

NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

The mission of the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society is to provide a forum for discussion of ecological issues among natural resource professionals; to enable its membership to pursue conservation of natural resources; and to inform the public on ecologically wise uses of natural resources in support of a conservation ethic.

March 2006

First off, I would like to extend a well-deserved **THANK-YOU** to all the members that made the annual meeting in Williston a huge success. As many are aware there was a bit of trepidation with the meeting location this year and it is a testament to the passion and energy our members possess to make this last meeting successful

The annual meeting was highlighted with a great program (thanks to Randy Renner and the Program committee) including many quality presentations, a session on commercialization, and perhaps the highlight, an inspiring talk from Mr. Jim Posewitz from Orion: The Hunter's Institute (Helena, MT). I extend my congratulations to the Natural Resource Communication Award recipient, Dave Mushet for his intriguing and informative discussion on Tiger Salamanders.

As we have become accustomed, the Fundraising Committee did an exceptional job raising money for the Chapter. Paul Halko and the rest of the Committee were able to raise over \$8,000; the second highest total in the past 4 years.

As I mentioned many times during the annual meeting, the committees and hard working members are the cog and wheels that make the Chapter such an efficient organization. I was pleased to see the number of long-time members, young professionals, and the students that attended. We still have a lot of work to do, however. There are many lost members and the Membership committee has become committed to contacting them. We also had many folks "step up" and become new members of some committees. Though, don't wait to be asked. If you feel it is time to become involved, please take the initiative. Our hats also go off to the new life members; a great investment in North Dakota's natural resources.

This year's Award Banquet was well attended. Mr. Posewitz's again presented a talk to the membership at the banquet. His previous afternoon message left many members energetic and inspired, and perhaps yearning for more heavy issues, although he left us with "TR" light – a whimsical and humor-filled journey in the life of Theodore Roosevelt. One of the most difficult things a President can do is deliver a message to the deserving award recipients; a humbling experience indeed. This year we recognized many deserving members. We were pleased to present a Special Recognition Award to Paul Myerchin for his legal advice and commitment to the Chapter. Kevin Willis was awarded the Habitat Award for his work as the Northern Great Plains Working Group Coordinator. Kevin's hard work and dedication have resulted in securing thousands of "conservation acres" on the ground.

Finally, Keith Trego was presented with the North Dakota Professional Award for his career in wildlife management. His most current work with the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust has allowed him to become a catalyst in collaboration as well as developing many innovative ways to conserve the state's natural resources.

I also would like to thank the Board members that ended their terms this year – Larry Brooks, Al Sapa, and Randy Renner. Thank you for your energy, ideas, and patience over the past years. We also welcome Paul Myerchin, Cami Dixon as the two new Board Members and Al Sapa back as President-elect. I extend a sincere note of gratitude to all that ran for office this year. I encourage those members that may have an interest in running in the future – it’s an experience that you will enjoy and value.

Since we left one another three weeks ago, there has been a flurry of activity unlike what I have seen on the Board to date. There is rampant activity on the resolution we passed (North American Wildlife Conservation Model), comments on the Corps of Engineers plans for sandbar management, Prairie day development, and likely most important commenting on the Red River Water Supply Draft Environmental Impact Study. The latter evolved in the resurrection of the Garrison Diversion Committee to assist in comments for the Board.

As I conclude, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done. Passion and energy will help us succeed. I have no doubt of that. Remember to make yourself available to assist in the work of the Chapter. One thing which has stuck with me since listening to Mr. Posewitz is his comment on having access to “goose music.” In North Dakota we are fortunate and entrusted in conserving goose music for ourselves, and others. As we approach spring and a busy time of the year – keep your ear cocked and listen.

Respectfully,

Will Meeks

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* 2006 *

APRIL

11 Board meeting, NDGF office Jamestown

MAY

13 International Migratory Bird Day

AUGUST

29-31 CMPS Annual Meeting, Laramie, WY

24-26 4th North American Duck Symposium, Bismarck
(<http://www.4nads.com>)

If you have event dates, deadlines or other dates of interest, please send them to: Will Meeks, 8315 Hwy. 8 Kenmare, ND 58746

North Dakota Chapter TWS - 2006

Executive Board Members

Cami Dixon Dave Azure
Paul Myerchin Marsha Sovada
Mark Sherfy Allyn Sapa
Will Meeks Brian Kietzman

President Portfolio – Will Meeks

Secretary/Treasure: Mark Sherfy
Newsletter: Adam Ryba
CMPS Rep: Stan Kohn
Natural Resources Trust Advisor: Scott Peterson
Resolutions and Public Statements: Will Meeks

Past-President Portfolio – Dave Azure

Arrangements: Dave Azure
Program: Dave Azure
Audit: Tom Sklebar
Membership: Tom Jones
Nominations: Dave Azure
ND Action Group: Casey Anderson

President-Elect Portfolio – Allyn Sapa

Bylaws: Paul Myerchin
Prairie Resources: Jill Shaffer
Legislative: Randy Renner
Awards: Al Sapa
Prairie Chicken: Greg Link

Portfolio A – Paul Myerchin

Wetland Resources: Cami Dixon
Fishery Resources: Mike Olson
Historian: Jeremy Duckwitz
Website: Scott Kahan
Wildlife Commercialization: Mike McEnroe

Portfolio B – Cami Dixon

Western Lands: Bill Jensen
State Wildlife Grants: Chuck Bosch
Education: Kristine Askerooth & Jack Lalor
Forest Resources: Tom Claeys
Invasive Species: Dave Dewald

Portfolio C – Brian Kietzman

Missouri River: Al Sapa
Red River Watershed: Jack Lalor
Devils Lake Basin: Roger Hollevoet
Fund Raising: Paul Halko
Small Grants: Randy Renner

Portfolio D – Marsha Sovada

Northern Great Plains Working Group: Kevin Willis
Endangered Species: Sandy Hagen
Law Enforcement: Jackie Lundstrom
Wildlife Damage Management: Phil Mastrangelo
Finance: Mike Goos

North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Executive Board Meeting Minutes February 8, 2006

The Executive Board Meeting of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society was called to order at 10:00 AM at the Airport International Inn in Williston, North Dakota. Those in attendance included Dave Azure, Larry Brooks, Brian Kietzman, Will Meeks, Randy Renner, Al Sapa, Mark Sherfy, and Marsha Sovada. Also in attendance were Bill Bicknell, Fred Giese, Greg Hiemenz, Mike McEnroe, and Mike Olson.

