

*The
South Dakota*

January 2024



Bowhunter

In This Issue

Editor’s Note.....	3
Presidents Column.....	4
Talking Turkey.....	7
Jake from SDBI (VP Message).....	12
Featured Story Moose.....	13
Treasury Report and Forward.....	17
Secretary/Lobby Column.....	18
Members Success.....	19
A living Legend.....	24
Model of Wildlife Conservation.....	26
Banquet 2024.....	28
Influencers.....	29
Sponsors.....	30
Natural Beauty.....	35

Board of Directors

President

Justin Broughton
911 N Bahnson Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57103
Michigan_98@hotmail.com

Vice-President

Jake Leibke
121 First St
Garden City, SD 57236
skullwerx@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Jason Stone
107 Plum Drive
Chamberlain, SD 57325
stonej88@gmail.com

Secretary

Dana Rogers
24021 Twin Rocks Rd
Hill City, SD 57745
dana.rogers.1@hotmail.com

Trevor Davis
7906 S Brewerton Pl
Sioux Falls, SD 577106
trevor.davis1987@gmail.com

Tim Pravecsek
234 East Fourth Street
Winner, SD 57580
pravecsek@gwtc.net

Ron Kolbeck
24343 443rd Ave
Salem, SD 57058
koolbeck4@triotel.net

Phil Lentz
3638 Regency Court
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
p.lentz@sio.midco.net

Rob Mahaffey
2044 Promise Rd. #2102
Rapid City, SD 57702
robertmahaffey@icloud.com

On the Front: Shauna Woodward “Moose”

On the Back: Star Struck



Editor's Note

Board Member Phil Lentz

Well another hunting season is just winding down in my house, although at the time I write this my son is very close to having his first serving of “tag soup” in his life. It isn't sitting with him well but it is just apart of being a hunter. I for a change have been fortunate to fill mine and filled the freezer. I hope everyone has had an incredible hunting season and bagged many good stories and trophies!

Its been very busy at SDBI HQ. One thing that has been on the radar we finally got accomplished is we now can accept credit cards. Prior we could only take PayPal but some folks didn't care for that service. Getting a credit card account is tricky for numerous reasons but we did get it accomplished. Right now we are not raising any prices to compensate for the fees associated with a credit card service but this is something the board may have to address in the future.

Another new benefit I am proud to have accomplished is that our memberships now have access to the discount website Expert Voice. Expert Voice is simply a discount website from various manufactures. Discounts vary by brand and flash sales but I have purchased many things from the site for years and have been very pleased with the discounts. I have been a member for many years as an LEO. I reached out to them in mid November hoping to get SDBI onboard, and after some paperwork back and forth and lots of waiting we finally got this benefit for our membership! You should have already received an email on this and hopefully have found it beneficial!

Preparations for Banquet in Deadwood are in full swing now. I am extremely excited for the banquet. My first banquet as a board member and I will now have faces to put to many names I have met and worked with over the last year. We have so many amazing members I have had the pleasure to talk with. The passion you all posses for the hunting and conservation here in SD is incredible.

Finally I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. The feature story of “moose” I thought was a great piece. And to have a member of SDBI featured with Outdoor Life Magazine is quite an honor. Just a beautiful animal, with very special story.

I hope you all have a blessed 2024!

Phil

Next deadline to submit articles or pictures is April 15th

Email articles, photos, want ads, cartoons, and letters for newsletter submission to :

Sdbi.net@gmail.com



Presidents Column

SDBI President Justin Broughton

Welcome to the dead of winter bowhunters. I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday and a safe and successful hunting season. 2023 has been a great year for SDBI and we have accomplished much, but we also have much left to accomplish. I thought my column in this edition of the newsletter would be a great chance to cover the good and the things of concern to us as bowhunters as we head into a new year and a new deer management plan.

Accomplishments

SDBI accomplished much in the last year. We started off the year with a very successful convention in Yankton, SD. I think the most important changes to come from our convention was the addition of some new faces to the board of SDBI. We are extremely grateful for the service of John Meyen, Wyatt Skelton, and former VP Ronn McDaniel. Their contributions to bowhunting in the state and service on the board of SDBI was greatly appreciated. Fresh new faces and enthusiasm brought some great ideas and growth to SDBI this year with the addition of Ron Kolbeck, Phil Lentz, and Rob Mahaffey to the board. They have all played key roles in some of successes this year.

Our biggest accomplishment is finally achieving our long sought after goal of having a cap and draw placed on non-resident archery tags for deer and antelope. The ever-increasing popularity of these tags and the strain additional harvest was placing on our fragile mule deer and pronghorn populations were reaching a critical junction. Limiting the continued growth in non-resident demand was a good start to addressing the demand for a shrinking resource.

We have had some great fund raising and logistical wins this year as well. We ran two extremely successful Swarovski raffles, added license plate decals repping SDBI, and have added the ability to take credit card payments to our website. We've also added benefits like Expert Voice for our membership. We've built a successful Instagram account and added more meaningful content to our other social media platforms as well.

We have been planning what may be our largest convention yet for 2024 with guest speaker Randy Newberg. I hope all of you can join us in Deadwood in April of 2024 to meet Randy and hear his keynote address. Randy has been at the forefront of issues that are near and dear to the hearts of SDBI's membership, namely, resource and habitat conservation and public land access. We are extremely grateful to Randy for taking the time to be with us next April.

SDBI grew their membership by nearly 30% during the past calendar year. We have lost a few members through attrition but overall, the 30% growth rate has been fantastic. I still challenge all our members to sign up a fellow bowhunter during the coming year. We are strongest when we stand together, and we will certainly have challenges coming.



Presidents Column

SDBI President Justin Broughton

Challenges

While we accomplished some very important goals in 2023, we still have many challenges ahead for 2024. These challenges will range from the deer management plan to continuing to look at important topics like crossbows in our archery seasons, unlimited turkey licenses in the Black Hills, and the growing impact of the monetization of our public trust resources for tourism and self-promotion.

