

# *The South Dakota*

May 2022



# *Bowhunter*

## In This Issue

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Editor's Note.....	3
<i>Mike McKnight</i>	
Secretary/Lobbyist's Notes.....	4
<i>Dana Rogers</i>	
Vice President's Voice .....	6
<i>Ronn McDaniel, O.D.</i>	
Broomstick in South Africa .....	7
<i>Sam Kezar</i>	
General Membership Meeting Minutes .....	11
<i>Dana Rogers</i>	
Jason Stone Introduction .....	18
<i>Jason Stone</i>	
Future Bowhunters Being Developed in Our Schools .....	20
<i>Ron Kolbeck</i>	
South Dakota Bowhunting and Technology .....	22
<i>Mike McKnight</i>	
GF&P Commissioners & SDBI Mixer .....	26
Bledsoe Memorial Award Winner Bob Barden .....	27
Banquet Pictures — 2022 .....	28
Saskatchewan Bear Hunt pictures .....	33
<i>Ronn McDaniel, O.D.</i>	

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*On the Front: Jackson Hoffman, first deer*

*On the Back: Ronn McDaniel, O.D.*



# Editor's Note

*Mike McKnight*

Three bits of good news to start the first newsletter of the year.

First, SDBI successfully fought off another challenge to increase crossbow use during regular archery seasons. Many thanks to Dana Rogers and all the countless rest of you that sent emails and made phone calls to stop this from happening. I doubt we are done with this fight but let's stick together on this and we can continue to win.

Second, the US Senate is sending the MAPLand Act to the president's desk. This legislation would invest in digitizing public land agencies' maps and access information, making it easier to identify outdoor recreation opportunities and follow the rules on public land from a smartphone or GPS device.

Finally, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act has advanced out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee with bipartisan support. This bill will increase funding to the states and Tribes to restore wildlife populations and habitat.

Play hard and have fun.



*Next deadline to submit articles or pictures is June 1*

Email articles, photos, want ads, cartoons, and letters for newsletter submission to :  
Mike McKnight  
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# Secretary/Lobbyist Report

*Dana Rogers*

Well, the VERY busy legislative season and the banquet are now in our rear-view mirror. We once again fought off an unnecessary piece of legislation that would allow further encroachment of Crossbows into our archery seasons. This piece of legislation was brought forward by a different legislator than the one that brought it forward in 2021. This time it was for Seniors 65 and older. He later amended HB1112 to be for Residents Only. A huge thanks goes out to all SDBI members that sent in e-mails, letters and made phone calls to legislators to get this killed once again. Several members even made the trip to Pierre that Tuesday before the banquet to testify in person. More still, zoomed in online and testified or tried to, until our time was used up. The vote was 6-7 once a "Do Pass" motion came forward. Then 9-4 to kill the bill by sending it to the 41<sup>st</sup> day.

During the General Membership meeting at the convention, it was clear that SDBI members absolutely wish to keep fighting the inclusion of Crossbows in our South Dakota Archery seasons (unless a verifiable injury) Dr's note verifies the waiver. A motion and much discussion came forth and we will look to petition or work possible legislation options to further define the definition of what is allowed during Archery seasons. Much more will follow along that line.

The 2021 Petitions regarding Archery Elk permits; Non-Resident Archery Deer permits; Non-Resident Archery Antelope Permits and Non-Resident Big Game license fees were also discussed. As most know, those four petitions were killed and the reason given centered around "timing" with the Staff and GFP Commissioners. A separate petition was motioned and approved for inclusion at the General Membership meeting. This one regarding the disparity and imbalance in access to Antlerless deer permits. I brought up the previous four and the new petition to the GFP Staff and Commissioners at the SDBI Hospitality Night in Pierre. They have been informed and I'll continue dialogue with them in preparation to submit these petitions in 2022.

With regard to Crossbow legislation, I believe we need to work different angles, avenues and arguments in the future. I would really like to see an SDBI "Committee" put together of concerned members that can brainstorm and work arguments, statistics etc. VP Ronn McDaniel took the spear by trying to play 'Devil's Advocate' during the Crossbow discussion. He raised the question, if the membership would be open to offering the Pro-Crossbow people a compromise and a special Crossbow season or to possibly include that weapon in the Muzzleloader season in December. That was flatly rejected by the SDBI membership in attendance. I will simply offer this personal opinion. This issue is NOT going to go away. No, we do NOT want to see Crossbows fully implemented into our four-month long archery season in South Dakota. But, I do believe we need to think outside the box, broaden our arguments and discussions here. I talk to MANY, MANY bowhunters around the state. Some SDBI members, some not. SDBI is definitely doing the heavy lifting on lobbying and trying to stand up for Bowhunters in SD. BUT, our membership is not the end all and be all overarching opinion





# Secretary/Lobbyist Report

*Dana Rogers*

held by all 24,000 resident SD Bowhunters. Just food for thought.