Notes: MSC = “Moved, seconded, and carried” followed by names of board members making and seconding the motion. NTR = “Nothing to Report” from the committee chair.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer’s Report—Mark Sherfy reviewed the Chapter’s 2005 finances in preparation for the Business Meeting. There was discussion of life membership funds, which will be referred back to the Finance Committee.

Correspondence Sent & Received—Dave was called by Tom Ryder (CMPS representative to TWS Council) regarding TWS support for acquisition of the Eberts Ranch property. Dave sent Tom a copy of our 2002 letter regarding the acquisition. TWS will sign a letter to Senators Conrad & Dorgan supporting the acquisition. We also received a draft response to our comments on Dakota Prairie Grasslands management, a request for information regarding the Endangered Species Act, and a letter from Bob Lanka regarding CMPS memberships.

Conservation Easement Initiated Measure and UND Survey—Results have been returned from the survey. Randy reviewed the status of the survey and the next steps that will be taken.

Draft Resolution on North American Model— Dave reviewed the draft resolution, and the board discussed how to present it during the Business Meeting. It was noted that the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meets during 24-27 July in Bismarck. The agenda for July 27 includes a commercialization session during which John Organ and Steve Williams will speak about the North American Model.

NEW BUSINESS

Red River Valley Water Supply—Greg Hiemenz, Bill Bicknell, and Mike McEnroe updated the Board on the draft EIS on Red River Valley Water Supply. Bill Bicknell will take the lead on formulating the Chapter's position on this issue. Bill summarized the Chapter's history of involvement. The Chapter has not taken a formal position on interbasin transfer, but this is probably the biggest natural resources issue. Bill reviewed some other issues the Chapter should focus on, including in-basin alternatives, pipeline construction, and adding water to Ashtabula as a water source. The Chapter might emphasize favoring aquatic environment alternatives (i.e., fish passage on low-head dams, riparian woodlands), instream flow needs, and issues related to conversion of prime farmland. Coordination with Minnesota Chapters of TWS and AFS will be important.

Due to the emergence of this issue, the Board voted to resurrect the Garrison Diversion Committee with Bill Bicknell as chair (MSC Meeks/Sovada). Dave and Will thanked the committee members for their effort and their institutional knowledge.

PRESIDENT'S PORTFOLIO (Will Meeks)

Secretary/Treasurer (Mark Sherfy)—NTR.

Newsletter (Adam Ryba)— NTR.

CMPS (Stan Kohn)— NTR.

NRTA (Scott Peterson)— NTR.

Resolutions & Public Statements (Dave Azure)— NTR.

PAST PRESIDENT'S PORTFOLIO (Dave Azure)

Arrangements (Randy Renner)— NTR.

Program (Randy Renner)— NTR.

Audit (Tom Sklebar)— NTR.

Membership (Brian Wehausen)—The Chapter currently has 286 members, a net increase of 10 from 2004. Recent new life members include Randy Renner, Todd Frerichs, Mark Sherfy, Mike Estey, Mike Szymanski, Keith Trego, Greg Heimenz, Tim Phalen and Dave Azure. The Board voted to approve membership for Dianne Mann-Klager (MSC Renner/Sapa), who is a biologist with BIA in Aberdeen. She is a board member in the South Dakota Chapter. A pressing need is for this committee to go back over our membership roles for the past 5 years to identify and reactivate former members.

Nominations (Randy Renner)—NTR.

NDAG (Casey Anderson)— NTR.

PRESIDENT ELECT PORTFOLIO (Al Sapa)

Bylaws (Paul Myerchin)— NTR.

Legislative (Randy Renner)— NTR.

Awards (Will Meeks)—Will reported that the Awards are ready for the banquet, but that a home for the retired North Dakota Award plaque is still needed.Prairie Chicken (Greg Link)— NTR.

Prairie Resources (Jill Shaffer)—The Board voted to accept Jill Shaffer as committee chair (MSC Meeks/Renner).

PORTFOLIO A (Paul Myerchin)

Wetland Resources (Cami Dixon)— NTR.

Fishery Resources (Mike Olson)— NTR.

Historian (Jeremy Duckwitz)— NTR.

NDCTWS Website (Scott Kahan)— Scott Kahan encourages committee chairs to review their respective web pages and let Scott know if additions/modifications need to be made. Also, Scott is looking for a new chair for this committee. He is willing to work with anyone that may be interested serving as committee chair.

Wildlife Commercialization (Mike McEnroe)— Mike McEnroe indicated that there was nothing more to report than what was discussed at the annual meeting.

PORTFOLIO B (Cami Dixon)

Western Lands (Bill Jensen)— The committee drafted a letter regarding the Scientific Review Team report for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

State Wildlife Grants (Chuck Bosch)— The committee plans to draft a letter to NDG&F addressing the Chapter's interest in participating in the State Wildlife Grants Program.

Education & Outreach (Kristine Askerooth)— NTR.

Forest Resources (Tom Claeys)—The Board voted (MSC Sapa/Meeks) to approve Tom Claeys as committee chair pending confirmation of his membership. Larry Brooks distributed copies of a report on 2005 forestry activities from Tom.

Invasive Species (Dave Dewald)— A meeting is being held in Bismarck on February 23 to discuss concerns and issues related to Russian Olive trees.

PORTFOLIO C (Brian Kietzman)

Red River Watershed (Jack Lalor)— NTR.

Missouri River (Al Sapa)—The committee is preparing comments on emergent sandbar habitat for least terns and piping plovers on the North Dakota portion of Lake Oahe. Comments will focus on flow management as the ultimate solution, and the Chapter's support for the Corps taking action for terns and plovers.

Devils Lake Basin (Roger Hollevoet)— NTR.

Fundraising (Paul Halko)— NTR.

PORTFOLIO D (Marsha Sovada)

Northern Great Plains Working Group (Kevin Willis)— NTR.