The biggest of these challenges, and the most impactful, will be the forthcoming deer management plan. This newsletter will likely find you after the next scheduled meeting of the Deer Management Plan Working Group (DMPWG). I am anticipating that we will have a better understanding at that meeting of what the state plans to propose to the commission for the upcoming deer draws and season structures. As you may recall, the department was looking at a 2 “buck” tag (A buck tag being defined as an any deer or an any whitetail license) limit going forward. That limit WILL include your archery tags. We’ll continue to push back on this, but I feel it may be a foregone conclusion that our archery tags will be brought into that limit. SDBI will continue to keep you updated throughout the process and will let you know how you can help us retain our bowhunting opportunities.

We’ll likely see legislative challenges again related to several topics that seem to come up each session. Those could be inclusion of crossbows in our archery seasons, non-resident elk tags, or any number of other hunting related topics that get pushed forward by lobbyists during the legislative session. Please watch our social media feeds and your e-mail inboxes. SDBI will be keeping a close eye on all the proceedings in Pierre during the legislative session to stay in front of any legislation that is opposed by the membership. SDBI continues to consider how SDBI can be a conservation steward for the habitats and wildlife of South Dakota. Membership has brought concerns to us that include the number of Black Hills turkey tags that are being issued to non-resident hunters and the impact that has on our resident hunters in the face of a struggling Merriam’s population. The Black Hills still has an uncapped draw for non-resident turkey tags. In 2023 we issued 5,328 BH turkey tags, 2,654 to residents and 2,674 to non-residents. Residents recently lost the opportunity to obtain a second Black Hills license for the month of May, however no additional restrictions were placed on non-resident hunters. This is yet another example of residents sacrificing their opportunity while non-residents maintain the status quo. The Black Hills turkey topic will be one I plan to bring forward at our membership meeting in April to get your opinions and thoughts.

The final concern is one that has been brought to us by more than a few members, in person, on social media, in our inboxes, and via text and phone calls. That issue is the monetization and commoditization of our resources as a form of tourism for the state and for the self-promotion of social media influencers. I could spend well more than my entitled column inches here discussing the pros and cons of these issues and what the impacts to our bowhunting experience have been in this state. There are excellent users of their social platforms, such as Randy Newberg, who stick their neck out for conservation causes, push for meaningful public land access projects, and take the time to comment on legislation or state game commission changes. There are many others who simply kill for content, likes, followers, and subscribers. There’s also plenty in the middle. Let me be clear, SDBI has no formal position on this topic pro or con. This is the changing face of bowhunting in the digital age where content and follower counts are king.



Presidents Column

SDBI President Justin Broughton

This is a topic I'd like to ask our membership to think about and I welcome your thoughts on the matter. We'll continue to share how these things impact us and our resources on our social pages without taking positions for or against. SDBI is here to protect and promote our right to bowhunt in this state, our ability to have a positive experience pursuing our sport, our access to bowhunting opportunities for residents and non-residents alike, and to conserve our public trust resources for future generations of bowhunters in this state regardless of where they call home.





Talking Turkey

SDBI President Justin Broughton



The doldrums of winter have me dreaming of spring. Dreaming of the thunder of a gobbling tom echoing through the canyons, hills, and hollows of the places the wild turkey calls home. There's no surer sign of spring than a fanned-out strutter on a green field and there's no place I'd rather be when April rolls around than in a turkey blind, bow in hand, waiting for a longbeard.

Archery turkey hunting has been a passion of mine since my very first archery turkey season back in 1990. I have many fond memories of chasing birds with my old Jennings bow along the Missouri river after school and on the weekends. I was more of a threat to myself than the turkeys in those days. I did finally manage to luck into a tom on an ambush though in my third season. That first turkey planted an itch in me that I've had to scratch every year since. I've learned a lot over 30 years of archery turkey hunting and I've had a lot of success taking over 40 longbeards of various subspecies. Hopefully I'll be able to share a few nuggets of what has made me successful over the years.





Talking Turkey Continued

Scouting

Scouting in turkey hunting, like any type of hunting, is critical to success. Understanding where turkeys are living, where they roost, where they eat, and where they travel will all help you be in the right place at the right time. Turkeys are somewhat creatures of habit, not in the same way a deer can be patterned but in the way that they roost, where they roost, and what they do in each day.

My favorite time of year to scout is in late March or early April a few weeks before the season opens.

The birds tend to be very vocal on the roost in the morning at this time

of year and you can pinpoint likely locations to set-up. If there's still snow on the ground or if we get a snowfall, I immediately try to get out to read their tracks for where they are going off the roost and what food sources they are using. I'll take all of this information combined with satellite imaging of the area I hunt to get an idea of where the birds roost, where their travel routes are, and where their food sources are. I'll roll



that all up in a ball and mark a handful of likely spots on my map to set up my blind for opening day.



Understanding turkey behavior is probably the most critical step in this process. Turkeys always like the path of least resistance. They don't like going across creeks, up and down hills, across fences or natural barriers, they

like easy. Pick your spots carefully, ensure a turkey can approach from their likely avenue of travel without having to cross many barriers. The more visibility they have to your set-up the better. One of the most important turkey hunting tips I ever received was this, it's 100 times easier to call a turkey to where he already wants to go than it is to call him off his course. Choose your set-up with where that turkey is likely to go on his own in mind.



Talking Turkey Continued

Blinds and Decoy Set-ups

The pop-up blind and the Dave Smith $\frac{3}{4}$ strut jake turkey decoy are arguably the two best things to ever happen to archery turkey hunters. I had plenty of success before those two things came along but ever since I added them to my bag of tricks my success rate has been 100% in each season. Over the years I've added several other decoys including hens and full strut jakes and other decoys that make the turkey interactions more fun but it's hard to beat the original.

This part of the equation is really very simple. It's all about one thing: vision. When setting up your turkey decoys make darn sure that a turkey can see them. I like to set my jake decoy up and get on my hands and knees at turkey level to scan around my hunting area. Can a tom see my decoy clearly from a distance? Can he see him at all? You want that bird coming in looking for the source of the hen sounds he hears to see his rival clearly and from a distance. It's the surest way to get the fighting reaction you are looking for. I've had quite a few instances where a sub-dominant longbeard that's been whooped a few times comes into my calling and is surprised by the decoy because he couldn't see it. In that situation they tend to tuck tail and head out rather than to confront an unknown gobbler and present me with a shot.

Once you have your decoys placed, I like to set up my blind about 8-10 yards from my jake decoy. When a tom comes into your setup almost every single time, he will come directly to the jake decoy to fight. Set your blind up so that your shooting window is facing the jake decoy and you have no obstructions between the decoy and your hide. Probably the most important step is to make sure your shooting window is set up properly, so you have plenty of clearance. I've seen far too many folks shoot their blind instead of their bird!

