million acres of habitat improvements.

From 1985 to 1995, Melius was a professional staff member on the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries in the U.S. House of Representatives. There he advised the Committee on issues concerning fish and wildlife legislation.

In 1973 and 1975, Melius earned his B.S. degree in Wildlife Biology and a M.S. degree in Fish and Wildlife Science from South Dakota State University. His broad range of experience, within and outside the Service, has left him well qualified to deal with the challenges and stewardship opportunities throughout the diverse Midwest lands and waters.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov>.



Dr. Kent (KC) Jensen and several other alumni attended the Western Agencies Sage Grouse Conference in Mammoth Lakes, CA on June 23–26, 2008. (l to r) Dave Musil (BS 1985), Rick Northrup (MS 1988), Dr. Les Flake (retired), Tony Apa (MS 1985), Frank Howe (MS 1986), and Steve Madsen (BS 1976). Frank, Tony and KC were teaching assistants for Les' Ornithology classes in 1984 and 1985 and Dave was a student in the class.



Alumnus Tom Gengerke (center) (BS 1970, MS 1972) was inducted into the AFS Fisheries Management Section Hall of Excellence. Also pictured are Joe Larscheid (left) ("Friend" of SDSU) and Mike Hawkins (right) (MS 2002).

Jesse W. West Research Endowment

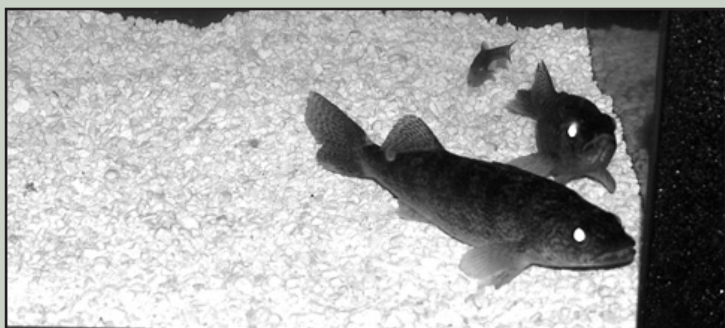
This SDSU endowment is intimately tied to the *Pond Boss* magazine and its online forum (www.pondboss.com). It honors the life of Jesse W. West, a Mississippian and professor of Geology. While teaching Geology "Summer Camp" in the West, including Colorado, California and the Black Hills (one of his favorite geologic places), he developed a love of the area and its people which he shared with his family. His interest in lands and waters and all they provided led to many trips with his family to study and behold the Earth's majesty through fishing and hunting. His strong belief in helping others along their journey in applied science is the cornerstone of this endowment.

The endowment was initiated by a donation from son Eric West. Since that time, *Pond Boss* members have donated individually and through the proceeds from the silent auction at the annual conference. At the 2008 *Pond Boss* Conference & Expo, we were able to raise just over \$12,000 via the silent auction, which raised the total endowment to over \$41,000! Auction items were donated by *Pond Boss* members, and the bidding was done by conference attendees. The interest on the endowment is used to fund worthy projects. The 2007 award was

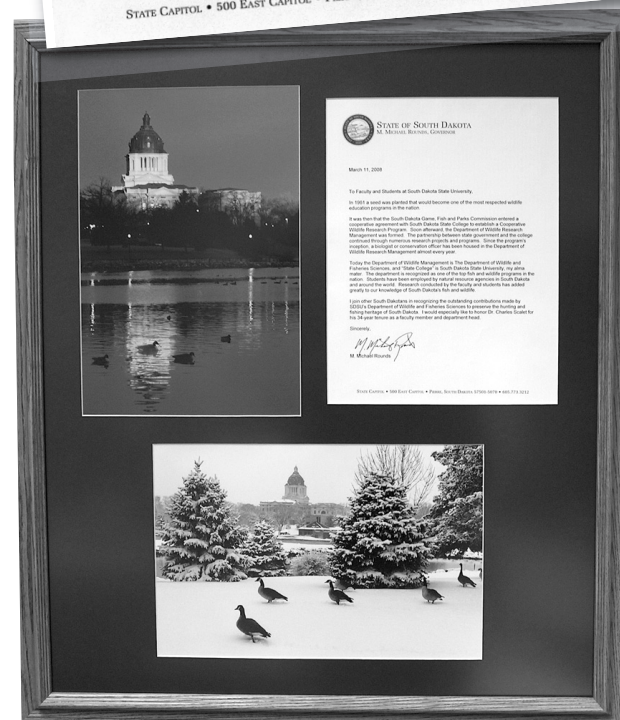
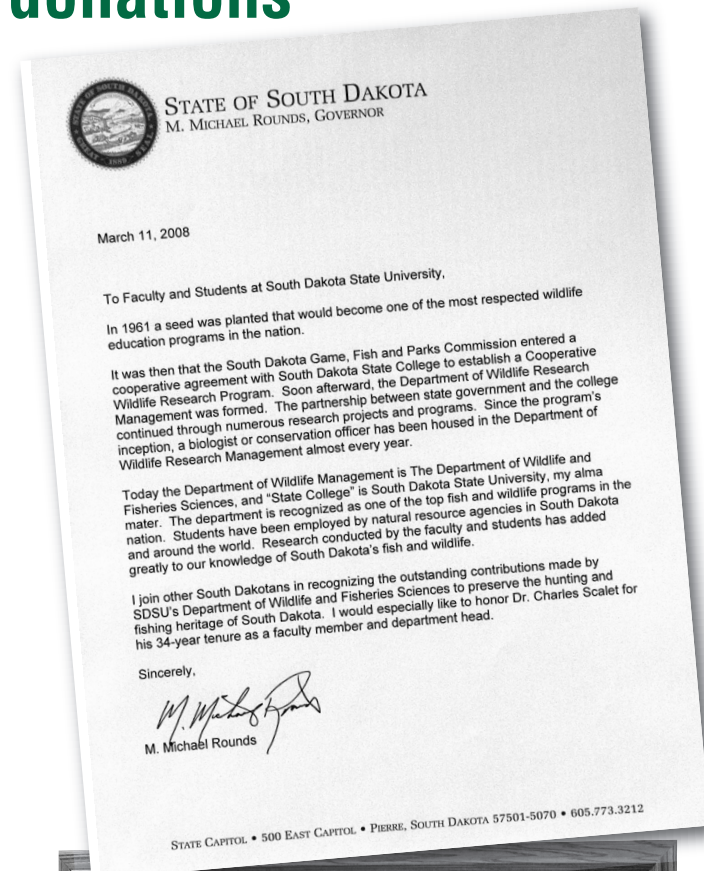
used by Ph.D. student Melissa Wuellner (pictured) to purchase viewing tanks to study walleye-smallmouth bass feeding interactions. The 2008 award was used by Ph.D. students Mark Finsel and Justin VanDeHey to help study a potential nonlethal technique for distinguishing fish food habits from fin clips, rather than muscle samples (stable isotope analysis). The 2009 award will be used by an undergraduate student to assess stocking rates for largemouth bass fingerlings in South Dakota ponds, in cooperation with alumnus and South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks employee Matt Ward.



Melissa Wuellner and viewing tanks to study walleye-smallmouth bass feeding interactions



One of our latest artwork donations



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