Endangered Species (Sandy Hagen, Anne Coyle)— NTR.

Law Enforcement (Jackie Lundstrom, Tim Phalen)— NTR.

Wildlife Damage Management (Phil Mastrangelo)— NTR.

Finance Committee (Mike Goos)— The Finance Committee handed out the endowment survey to those in attendance at the annual meeting. These surveys were combined with the surveys received through the mail and the information presented at the business meeting. Survey response was light, but members did pledge \$6000.00 in short term cash and \$66,000.00 in deferred gifts. The committee will meet in March to continue to work on endowment issues. The committee continues to welcome input on the Dakota Prairie Legacy Endowment.

Dave thanked Randy for his work over the past 5 years as President and Board Member, Larry for stepping to serve a 1-year term on the Board, and Al as an outgoing Board Member with the perspective of a 30-year professional.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 PM (MSC Renner/Sherfy).

2005 Annual Budget

North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2005 Income & Expense Summary

	Actual	Budget	Difference
INCOME			
Annual Meeting	\$ 10,003.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 2,003.00
Auction & Fundraiser	\$ 5,133.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ (67.00)
CMPS-incoming mem.	\$ 121.00	\$ 150.00	\$ (29.00)
Interest Income	\$ 0.78	\$ 10.00	\$ (9.22)
Interest On CD	\$ 235.00	\$ 250.00	\$ (15.00)
Life Membership	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Membership - Patron	\$ 5.00	\$ -	\$ 5.00
Membership - Regular	\$ 3,262.78	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 262.78
Membership - Student	\$ 104.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 4.00
Missouri River Income	\$ 2,620.00	\$ 2,620.00	\$ -
Prairie Resources income	\$ 375.00	\$ -	\$ 375.00
Raffle	\$ 4,208.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,208.00
Raymond James interest	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ (100.00)
UND Public Survey	\$ 4,325.00	\$ -	\$ 4,325.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 30,592.56	\$ 21,630.00	\$ 8,962.56
EXPENSES			
Annual Meeting Expense	\$ 6,605.91	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 1,394.09
Auction Expense	\$ 67.90	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 932.10
Awards	\$ 640.04	\$ 700.00	\$ 59.96
CMPS-outgoing mem.	\$ 121.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 29.00
Discretionary	\$ 2,187.89	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (187.89)
Education Committee	\$ 3,605.00	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 245.00
Finance Committee	\$ 300.09	\$ -	\$ (300.09)
Insurance	\$ 356.00	\$ -	\$ (356.00)
Invasive Species	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Legislative Committee	\$ 3,876.11	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 123.89
Membership Committee	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Misc. expense	\$ 32.55	\$ 200.00	\$ 167.45
Missouri River	\$ 2,620.00	\$ 2,620.00	\$ -
Newsletter	\$ 3,287.43	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (287.43)
Postage	\$ 297.26	\$ 500.00	\$ 202.74
Prairie Resources	\$ 632.59	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 867.41
Raffle Expense	\$ 942.74	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 57.26
Small Grant Program	\$ 1,496.06	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (496.06)
Sponsorships	\$ 490.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 10.00
Student Scholarships	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 600.00
UND Public Survey Expense	\$ 4,325.00	\$ -	\$ (4,325.00)
Web Site	\$ 129.99	\$ 200.00	\$ 70.01
Wetland Resources	\$ 748.48	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,251.52
Wildlife Commercialization	\$ 1,273.41	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 126.59
Wildlife Damage	\$ 420.43	\$ 500.00	\$ 79.57
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 36,355.88	\$ 36,670.00	\$ 314.12
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ (5,763.32)	\$ (15,040.00)	\$ 9,276.68

North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2006

The Annual Business Meeting of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society was called to order at 1:00 PM at the Airport International Inn in Williston by President Dave Azure. Approximately 57 members were in attendance. Therefore, a quorum was present.

Notes: MSC = “Moved, seconded, and carried” followed by names of members making and seconding the motion. NTR = “Nothing to Report” from the committee chair.

PRESIDENT’S PORTFOLIO (Dave Azure)

Secretary/Treasurer (Mark Sherfy)—Dave Azure informed the membership regarding the Chapter’s status as a 501(c)(3) organization. Mike McEnroe clarified that this doesn’t invoke payment of income taxes, just that we report to the TWS separately from the parent society. There was a motion to accept minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting (MSC Marsha Sovada/Randy Renner). Mark Sherfy reviewed the Chapter’s financial status for 2005 and the proposed 2006 budget. There was a motion to approve the 2006 budget (MSC Bob Meeks/Mike McEnroe). Dave Azure acknowledged Dick McCabe as parliamentarian.

Newsletter (Adam Ryba)—NTR.

CMPS (Stan Kohn)—A written report was provided.

NRTA (Scott Peterson)—Scott Peterson presented an oral report summarizing Trust activities for 2005. The Chapter’s membership is always invited to attend Trust Board meetings and to present ideas for Trust projects through Scott. Mike Olson asked about annual budget for projects. Terry Allbee responded that it is about \$1 – 1.5 million.

Resolutions & Public Statements (Dave Azure)—Dave provided background on where the resolution on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation originated. We sent a letter to TWS on 15 July 2005. The letter outlined the 7 principles of the North American Model, and asked them to take actions to further the model’s purposes. If adopted, the resolution would go hand in hand with the Chapter’s position papers prepared by the Wildlife Commercialization Committee, even to the point of possibly proposing legislation. Dave Azure read the resolution, and pointed out 3 minor editorial changes. There was a motion (MSC Al Sapa/Mike McEnroe) to accept the edits. Paul Myerchin asked about forwarding the resolution to newspapers. Dave replied that our tact has always been to build trust and relationships rather than go directly to publicizing our positions in the press. Mike McEnroe noted that a story might be preferable to a press release with no explanation. Bill Schaller requested clarification on “dead game animals” in item 2. It was noted that the content of the letter is almost verbatim from the model written by Geist, and we need to be careful about adding content or changing the focus of the model. There was a motion made motion to change “dead game animals” with “wildlife” and correct “market place” to one word (MSC Randy Kreil/Bob Meeks). There was a motion to accept the resolution as amended (MSC Al Sapa/Fred Giese). Bill Bicknell asked about how we use this resolution and present it to TWS. Dave replied that our bylaws require us to send them a copy. Erik Fritzell suggested that we also send it to the CMPS Section Representative.