The last thing to consider on blind placement is to insure you have your movements adequately hidden. Try to get it as dark as possible in your blind with no light shining through. I like to set-up with the sun at my back whenever possible and not shining in through the windows. I also wear all black in the blind for all my turkey hunts including black gloves and hat. All those little extra steps help tremendously to prevent a wary bird from catching you drawing your bow.

Calling

Calling is probably the most over-rated aspect of turkey hunting, unfortunately for me it's also the most fun! I'm guilty of over calling for turkeys almost every time I go out. All that extra calling though means extra practice over the years, and I've gotten pretty good at it. Most turkeys in South Dakota like to talk, we just need to listen to them to understand what they're saying and what they're listening for.

Birds on the roost love to gobble, don't fall into that trap. I call very, very little to birds on the roost. Generally, just a few tree yelps and eventually a fly down cackle and that's all they'll get from me. You only want them to know where you are, that sequence will tell a tom there's a hen over there and you want him looking for you. If you call a lot he's likely to think you're hot to trot and will simply strut under his roost tree waiting for you to find him until he loses interest or another hen leads him off.

After birds fly down and they are on the ground I've found you can call as little or as much as you want within reason. Always keep in mind that the natural pattern for turkeys is for the female to approach the tom when you are doing your calling sequences. You want him to come looking for you against his better judgement and the natural flow of things. You want him to think "There's a hen over there, why is she not coming to my gobblers? Is there another gobbler keeping her from me? I need to go check this out!" When he starts coming, set your call down and be patient. Never call to a bird that is coming your way, it's a sure way to get him hung up, strutting, waiting for his hen to come out of hiding. The patience to not call in this situation has killed more longbeards for me than any other combination of calling. Eventually if he can't find you because it's thick or we set our decoys up poorly, he may gobble on his own. This usually happens close to your set-up. In that instance I may give him a couple of very soft little yelps to guide him in the last 20 yards. More typically you won't hear him come in at all, at least not until you hear that unmistakable deep thrumming sound of him drumming and spitting his way towards your jake decoy!



Talking Turkey Continued



The final calling tip I have is probably also the most fun. Pick a fight! I love picking fights with hens in the woods. I'll call aggressively with cutting periodically as I sit and wait out birds. Often those aggressive sequences will get a response from a hen. When that happens, copy her calls right back to her until she gets pretty fired up and then cut her off. She'll come in to check out the hen that won't shut up and every once in awhile she'll drag a longbeard right along with her. Those fight sequences back and forth also draw the attention of longbeards within ear shot getting them fired up and looking for these two hens that won't stop arguing. Unlike arguing with your spouse, there's never a bad outcome from arguing with a hen when given the opportunity!

Shot Placement and Broadheads

You've done all the work and finally gotten a longbeard to commit to your decoy set-up. What now? Picking a spot on that puffed up ball of feathers can certainly be a challenge. You're trying to hit a spot about the size of a softball with an arrow. It sounds easy, but there's a lot that can go wrong.

The first thing I always do is keep my shots close, I rarely, if ever, shoot at a bird over 10-15 yards away. Close shots provide for maximum accuracy and penetration and I'm after both. The best way to pick a spot on a broadside bird is to start at the bird's feet, follow the legs straight up into the body and go about 2/3's of the way up. A lot of times this spot can be imagined if you go straight up the legs and a little higher than the beard on a bird in strut. A bird facing you, or going away from you, are very easy to pick an aiming spot on. Right between the waddle and the beard on a bird facing you and right dead in the middle of the vent on a bird facing away from you when they are in strut. If they are not in strut, aim at the top of the beard on a bird facing you and dead in the middle of the back on a bird facing away. Any of these shots will put a bird down fast.



Talking Turkey Continued

Broadheads for turkeys are a simple topic for me. I like them big! The biggest expandable I can find is very bad medicine for a turkey. Any expandable with 2" cut placed as I described above will kill a turkey dead as nails within a few seconds and result in an easy recovery. Youth hunters or those of you shooting trad gear or low poundage will obviously want to shoot something that provides a bit more penetration. I'd still consider the biggest cutting diameter you can get to fly well out of your rig. That extra bit of cut will help you out a lot on a slightly errant shot.

After the shot, I generally do not wait to track my bird if it does not die within sight. Poorly hit turkeys can be hard to find. They leave poor blood trails, and they love to hide. I like to get right after them to try to get another arrow in them if possible. I've been able to recover a few birds I probably would have surely lost if I hadn't pursued them immediately and I've lost a couple that I waited out. I've found that the best course of action for me is to go right after them.

Hopefully all these turkey tips and tricks will help you put a bird in the freezer this spring. There's not much that gets the heart racing more than a hammering bird coming into your decoy set-up looking for a fight. Once you experience it it's hard not to want to do it every spring and in multiple states! Best of luck to all of you this spring and have fun talking turkey!



Jake from SDBI VP Column

(I hope you all got the pun)

Hope all is well with everyone and you had a successful season. With the archery season finished up it's a good time to reflect on both the success we enjoyed and the failures as well. Learning from both and forging ahead. It's also good to remind ourselves success doesn't always mean a filled tag or antlers for the wall. Maybe you found success by switching up your tree stand setup and had some deer come by right under your stand instead of just out of range. Maybe you found success by stalking a deer and getting into shooting range only to experience some failure by not getting a shot because your pants brushed against some sage alerting the deer to your location. All experiences to be learned from.

Some success SDBI have seen in 2023 would be the cap on public land archery tags that we have been petitioning for for several years now. Although not as much of cap as we would have liked it was still a step in the right direction. We are also up about 70 new members as of the end of the year and we have license plate decals available to show your support of SDBI. Like with any success there is a lot that goes into the outcome and I want to thanks those that have done the legwork to achieve these.

With that I want to thank Dana Rogers for all he has contributed to the advancement of SDBI over the last several years. I have not doubts we would not be where we are now if not for his dedication and time. He has decided to step back from his position on the board. I can not begin to thank him enough for all he has done for SDBI and bowhunting in our great state. If you see him give him a pat on the back, buy him a beer and thank him for all he has done.

Looking ahead we have some exciting things coming down the pipe so make sure you keep an eye out for those. We are really excited to bring Randy Newberg as our keynote speaker for our 2024 banquet. We have a limited amount of tickets available and are over 1/2 sold already. Be sure to get your tickets before they are sold out. You can pick those up on the website, SDBI.NET, along with license plate decals among others. Also be sure to follow along on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date on things we have going on.

Shoot Straight Jake Leibke



Moose

The following article of "Moose" was written and published by Outdoor Life. Our very own SDBI Member Shauna Woodward was featured for the story and cover photo.

It was mid-morning on Nov. 13, and South Dakota bowhunter Shauna Woodward found herself in the heat of the rut. Glassing from one of her favorite spots on the 1,000-acre cattle ranch that she and her husband own in Spink County, she saw bucks chasing does and fighting each other. As she sat and watched the action, she waited patiently for an unusual, palmated whitetail buck she'd nicknamed "Moose" to show itself.

"I was near a grove of cedar trees, with a strong 20 mph wind blowing," Woodward tells *Outdoor Life*. "I was glassing the trees, looking for the palmated buck. I couldn't move around much because there were deer everywhere—bucks fighting, snort-wheezing, crashing the brush."

Woodward had first seen the buck on the property in 2021. It was 4x4 whitetail with an unusual rack configuration, but it was clearly a young deer and she passed on it. By the time the 2022 deer season started, a record drought had affected many of the bucks in the region, and Woodward explains that their antlers were brittle and breaking off.

"We had cell camera [photos] of the deer, and almost all of them had busted racks, including Moose. So, we shot no bucks on our farm in 2022," she says. "This year, though, Moose just exploded. He put on a lot of mass and his palmated antlers were much larger."



A trail cam photo of "Moose" taken in 2021.



Moose Continued

By Nov. 13, with the rut in high gear, Woodward was searching hard for Moose as she sat on the ground and glassed near the cedar grove.

“A small 4-point buck stepped out of the cover just 15 yards from me that morning,” she recalls. “He didn’t spook because he was rut-crazy. Then he just headed off to another pasture near the cedar trees.”

A few minutes later she spotted antler tips coming over a hill, and she recognized Moose from around 50 yards away. All she could see was the deer’s head and rack, so she had no chance for a shot with her bow.

“Moose was very smart, and mostly nocturnal,” she explains. “He saw the 4-pointer walk away, and he sensed something wasn’t right. He wasn’t spooked. But he followed the 4-pointer into the cedar trees that were about 300 yards away.”

Looking through her binoculars, Woodward watched the bucks running does through the cedars. She knew they had an elevated blind near the edge of the cedars, so she picked up and moved slowly and carefully to that spot. Woodward eased into the blind around 10 a.m., and she was now about 200 yards from where she last saw the two bucks chasing does.

“Through my binoculars I spotted a doe pop out of the trees, moving toward me,” she recalls. “Moose came out following the doe, then ducked back into the cedars. There were other bucks there, too, raising cane and snort-wheezing. They all were moving slowly towards me in the blind but hidden in the cedars.”

She listened to the deer that were in the heavy cover only 40 yards from her blind. Then the 4-pointer ran out of the cover, followed by a young deer.

“That’s when the doe ran out and passed me at 20 yards,” Woodward says. “I couldn’t see well except through a tight shooting lane. But I figured Moose was going to be behind the doe. So I drew my Hoyt 50-pound bow, and watched the opening for Moose.

“I heard him grunt, and then he appeared walking fast after the doe. I let him reach the opening at 20 yards, led him a bit, and shot.”



Moose Continued



Woodward found the buck lying 80 yards from where she shot it with her bow.

The arrow hit the buck a bit farther back than Shauna wanted, but it passed completely through the deer. After quietly slipping out of the blind, she checked her arrow and headed home to wait for Moose to expire.



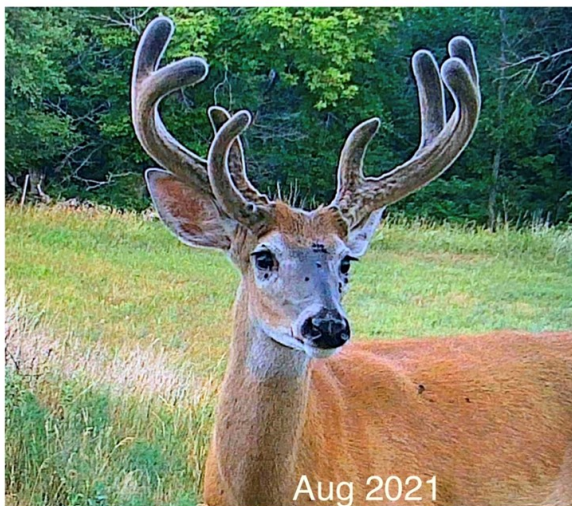
Moose Continued

"I love the archery tradition so deeply and want only the quickest, best bow shot to be made," she says. "I knew the arrow wasn't perfect, so I waited a few hours to return to the spot with [my husband] Richard to look for Moose."

Woodward came back around 2 p.m. that day and found a good blood trail. They tracked slowly and carefully to avoid bumping Moose. Two hours later, she found the buck dead only 80 yards from where it was hit.

Woodward says Moose was looking a little ragged from the rut and only weighed an estimated 175 pounds. The buck's unusual palmated rack was still in tremendous shape, though, with at least a dozen points. The estimated 6.5-year-old deer hasn't been scored yet. A taxidermist who is doing a shoulder mount will eventually take the measurements, but Woodward says the numbers aren't that important to her.

"I'm just glad to finally put my hands on Moose," she says. "It's a culmination of a lot of work and expense to grow good bucks into great bucks. And it's about passing on the ethical hunting tradition to our kids and grandkids."





Treasury Report, Year in Review and Forward

Treasure Jason Stone

Hello fellow SD Bowhunters! What a year it has been for our organization! We have many new faces on our Board this year and I can say, engagement feels like it is moving forward in the right direction! There are a lot of things to be excited about going into the new year!