PAST PRESIDENT'S PORFOLIO (Randy Renner)

Arrangements (Randy Renner)—The 2007 annual meeting has been booked for the Seven Seas Inn in Mandan during Feb 7-9.

Program (Randy Renner)—NTR.

Audit (Tom Sklebar)—A written report was provided.

Membership (Brian Wehausen)—Dave noted that we ended 2005 with 286 members, but that number is down from where we were at one time. Brian Wehausen is interested in giving up chair of this committee. Dave suggested it is a good role for a new, young member to get to know the membership.

Nominations (Randy Renner)—NTR.

NDAG (Casey Anderson)— A written report was provided.

PRESIDENT ELECT PORTFOLIO (Will Meeks)

Bylaws (Paul Myerchin)— A written report was provided.

Legislative (Randy Renner)— A written report was provided.

Awards (Will Meeks)—Will discussed the North Dakota Award plaque, which no longer has enough space for new award winners. A new plaque has been made with the old members on it, and we need a way to memorialize the old plaque that has the first 40 recipients. Karen Smith suggested the main entry at the North Dakota Game & Fish Department. Jill Shaffer suggested the future interpretive center at Chase Lake. Mike McEnroe suggested an Awards Committee to more actively pursue and set criteria for awards and seek out qualified recipients. However, most of the awards are defined in the bylaws, so criteria review perhaps is not necessary. Marsha Sovada suggested that we follow same procedures used by TWS for the Leopold Award – nominations remain active for 3 years after submission. This would even out the up and down years on nominations (8 vs 1). This will be considered at the next Board meeting.

Prairie Chicken (Greg Link)—NTR.

Prairie Resources (Jill Shaffer)—Jill encouraged anyone with interest to participate in the committee. An immediate topic of discussion will be whether changes in venue or focus are needed.

PORTFOLIO A (Larry Brooks)

Wetland Resources (Cami Dixon)— A written report was provided.

Fishery Resources (Mike Olson)— A written report was provided.

Historian (Jeremy Duckwitz)—NTR.

NDCTWS Website (Scott Kahan)—Scott passed along the message that he can help committees develop web pages for their committees. Scott is looking to step down, and nominees for this committee chair are being sought.

Wildlife Commercialization (Mike McEnroe)—Todd Freirichs has moved to Nebraska but will stay on the committee. Pat Stockdill is joining the committee. A major focus has been on developing this morning's commercialization session.

PORTFOLIO B (Allyn Sapa)

Western Lands (Bill Jensen)—NTR.

State Wildlife Grants (Chuck Bosch)— A written report was provided.

Education & Outreach (Kristine Askerooth)— A written report was provided.

Forest Resources (VACANT)—Dave noted that the Board recently approved Tom Claeys, the new ND Forest Service Sustainable Forestry Coordinator, as committee chair.

Invasive Species (Dave Dewald)— A written report was provided.

PORTFOLIO C (Brian Kietzman)

Red River Watershed (Jack Lalor)— A written report was provided.

Missouri River (Al Sapa)— A written report was provided.

Devils Lake Basin (Roger Hollevoet)—NTR. Roger is interested in turning over the committee if anyone is interested

Fundraising (Paul Halko)—Paul Halko thanked Kent Luttschwager and Randy Renner for their work on arrangements. Donations were great this year, and many individuals opened their pockets. Paul is proud of the Chapter and how we did. A new approach was having a Sportsman's Warehouse representative in attendance with donated items and ones we purchased, including the new gun raffle. Paul's preliminary figures showed gross income of \$9396.05 and net income of \$8298.55. Paul thanked all members of the committee, and particularly Ed Meendering and Gregg Knutsen for making the connection with Sportsman's Warehouse.

PORTFOLIO D (Marsha Sovada)

Northern Great Plains Working Group (Kevin Willis)— A written report was provided.

Endangered Species (Sandy Hagen, Anne Coyle)—NTR.

Law Enforcement (Jackie Lundstrom, Tim Phalen)—NTR.

Wildlife Damage Management (Phil Mastrangelo)— A written report was provided.

Finance Committee (Mike Goos)—Mike reviewed the history of the endowment. Greg Hiemenz and Lee Albright are no longer on the committee, and Mike thanked them both. Other committee members are Con Hillman, Glen Sargent, Mike McEnroe, and Mike Goos. The endowment is a tool in the toolbox for the chapter to use for long-term support. We know the future will have challenges, and we are susceptible to having a bad year. Endowment provides a way to ensure stability. The first letter to the membership generated 6 responses, all of which supported the endowment and provided ideas. Mike McEnroe

summarized results of the second letter, which was a survey of the membership. The committee received 15 responses back to the mailed survey and 14 to a handed-out survey at this meeting. Of the 29, 24 said they would support the endowment and 5 said no. Options likely to be exercised by contributors included cash, deferred gifts, or both. The range of contributions likely to be generated in the next 3 years comes to \$6000 to jumpstart the endowment. Total of deferred gifts was approximately \$66,000. However, it was noted that benefactors often are not aware of gifts that are in wills but not disclosed.

A long-term goal of the committee over the next 30 years is to develop the endowment at the \$10 million level, which would provide \$500,000 in annual operating funds at a 5% return. Con Hillman noted that some organizations use endowment principal as part of operating funds. Keith Trego suggested that we build the endowment as flexible as possible so that it could be tapped into if necessary. It was noted that we need to develop procedures for how to deal with gifts of property or things (i.e., guns).

Dave Azure introduced the candidates for office. Al Sapa and Mark Sherfy addressed the membership. There was a motion (MSC Bob Meeks/Con Hillman) to close nominations.

NEW BUSINESS

Passing the Gavel—Dave Azure passed the gavel to incoming President Will Meeks. Dave thanked the membership for their support of him as President.

Election Results—Will Meeks announced that the newly elected Board Members are Cami Dixon and Paul Myerchin, and the newly elected President is Al Sapa. The membership voted to destroy the ballots (MSC Mike Goos / Mike McEnroe).