But First, as Treasurer, I wanted to give you a quick update on where the Organization sits financially. We have made a big effort this year to increase membership and as I'm sure you've seen, do a few additional fundraisers! As of this writing, our checking account balance currently sits at \$38,016, which is an increase of roughly \$13,420 year over year. This increase is attributed to a roughly \$5,000 net profit from last years banquet, plus profits from fundraisers this year and membership renewals/new members! Prior to year-end, the board has decided to take a good chunk of this money and put it into a 12 Month CD at 5% to continue to continue to move the needle forward and have some of our money work for us. Our savings account as of this writing has a balance of \$19,850, which is an increase of roughly \$2,450 YOY. The increase is attributed to the organization putting roughly \$200/month into this account transferred from our checking account. Thus, the organization is up a little over \$15K YOY. As a board moving into the 2024 year, we are exploring ways to continue to increase our membership which includes a sponsorship level type membership. This is an ongoing discussion but look for more to come soon on this front! These efforts will allow us to continue to financially support our local youth archery, 4H and archery in the schools' programs. As a reminder, if you know of an organization that fits that mold, please encourage them to apply for a grant from SDBI. The form can be found on our organization webpage.

As I said to start, what a year it has been! SDBI has been heavily involved as you are aware with many issues that have been up for discussion with our State SD GF&P. This will again continue into 2024. What I can say going into this year is for one, please get involved and let your voice be heard and heard some more! SDBI does a good job of being present and having on going discussions with the GF&P Staff/commission as well as our legislators, but we can always do more and be heard more! The second thing I ask when speaking on behalf of SDBI, is to remember who we are and what our purpose is. Our goal is to advance and promote bowhunting in the State of South Dakota. We aren't a public land bowhunters organization and we aren't a private land bowhunters organization, we are an organization that focuses on advancing the sport of Bowhunting in South Dakota for all bowhunters. As we state on our website, we strive to build productive relationships with the SD GF&P; the Game and Fish Commission as well as landowners and agricultural interests. It is important we stick to who we are to remain effective and transparent as an organization. This will continue to strengthen our voice and the weight of it in our conversations moving forward.

Please remember to purchase your tickets for the 2024 Banquet in Deadwood as it is sure to be another great weekend socializing and celebrating the sport of archery hunting in South Dakota. As I've mentioned before, we are a SD Bowhunters organization with less than 400 members, whereas the number of bowhunters in South Dakota totals thousands more! Please, please, please, encourage anyone you know, to become a member of SDBI. We need every voice we can united to help protect our current fortunes and opportunities we have here as bowhunters of South Dakota.

Thank you,
Jason Stone, Treasurer



Secretary/Lobby Column

Board Member Dana Rogers

Another season has come to a close and 2024 will likely bring many new challenges and hopefully cool adventures for our SDBI members. January begins the start of another legislative session in Pierre. At the time of this writing, I have no inside knowledge of any pertinent bills that we will need to address. We will certainly need to be aware and watchful of bills like we've seen in past years. Things like transferable big game tags, non-resident landowner elk permits, crossbow legislation and the like. I want to thank everyone that has taken time in past years to help with these efforts. Those that drove to Pierre, zoomed in to testify remotely, sent e-mails and made phone calls to legislators. Those efforts are extremely helpful and necessary. One guy is NOT going to get things done against some of the big money backed efforts we've seen in recent years.

I absolutely understand that many of you are disgusted and not interested in getting involved in our political process. However, there are always going to be efforts by those that we disagree with that want to push agendas and introduce bills that are diametrically opposed to what our individual wishes and beliefs may be. If you aren't informed, engaged and involved, who is going to stand up and work for what you personally believe in?

On the secretary and board of directors' front, I again want to give Phil Lentz a HUGE Thank YOU! He's quite literally saved my sanity over the past year. He's taken over the majority of the e-mail, Facebook and Website duties. New board member Rob Mahaffey has created an Instagram account and been dialoguing with those that prefer that social media platform. He's also been key to putting this banquet together in April at Deadwood, lining up Randy Newberg to volunteer his time and only costing SDBI his expenses. Our final new board member, Ron Kolbeck has manned a booth at 3D shots around Sioux Falls and personally attended and testified at a couple GFP Commission meetings. Our three newest board members are doing great work for SDBI!

Our President, Justin Broughton, is representing us on this round of GFP Deer License Stakeholders meetings. If you've followed this process the last 5 years or so, you'll know how important it is to have a strong voice for SDBI in the group. Jason Stone has done a great job as our Treasurer and we've done some great fundraising efforts in 2023. We'll once again be running the awesome \$1,000 cash raffle or Flagship Bow raffle from now (January) to the convention. Former board member John Meyen came up with this great idea and it's really helped us make sure each year we are solvent.

I'm hopeful that most of you will be getting your tickets to the April convention in Deadwood. Please remember to attend the Friday evening mixer. We are hoping to have a few of our more seasoned Life Members in attendance to share some history lessons for the younger generation and new members. I've reached out to a few in hopes they can tell us of some of the struggles they went through to provide us all with many of the privileges we enjoy today.

It's very important for all the members who can make the convention to attend the general membership meeting. Those that have issues you'd like to see made into a GFP Commission petition; this is where that all happens. Everything SDBI does and has done originates in those membership meetings and votes. We've made some progress in the last 7 years, with making 35L a true LE unit and finally getting a marginal win last year with getting a cap and draw on non-resident Public Land permits. We've defeated the crossbow bills and NR landowner elk permits, but there is always something else to work on and be aware of. We are always looking for new blood to act as a Director or help with various GFP and legislative processes. If you'd like to get more involved, please let us know. I've tried to do my best in accordance with the members wishes, hope to see you in Deadwood and get a chance to visit with you all.

Dana



Members Success

John Straub



Dale Penning





Members Success Continued

Matt Kasuske



Kent Reiersen Water Hole





Members Success Continued



Jim Twamley Wyoming Bull

Below: Don Massa and his Black Hills Archery Bull





Members Success Continued



Carl Massa with his FIRST archery harvest!

I was archery bear hunting near LaLoche, Saskatchewan the week of May 22th. My bear length was 7'-6" and the skull was 20-3/4". It will be in the Pope and Young archery records!

Below: Gary Lander





Members success Continued



Julie with her Black Hills archery Buck!