Approval of New Members—The membership voted (MSC Con Hillman / Mike Goos) to accept the following new members: Daniel Buresh, Don Felch, Ryan Latozke, and Shaun Schafer. Will also noted that we have several new life members (Dave Azure, Mike Estey, Greg Hiemenz, Tim Phalen, Randy Renner, Mark Sherfy, and Mike Szymanski). Our total life membership is now 78.

Committee Roles & Responsibilities—Will reviewed the list of committees and requested input from the membership regarding initiating new committees and discontinuing inactive committees. Will recently surveyed committee chairs regarding their future goals, and had responses from 15 committees. Several committee chairs are seeking replacement, including Website, Membership, and Devils Lake Basin. Kent Luttschwager suggested that we not disband committees solely on the basis of inactivity, because inactive committees still represent a core of members who know the issues. Will also noted that the Garrison Diversion Committee has been reactivated with Bill Bicknell as chair.

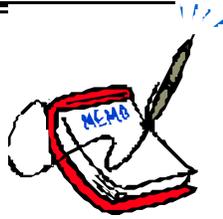
Business from the Floor—Mike McEnroe suggested that we develop a coalition of committees, possibly including Wildlife Commercialization, Education & Outreach, and Legislative, to work together on presenting Jim Posewitz' Orion concept beyond our membership. A simplified version of his presentation could be presented at hunter education workshops, in internet forums, and to public service organizations. Mike will work on getting these 3 committees together to develop a joint curriculum, and will brief the Board at its April meeting. The "In Praise of Prairie" slide show might provide a good starting point for this effort.

Jill Shaffer noted that a Wind Development Committee has been discussed as a possibility among several members. The issue will be managed under Prairie Resources for the short term, with consideration of whether the new committee is needed.

Will thanked outgoing Board members Randy Renner, Larry Brooks, and Al Sapa, and congratulated Dave Azure on a great year as President of the Chapter. Mark Sherfy agreed to serve another year as Secretary/Treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 PM (MSC Mike Goos / Bob Meeks).

The Executive Board met briefly following the Business Meeting, and set its next meeting date for April 11, 2006 at 10:00 AM at ND Game and Fish Department Office in Jamestown.



The Executive Board Meeting of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society was called to order at 12:10 PM at the Airport International Inn in Williston by President Will Meeks. Members in attendance included Dave Azure, Cami Dixon, Brian Kietzman, Will Meeks, Paul Myerchin, Al Sapa, Mark Sherfy, and Marsha Sovada.

Notes: MSC = "Moved, seconded, and carried" followed by names of board members making and seconding the motion. NTR = "Nothing to Report" from the committee chair.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Committee—The Board voted to approve Tom Jones as Chair of this committee (MSC Azure/Sherfy).

New Members—The Board voted to approve new members Andy Jewett and Jared Newton (MSC Azure/Sherfy).

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department office in Jamestown on 11 April 2006 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM (MSC Azure/Sherfy)

The 2006 NDCTWS Raffle winners were:

Cabela's \$200 Gift Certificate	Larry Igl
Scheel's \$100 Gift Certificate	Jackie Burkhard
Mike McEnroe Carving	David Bausch
Scheel's \$75 Gift Certificate	Jesse Lisburg
Cabela's \$50 Gift Certificate	Don Fitzgerald

2006 Gun Raffle Winners

T/C Encore 50 Cal	Ronald Manson
Ruger 10/22 .22 cal	Joe Hall

Thanks again to everyone who donated an item, purchased something from the auction, or participated in our various raffles and games. We had a great time putting this on and we hope you had a great time attending.

Paul Halko

North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Approved 2006 Operating Budget

Income		
Annual Meeting		\$ 5,000.00
Auction/Fundraiser		\$ 4,000.00
Membership-Regular		\$ 3,000.00
Membership-Student		\$ 100.00
Raffle		\$ 2,000.00
CMPS Incoming		\$ 30.00
Checking Account Interest		\$ 10.00
Life Memberships		\$ 600.00
Savings Account Interest		\$ 100.00
Total Income		\$ 14,840.00
Expenses		
Annual Meeting		\$ 5,000.00
Auction		\$ 500.00
Awards		\$ 900.00
Raffle		\$ 1,000.00
CMPS Outgoing		\$ 30.00
Discretionary		\$ 3,000.00
Education		
Keep ND Clean Poster Contest	\$ 250.00	
ND Jr. Duck Stamp Contest	\$ 300.00	
Food and Habitat Plot Contest	\$ 800.00	
Education & Outreach Total		\$ 1,350.00
Legislative		\$ 1,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses		\$ 200.00
Missouri River		\$ 1,000.00
Newsletter		\$ 3,500.00
Postage		
Finance Committee	\$ 100.00	
Membership Mailing	\$ 100.00	
Legislative Postage	\$ 100.00	
General Postage	\$ 300.00	
Postage Total		\$ 600.00
Prairie Resources		\$ 750.00
Printing (Letterhead, Envelopes)		\$ 350.00
Sponsorships		
Recurring Sponsorships	\$ 500.00	
N. Amer. Duck Symposium	\$ 500.00	
Sponsorship Total		\$ 1,000.00
Student Scholarships		\$ 1,500.00
Website		\$ 150.00
Wildlife Commercialization		
Travel for Speakers	\$1,000.00	
Wildlife Commercialization Total		\$ 1,000.00
Total Expenses		\$ 22,830.00
Net		\$ (7,990.00)

2006 Donated Items - - THANK YOU!

#	Donated By	Item
1	Sportsman's Warehouse	4 doz Flambeau mallard decoys, coupons, pens
2	Sportsman's Warehouse	Gerber hunting set, Fieldline backpack
3	Ron Stromstad	Decoys of the Thousand Islands, DU Guide to Shotgunning, Top Dog (Books)
4	Val Geist, PhD.,P.Biol.	Whitetail Tracks (Book)
5	Con Hillman	NDCTWS Belt Buckle (2)
6	Ross Hier	Sharp-tail Grouse hand painted print
7	Paul Van Ningen	Hand-made creel basket
8	ND Chapter NWTF	Turkey Crossing, 2001 Stamp Collection Print
9	Harold Duebbert	Old Wildfowling Tales
10	Mark Vaniman	2001 MN Swan print, hand-made turkey call
11	DU Great Plains Regional Office	Avery migrator camo blind, calendars, 2 hats
12	Rod Compson	3 doz decoy wts, cord, bobble-butts, antique rubber mallard decoy (2)
13	Gregg & Linda Knutsen	Paw Print Basket (Ring-necked Pheasant)
14	Ed Meendering	Decoy Coat Rack
15	Tim Phalen	NWTF folding knife, "Pals" print
16	Tom Jones	Box of 12 ga Hevi Shot
17	Darrel Walls	24 cans of Dakota Lakes Gourmet Coating
18	ND Chapter of RMEF	Twin Sisters Royalty (print)
19	Terry & Jill Shaffer	The Crossing (print)
20	NDGFD	3 framed bird posters (Woodland, Grassland, Wetland)
21	Jon Roaldson	15 Powerbelt Bullets (295 gr)
22	Lee Albright	Cash Donation
23	John Halko	Hand-made Bluebill Decoy
24	Garth Zimbelman	Smoked Salmon (2), Cash Donation
25	Doug Johnson	Midwestern Amphibians (2 books)
26	Karen Kreil	Cash Donation
27	Tom Block	2 fish puzzles
28	Randy Miller	4 spearing decoys, 2 paddlefish carvings, 4 paddlefish pictures (50/50)
29	Terri Thorn	Blue wing teal decoys
30	Chad Maier	Fish cleaning kit & cap

31	Jeff Keller	Outdoor Edge Hunting knife
32	Napa of Williston	Gun sights, one center fire bore guide
33	Scenic Sports of Williston	Whitetail series shirt
34	Horizon Resources of Williston	Outdoor Edge Game Skinner
35	Grimsley's One Stop	3 piece hunting knife set, lab tin sign, 2 shirts
36	Sportsmans Bar of Wilton	Shirt, hat, and 3 can coolers
37	George Reisor	2 hats, t-shirt
38	Joe Hall	Loon print, Grouse print
39	Bill Berg	Hat and Wildlife Refuge Book
40	Mike McEnroe	1983 ND Habitat Print
41	Mike McEnroe	Surf Scooter Decoy
42	Mike McEnroe	Shore Bird Carving
43	Chase Lake NWR Staff	Antler Pen Holder
44	Chuck Bosch	2 Boxes Shells
45	Fish and Wildlife Service Ed Team	2 Framed Prairie Smoke Wild Flowers
46	Mike Goos	Replacement net, 2 hats, 6 Green Wing Teal Decoys, Five Tine Frog gig
47	Karen Smith	2 Prints, "Moment of Awareness", "Echoing Twilight"
48	Ron Reynolds	Hand-Made Duck Call
49	Al Sapa	Martin Bird House
50	Greg Hiemenz	Turkey Ridge print
51	Korey Richardson	Hand-made oak bench
52	J. Clark Salyer Staff	Big Foot Decoys
53	Mike Johnson	6 boxes of steel shot
54	John Paulson	Skunk Hide and Skull
55	Jeremy Duckwitz	Handmade Arrow
56	Phil Mastrangelo	Handsaw and Dog food
57	Natural Resources Trust	Cash Donation
58	Llyod Jones	Cash Donation
59	Mike Olson	Cash Donation
60	John Hipp	Cash Donation
61	Roger Hollevoet	Cash Donation

North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Announces Annual Awards Recipients

The North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society held its annual awards banquet in Williston, North Dakota, on February 9, 2006. The Chapter is a statewide organization of over 300 wildlife professionals. Its mission is to provide a forum for discussion of ecological issues among natural resource professionals; and to provide scientifically sound information concerning the wise use of natural resources in support of a conservation land ethic.

NORTH DAKOTA AWARD

The North Dakota Award is presented annually to a wildlife professional which has made outstanding contributions to North Dakota's natural resources over the course of their career. This year, Keith Trego was recognized for his tremendous efforts which have resulted in countless partnerships and thousands of on-the-ground conservation acres in North Dakota. A life member of the North Dakota Chapter, Keith currently serves as the Director of the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust in Bismarck.



Figure 1. North Dakota Award winner, Keith Trego and Will Meeks, Chapter President.

Keith's career began in 1973 as a Game and Fish Planner with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department where he developed a comprehensive strategic plan for the state. He worked for various special assignments, representing North Dakota regionally and nationally. From 1977 to 1979 he worked as a District Game Warden in Rugby, ND with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Keith began his tenure as Deputy Commissioner of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department from 1979 – 1981. After working in the private sector for eight years, Keith returned as Deputy Director of the Department from 1989 to 1998 where he directed supervision of 6 major divisions of the agency. He developed and implemented agency policy, legal and fiscal strategies, and strategic and operational planning. Since 1998, he has served as Executive Director of the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust. His accomplishments include: developing and implementing programs that restore, protect, manage and enhance wetland, grassland and riparian habitat in North Dakota. Keith oversees the management and investment performance of the nearly \$16 million federal/state trust fund. Most importantly, Keith works collaboratively with agricultural and conservation partners, as well as state government leaders and private industry, on all aspects of private land conservation. During his tenure as Director of the Trust, he has acquired over 4,000 acres of land and conservation easements.

Keith has maintained a high level of integrity, leadership, and professionalism throughout his career in natural resources. His contributions to conservation of North Dakota's natural resources are a result of his many skills including problem identification and conflict resolution, as well as coalition building and legislative coordination.

HABITAT AWARD

This year's Habitat Award was presented to Kevin Willis for his role as Coordinator of the Northern Great Plains Working Group. The Habitat Award is intended to recognize a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to fish and wildlife resources through the conservation and management of habitat. Over the past 20 years, since the inception of CRP, Swampbuster, and Sodbuster provisions of the Farm Bill, the key factor in establishing and maintaining habitat in North Dakota has been the Northern Great Plains Working Group. Kevin Willis has been the catalyst and leader in this effort and is certainly deserving of this year's Habitat Award.