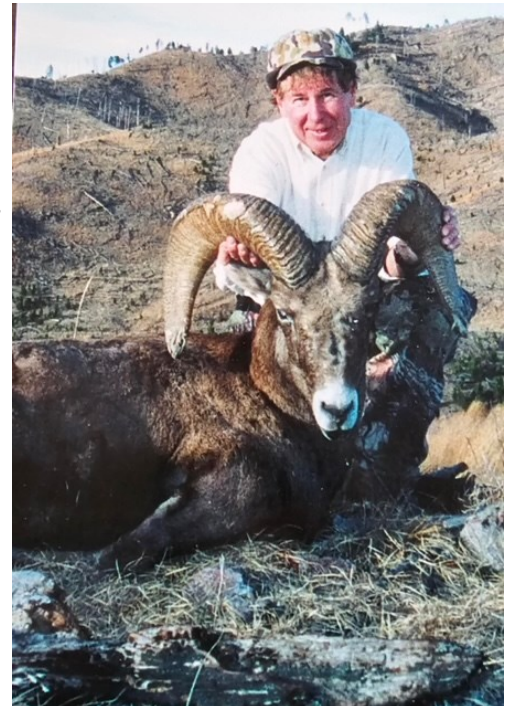
A Living Legend

Rob Mahaffey

If any of you are from the Mitchell area you may very well know who Don Rutlin is. Don made his initial impact in the area as one of the first Matthews Archery Dealers in SD in around 1993. In the days before Matthews required a store front Don was selling and setting up bows from his home basement. Thousands of bows came from that basement corner in his home. Don had a knack for setting up bows for each individual archer. You couldn't leave with it until you and the tuning machine Don had custom built was firing bullet holes in the tuner. Archers from Canada to Texas came to Dons and bought total bow setup's. However Dons legacy isn't just about his passion for archery equipment. Don has spent a lifetime in the woods, mountains and the prairie hunting big game. If you take the time Don is an amazing story teller that would keep anyone on the edge of their seat. Don recalls in 2001 or 2002 he drew his SD Bighorn Sheep. That hunt for him is extremely memorable not only because he harvested a truly beautiful ram but what happened a couple days before that. While hunting solo he was headed up a narrow game trail in an extremely rocky area west of Custer. He had found a boulder field that he had previously observed sheep in. After deciding to set up a makeshift blind he sensed something watching him from above on a rock outcropping about 20 yards away. When he looked up to his surprise was a large ram looking down at him. Its vitals were blocked not allowing him to take an ethical shot. The ram turned and disappeared behind the rocks. Don



then made the decision to head back down the trail and try to come around the back side of the outcropping in an attempt to stalk into the ram. Only a couple hundred yards back down the trail with his bow in hand and his arrows all quivered, he heard a noise behind him. Startled he spun around just in time to see the ram with its head down only five feet behind him coming in quickly. With only his hands to protect himself he put his hands out to meet the rams massive horns as it came into push him over. He recalls yelling at the ram numerous times. The ram did this a couple more times before realizing Don wasn't a rival ram.





A Living Legend Continued

The ram quickly turned and ran off. Don recalls even if the ram would have stood at 20 yards he wouldn't have been able to maintain his composure for an ethical shot after the crazy encounter. Don was never able to find a ram in archery range after that encounter and ultimately shot a trophy with his rifle a few days later. If you had a couple days Don could tell you stories that most archers only dream of. Keith and Bonnie Strubble owners of K&B Archery in Mitchell took over the dealer license when Don finally decided to hang it up. At age 94 Don is still applying for that Custer State Park Elk Tag. Don has been lucky enough have a friend like area archer Ward Tuttle who has committed to helping Don fill that tag if he's lucky enough and draws that tag. Don still lives in the same house where a lot of area hunters dreams started with a new bow in hand and a lot dreams to be made into reality. If you're ever in Mitchell look him up. Dons a wealth of technical information, hunting stories, and just an amazing human you might be blessed to know. Thanks Don for all the memories.





Model of Wildlife Conservation

Ron Kolbeck Director and SDBI Board Member

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

Ron Kolbeck, Director

Wildlife Resources Are a Public Trust

Markets for Game Are Eliminated

Allocation of Wildlife Is by Law

Wildlife Can be Killed Only for a Legitimate Purpose

Wildlife is Considered an International Resource

Science Is the Proper Tool to Discharge Wildlife Policy

Democracy of Hunting Is Standard

In this edition into our review of The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation we will be taking a closer look at pillars 4) Wildlife Can be Killed Only for a Legitimate Purpose and 5) Wildlife is Considered an International Resource. Much of the information contained in this article has come from a December 2012 Technical Review published by The Wildlife Society and The Boone and Crockett Club. To view or download a PDF of this report go to wildlife.org/publications/technical-reviews.

Wildlife Can be Killed Only for a Legitimate Purpose

According to George Grinnell, true sportsmen were those who hunted for pleasure (*never for profit*), who in the field allowed game a sporting chance, and who possessed an aesthetic appreciation of the whole context of sport that included a commitment to its perpetuation. Grinnell, in a series of powerful editorials, went on to articulate what is referred to as the code of the sportsman. The single most important element in the code was the requirement of non-commercial use, without waste, of all game killed.

T

he 2012 technical review goes on to bring into question practices such as broad-scale prairie dog shooting and crow hunting, given that no food or protective benefits are derived. The writers also suggest that pheasant stocking programs and predator removal or control programs should be evaluated relative to how they align with the model? The review is also very critical of events such as turtle/frog races or rattle-snake roundups that have a negative impact on populations and in some cases creates a shared public perception, such as “the only good snake is a dead snake,” thus hampering conservation efforts.

Over the last ten years, South Dakota has seen an unprecedented increase in the commercial exploitation of wildlife for personal financial gain. This started with leasing of land for hunting and a large increase in the number of hunting guides/outfitters operating in the state. This activity appears to fly in the face of this principal and was also brought up when discussing principle 2) Markets for Game are Eliminated. It has been suggested that if these activities are to be allowed, they should be highly regulated. Is South Dakota doing enough to regulate these activities today?

Even more concerning to me is the explosion of technology and social media relative to hunting. We are daily inundated with individuals and organizations using social media to post their hunts for financial gain. This goes directly against the principals of The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation identified above. Should it be allowed to continue at all? If so, how do we regulate and monitor it? Left unchecked, I feel this trend could bring the whole model down faster than any other issue we have seen to date.