The Northern Great Plains Work Group is a collaborative working group of local conservation agencies and organizations to influence the conservation provisions of the Farm Bill and other U.S. Department of Agriculture programs for the primary purpose of fish and wildlife habitat improvement in the northern Great Plains and the Prairie Pothole Region. Kevin was one of the visionary founders of this influential group and has served as the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society's representative since its inception over a decade ago. From its genesis, Kevin has taken on the role of the coordinating chair of this diverse group, organizing its meetings, leading discussions, and formulating recommendations and positions. Anyone who works with fish and wildlife resources in this part of the country realizes the policies and activities of USDA have a tremendous impact on the habitats necessary to support healthy fish and wildlife populations.

As the leader of this dynamic professional working group, he took on the difficult task of coordinating the Farm Bill related activities of multiple agencies and non-governmental organizations. He led the working group through frequent meetings and work sessions designed to influence habitat programs under the Farm Bill and other USDA programs. Kevin's vision, persistence, and leadership ability set the stage for the working group to prepare consolidated testimony and policy recommendations. The existence of a unified voice for wildlife habitat concerns has turned out to be a very powerful tool in the battle to maintain and improve wildlife habitat in the prairie pothole region of the northern Great Plains.



Figure 2. Habitat Award Winner, Kevin Willis and Will Meeks, Chapter President.

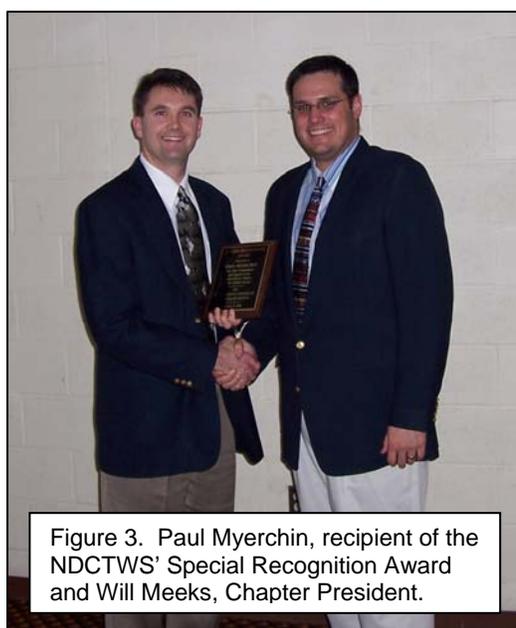


Figure 3. Paul Myerchin, recipient of the NDCTWS' Special Recognition Award and Will Meeks, Chapter President.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Paul Myerchin received this year's Special Recognition Award. The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a highly-regarded organization of trained wildlife professionals, administrators, educators and students; and our membership includes those with the talent, ability and motivation to act on behalf of our wildlife, and to provide leadership in promoting the wise use of our natural resources.

Yet, occasionally we face situations when we are not the most talented, the wisest, or the most capable. Questions involving our tax status as a non-profit organization, whether or not we could or should enter into a lawsuit, performance contracts, MOU's between our members and their work agencies, and even whether or not we are abiding by our own bylaws cannot generally be competently answered with merely the knowledge gained in a 4-credit wildlife management lab.

For years, the Chapter's Executive Board has been able to turn to Paul Myerchin in these times of need. Never has Paul turned away a request for assistance. Though he is unquestionably busy with his own law practice, Paul continues to find time to support a group that supports what he dearly loves...North Dakota's wildlife resource.

CHARLES V. PULVER MEMORIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CASE OF THE YEAR AWARD

This memorial award is presented annually in recognition of the law enforcement case of the year in North Dakota. The award is a testament to the integral importance of law enforcement in managing and conserving North Dakota's natural resources. Wardens Corey Erck and Mark Pollert were this year's award winners.

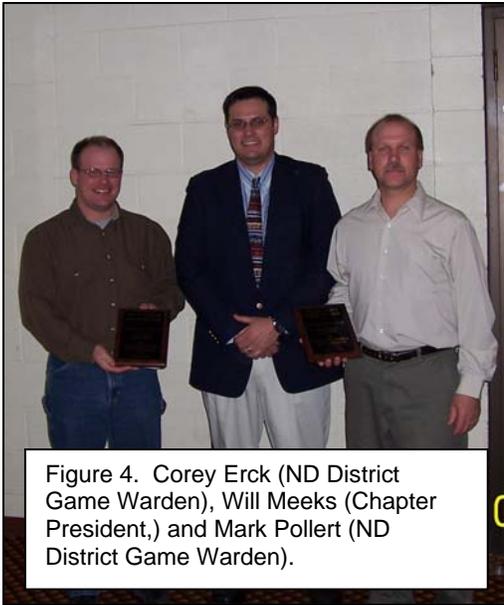


Figure 4. Corey Erck (ND District Game Warden), Will Meeks (Chapter President,) and Mark Pollert (ND District Game Warden).

This year's case involving deer poaching, led to the discovery of 35 deer in a farm building in rural Barnes County. The Wardens seized approximately 900 lbs of venison and 35 deer heads and hides. The information gathered resulted in charges being filed against nine individuals including multiple charges of illegal possession of a big game animal, the illegal take of a big game animal, and conspiracy to commit the illegal take or possession of a big game animal. The court ordered a total of \$3,600 be paid to the RAP program, \$2,400 be paid in court costs. A total of 11 years of hunting and fishing privileges were suspended.

PAST PRESIDENT AWARD

The Past President's award is presented in recognition of the hard work, time and effort put forth by the Chapter President during the past year. This year's award was presented to Dave Azure. Dave provided needed guidance and leadership in many issues over the past year. Dave was rock solid in this delivery of the Chapter's mission focusing on our objectives and the natural resources of our state. He is considered a leader in his job and will continue to be held in high regard among the Chapter's member. Thanks to Dave for his investment as President and the foundations he left for the Chapter to grow.