Conservation Continued

Wildlife is Considered an International Resource

One of the greatest milestones in the history of wildlife conservation was the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Convention in 1916. This was the first significant treaty that provided for international management of wildlife resources. Legislation giving the federal government regulatory control over waterfowl hunting in the U.S. was introduced initially in 1904, but was not passed until 1914 with a Presidential Proclamation. The law was subsequently deemed to be unconstitutional. Supreme Court Justice Root suggested the constitutional issue could be addressed with a treaty between the U.S. and Great Britain on behalf of Canada. Such a treaty would invoke the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution, which gives federal treaties supremacy over any law of the land. A small group of U.S. and Canadian conservationists drafted the Migratory Bird Treaty and worked to get it ratified in 1916.

Expansion of the international wildlife conservation efforts beyond migratory birds occurred after WWII with passage of endangered species legislation in the 1960s and 1970s. Today, collaboration on a broad suite of wildlife conservation issues among the North American nations is common.

Other opportunities exist for international treaties to address species that cross border into Canada and Mexico. Complex permitting processes, traditional economies & cultures, travel & firearm restrictions, and construction of the wall between the U.S. and Mexico stand as barriers to expanding the success of the model.

Summary

By providing this information, I am in no way insinuating that I have all the answers. My intent here is to spur a desire in all of us to take an active role in the public input process. It is my hope that this information helps to build a foundation of trust that allows us to have effective conversations on these topics in the future.



Banquet 2024

South Dakota Bowhunters Inc.

Is proud to announce **Randy Newberg**, *the voice of the public land hunter in America*, as our keynote speaker for 2024 Annual Convention and Banquet.



When: April 5-6, 2024

Where: Cadillac Jacks - Deadwood, SD

Tickets on sale now at
WWW.SDBI.NET



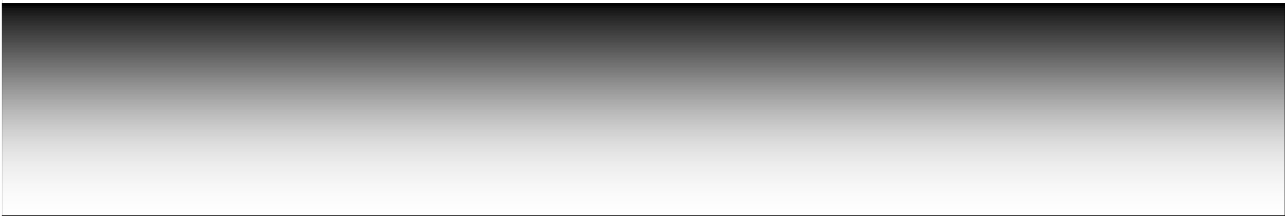
Influencers

Board Member Rob Mahaffey

Recently there's been a bit a heated discussion when it comes to "influencers" on our social media platforms. First off, you might ask what is an "influencer"? Well, there's a plethora of definitions and not all come to the same meaning. In today's society it would be someone tied to a niche or industry that influences other to partake in that niche or industry. Think of someone you've recently seen that promotes hunting, a hunting clothing brand, archery equipment, and outdoor equipment brands. Honestly there's a list a mile long. It can even range all the way out to boots and supplements. Usually they're sponsored by a brand and they promote that brand. Many of them over the years have claimed to be loyal to one brand but as the market shifts they move to another brand. No harm no foul...just business. So let's dive into the division influencers can unintentionally cause in our community. So let's say that I have a celebrity influencer who hits most of the notes I'm aligned with. We both like the same type of camouflage, bow, boots, knife, supplements, arrows, broadheads...the list goes on. Pretty soon I'm functioning in their self image. Now one day that influencer just kind of goes off on a rant and upsets the people that aren't necessarily 100% in alignment with that influencer and to make matters worse the rant was really upsetting to a large group of people. Any negative comments made about the influencer awaken and upset the influencers followers. While some say "hey I like 90% of what he/she says, but that rant kind of tweaked me a little. The influencers followers say "how dare you disagree with the rant". Let the division begin.

Ok, so how does any of this impact us as bowhunters here in SD? Recently we've become a little more vocal about influencers possibly being paid to come and hunt here to promote more non resident hunting opportunities in our state. We're already fighting for every inch of public land access with each other so that is causing a stir within many of us. Most influencers have a YouTube Channel. This would seem to be the greatest issue we face. Now recently we were sent a picture of an influencer who most archers know. He came here with some of his friends and shot content for his YouTube channel. Now the sticky point. They shot forked horn mule deer (multiple) with archery equipment. All of which were 100% legal with no violations and in accordance with their state issued tags. So some would say that our issue isn't with the influencer but instead with the GF&P. Well that would seem fair enough...But...

In the defense of the influencer, he didn't wake up and say "I'm gonna go stir up a hornets nest today". He's just doing what the state said he could do. Here's our viewpoint: SD has become the cheap tag. We're the warmup state for influencers. If they need some content they can come here for pennies on the dollar compared to other western states. A \$286 fork horn is an easy content filler, but if the tags were \$600 dollars a little more consideration might come into play. Not too many YouTubers with a \$900 Wyoming elk tag in their hand are going there to shoot a spike. When an influencer has 100's of thousands of views on his YouTube channel and promotes the hunt as anyone can afford it...it just doesn't sit right. We are trying to stop the promotion of people coming here and just shooting whatever because its cheap and easy. Trust me, this a big can of worms. Would filming permits be an outlandish request? I mean these people have sponsors and they also receive income from YouTube when they hit a certain number of views on the video. The reality is that hunting videos have been around since Fred Bear. It's just changed a lot. It could have taken 15 years for 100K people to watch a Fred Bear video back in the day. Today that can happen in a matter of days. At the end of the day this needs to be a civil conversation amongst us as hunters to determine the impacts and consequences influencers have on us everyday people. There's no hate, just finding a balance.




ExpertVoice



Animals & Pets



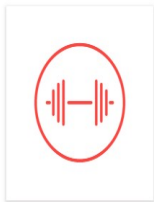
Baby



Camping



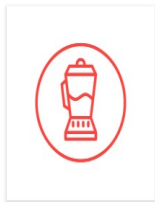
Electronics



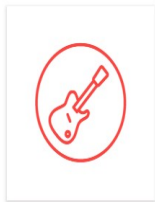
Fitness & Training



Golf



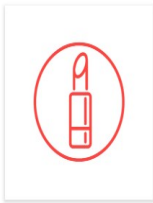
Housewares



Music



Auto Performance & Offroad



Beauty



Climbing



Fashion



Food & Cooking



Health & Wellness



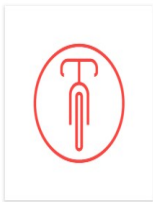
Hunt



Naturals



Automotive Aftermarket



Bike



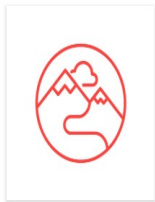
Diving & Scuba



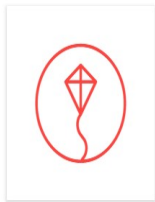
Fish



Footwear



Hike



Kite Sports



Nordic Ski & Snowshoe

www.expertvoice.com/home/category/7

WWW.EXPERTVOICE.COM



BENT ARROW

ARCHERY RANGE
& Pro Shop

307 S 5th St
Milbank, SD 57252
schoolhousesuites@hotmail.com

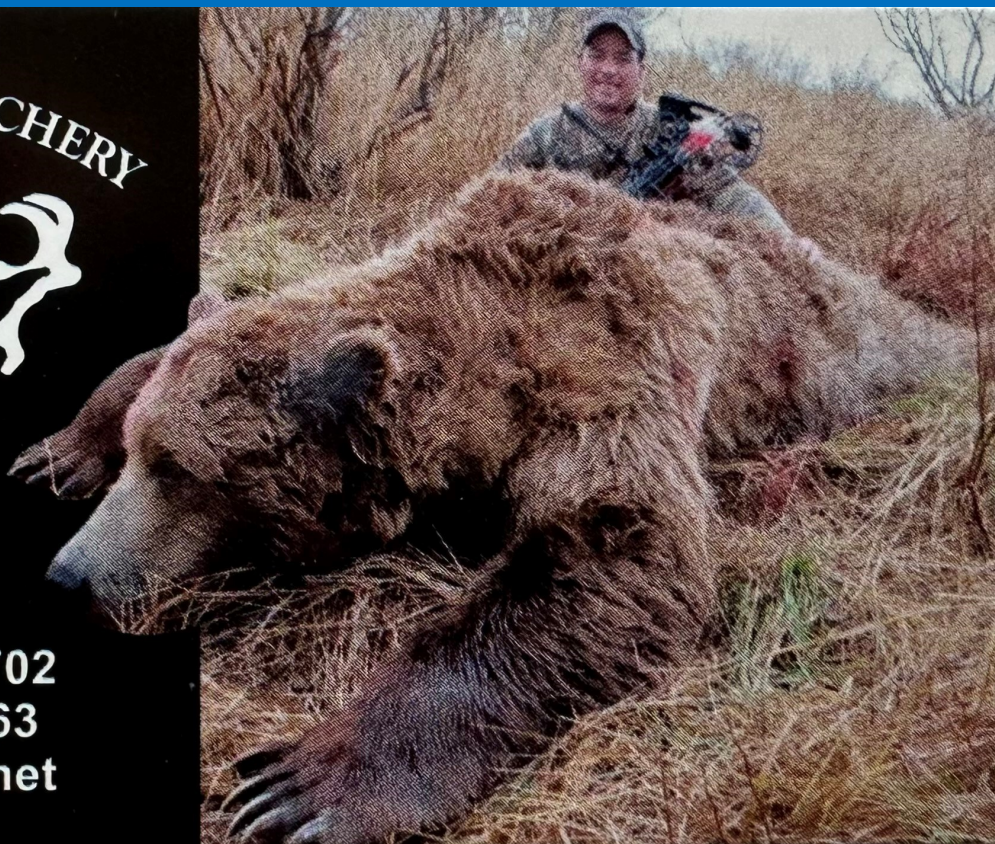
Mark Veen
Shop: 605-438-4040
Cell: 605-924-0444

BLACK HILLS ARCHERY



Al Kraus
Owner

3645 Sturgis Rd.
Rapid City, SD 57702
PHONE 605-394-9663
blackhillsarchery.net





SCHEELS
YOUR ARCHERY HEADQUARTERS

PROUD SPONSOR OF **SOUTH DAKOTA BOWHUNTERS**

2101 West 41st St
Sioux Falls, SD
605.334.7767

Connect with us @siouxfallscheels
 @siouxfallscheels

SCHEELS.com



Wild Sheep Foundation Midwest Chapter

1806 Aspen Court
Northfield, MN 55057
(507)645-8811

Web: www.midwestwildsheep.org
Email: Patti.murry@gmail.com

Join us today and “Keep sheep on the mountain”





T & K Hunting Gear

Ownership- Tyler and Keith Kath

Physical Address: 1000 Cambell Street
STE 3 Rapid City, SD 57701

Email: customerservice@tandkhunting.com

Website: tandkhunting.com

SDBI Clothing!

[Want SDBI clothing? Click this link!](http://www.alpineimpressions.net/product-category/south-dakota-bowhunters/)

www.alpineimpressions.net/product-category/south-dakota-bowhunters/

Take out an Insurance Policy on your Future

SOUTH DAKOTA BOWHUNTERS, INC.

What is South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc.?

- South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc. is a bowhunting organization interested in preserving and upgrading bowhunting in South Dakota.
- South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc. is a leader in the South Dakota Bowhunters Education Program.
- South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc. is a leader in fighting the anti-hunting movement in South Dakota.
- South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc. is a strong lobbyist working in the best interest of Bowhunting.



What benefits would I gain by becoming a member of the South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc.

- A VOICE to the GF&P Commission, GF&P Staff and the SD Legislature through SDBI.
- A quarterly newsletter (shown top right) full of stories, pictures, and tips from SDBI members. This newsletter also keeps you up to date on bowhunting seasons and license availability. The satisfaction of knowing you have done your part to insure bowhunting future in our state just by joining.



Please Print Clearly

Mail to: **South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc.**

24021 Twin Rocks Rd
Hill City, SD 57745

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____
City: _____ ST: _____ Zip code: _____

New Renew

Single Membership 1 Yr. \$20

Single Membership 3 Yr. \$50

Family Membership 1 Yr. \$30

Life Membership \$250



Natural Beauty





South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc
24021 Twin Rocks Rd
Hill City, SD 57745

Address Service Requested