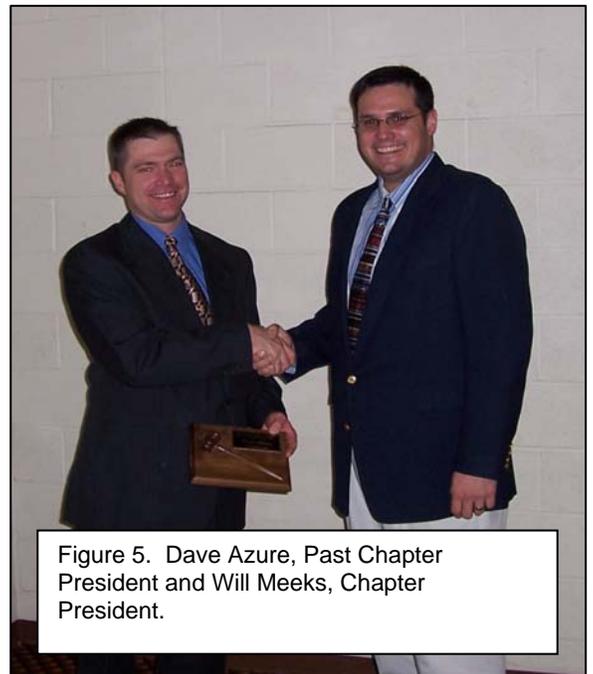
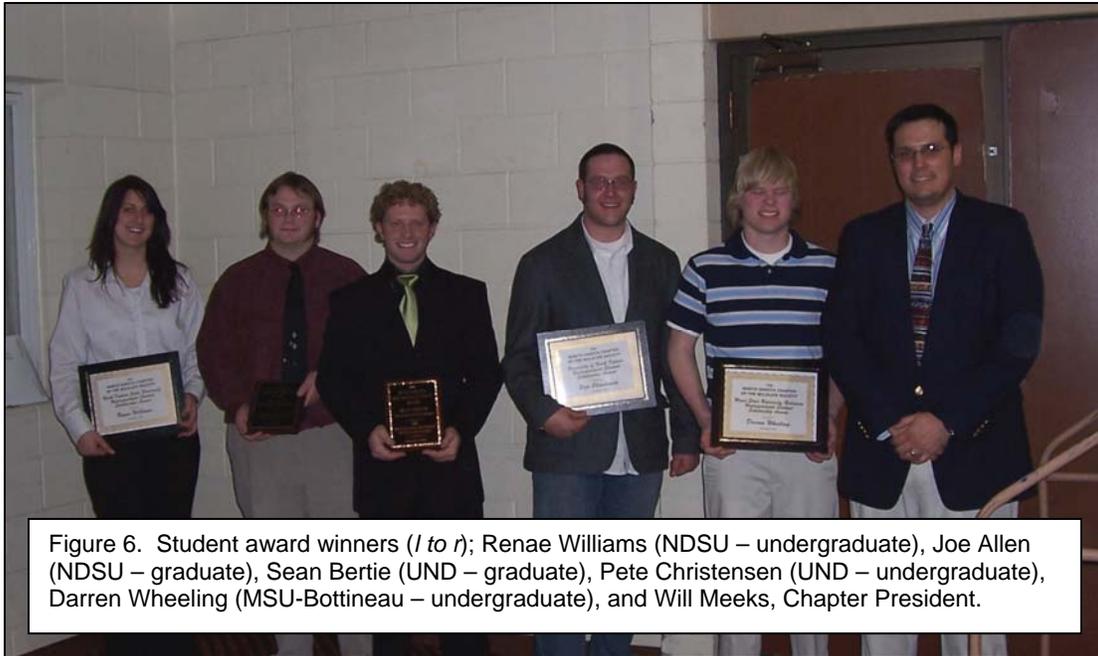


Figure 5. Dave Azure, Past Chapter President and Will Meeks, Chapter President.

STUDENT AWARDS

Five students were presented awards and/or scholarships for their outstanding academic achievements, professional involvement, and their potential as wildlife professionals. This year's Graduate Student of the Year Awards were presented to Sean Bertie and Joe Allen of the University of North Dakota and North Dakota State, respectively. Undergraduate scholarships were presented to Pete Christensen (University of North Dakota), Renae Williams (North Dakota State University), and Darren Wheeling (Minot State University – Bottineau).



“Wildlife Values in the West”

North Dakota and 18 other states recently took part in a study to determine wildlife value orientations among publics in the western United States. Additional objectives were to determine public attitudes toward population-level management techniques, alternative funding and programming approaches, public involvement efforts, trust in government, and characteristics of species that should receive conservation funding support. It is intended that this study serve as a foundation for comparisons with future studies to establish trends in public thought regarding wildlife and wildlife management. Arlen Harmoning presented just a fraction of the findings from this study at the Chapter meeting in Williston. Both the regional and North Dakota report can be found at <http://www.warmercnr.colostate.edu/NRRT/hdnr/human.htm>

TWS’s Fellows Program

It’s the time of year to nominate colleagues for TWS's Fellows program. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize individuals who have given of themselves to TWS and their profession. Specifics concerning the nomination process are listed on The Society's website at www.wildlife.org. Be assured the nomination process is not onerous and is well worth your time. Please spread the word among your Chapters and nominate deserving individuals for this prestigious honor. Thanks in advance for your participation and don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Students or other Chapter members are asked to notify Tom Jones, Membership Chairman, of any address changes. Please mail the change to ND Chapter Wildlife Society, PO Box 1442, Bismarck, ND 58502-1442. This is greatly appreciated and helps to keep our expenses down.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

OCCUPATION/TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____

EMPLOYER _____

I am _____ am not _____ a current member of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

- ~ Regular.....\$ 15.00 _____
Available to any person employed, trained or is a student in a natural resource field. Entitled to vote in Chapter elections.

- ~ Patron, Sponsor or Benefactor \$ 10.00 _____
Available to any person or organization which is interested in supporting the Chapter as it is operated by membership. Non-voting status.

- ~ Life Member..... \$200.00 _____

- ~ Student..... \$ 8.00 _____

- ~ Central Mtn. & Plains
Section TWS..... \$ 1.00 _____

- TOTAL enclosed** \$ _____

Make checks payable to *North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society*.

Mail to: North Dakota Chapter TWS, PO Box 1442, Bismarck, ND 58502-1442

**NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE
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C/O ADAM RYBA, EDITOR
P. O. BOX 1442
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