As an afterthought, I want to express my disappointment and apologize for something. During our General Membership meeting, I feel my top priority as Secretary is to take meeting minutes. So, I was absolutely taken aback when the topic of the Charlie Bledsoe Memorial award was brought up and a motion to terminate that award was brought forward. I was taken aback because the board received only ONE SINGLE e-mail or contact in opposition to this award when we announced it. I reached out to that one member and we discussed it. This award was created to recognize an SDBI member with years and years of work on behalf of SDBI and bowhunting in South Dakota. As the board discussed and created the 'concept', it was made VERY clear it would not be a "Big Buck" or "popularity" award. It had to be an SDBI member with YEARS of dedicated service to SDBI and Bowhunting in SD. My announcement e-mail to SDBI membership asking for nominations spelled that out!

Later, I received an e-mail showing how "Montana Bowhunters" do it. A "Wall of Honor". I thought that was a great idea and said so. President Jake Leibke brought that up during the membership meeting and no member made a motion to do something "like that". So, my apologies to the membership for being so focused on "taking notes" during the discussion. What I should have done was drop my pen and grab the microphone. Had I thought quickly enough, that's what I should have done. Then I would have entered into that discussion. What I would have said was we had ONE SINGLE vote of dissention brought to our attention in the months preceding the banquet. I would have reminded the membership what my initial e-mail and the board had voted on. It had to be an SDBI member with YEARS of hard work on behalf of SDBI. It was NOT a "Big Buck" award or a "popularity contest", as the entire nine-member board had to agree.

Then, if that would not have calmed the masses or turned the tide, I would have offered this as some type of "compromise". Change the name to the Charlie Bledsoe Memorial SDBI Lifetime Achievement Award. Take the 'annual' and 'bowhunter' out of it. Perhaps that would have made a difference, I don't know. What I do know is that after it was killed, there were several people who were quite disappointed. People who loved the Bledsoe's, some who came to the convention specifically because of this. So again, I apologize for just taking notes and not speaking up. If you were someone who was opposed, you can blame me. It was my idea to begin with. The only intent was to recognize the men who have built and kept this organization going for over 50 years. To say Thank You, to those that tirelessly worked for our opportunities.

I'll visit with as many members as I can on all of our petitions and any issues SDBI is involved with legislatively. Hopefully we can try and do some further good in the future. We are indeed a member driven organization. I just hope we can get more direct involvement on many of these important issues in the future from as many members as possible. Thank You!



## Vice-President's Voice

*Ronn McDaniel, O.D.*

This piece is in memory of a friend Steve. He was a member of our local Milbank Valley Archers Club and took great pride working hard for Valley Queen Cheese and off hours as a butcher. A few years ago he told me to put him and his son Zach down for the trip, 2 yrs ahead of time. Both men rode with me and had the pickup literally "loaded for bear". All of us were excited to get on the road to relax, breathe the Canadian air, eat fish every night and shoot a big black bear. We arrived at the bridge on the Churchill River north of Pinehouse Village and Steve had his limit of Sauger in about 5 minutes. I sat back and watched him help my grandson Isaiah catch his limit and I actually couldn't tell "which kid" was having more fun.

On the first day of the hunt I had 2 large black bears come into the bait. One walked within 5 feet from us sitting in the blind and the other ended up getting fairly grumpy after the bait bucket was empty so he mused himself bluff charging our blind twice before chasing a male wolf in circles 30 yards away. My hunt didn't include shooting another black phase bear (personal choice) as my goal was to wait for a cinnamon/red phase. The next morning we decided to take Zach in to sit with us for one of these bears. As we walked in, the biggest bear (grumpy) had claimed the bait and he was not leaving. We made a nervous walk up to 20yds, Zach lifted his shaking bow and made a perfect shot.

Now it was Steve's turn and an hour later Steve had his bear (after missing the first shot). Steve got such a bad case of bear fever he didn't even look through his sight the first time. After several minutes of coaching we got him relaxed and his second attempt hit its mark.

The smile never left Steve's face the rest of the week. You couldn't get Steve's attention for anything. He was engulfed in the moment, of the whole trip of fishing and seeing other bears being brought into camp. Back at the Milbank archery club, he routinely talked about that trip as his "trip of a lifetime."

Well, it was for Steve. He passed away suddenly last month way too young. I am so grateful to be there watching both men arrow their 20" and 19" bears. Our camp filled 10 for 11 tags and I was the one who didn't get my bear. However, my mission and purpose was complete.

We walk through life way too often focused on things that truly do not matter. We let little things blind us from seeing the purpose as to what and why you are there. Steve's passing opened my eyes and brought a new light as to my purpose in all I do.

May all your arrows fly straight whether you're chasing turkeys or hunting bears, have safe travels and enjoy each trip with a new viewpoint.





## Broomstick in South Africa Hunting with a recurve

*Sam Kezar*

March 17, 2022

This was a hunt that was two years in the making. Because of COVID-19, I had to postpone the donation hunt I won at auction in March of 2020 and had planned on going in March of 2021. Travel restrictions were such that I wasn't willing to take the chance of being stuck in quarantine. Once I won the auction and learned that in South Africa you only pay for the animals you harvest (or wound), I decided to make a goal of preparing myself to just use my recurve to hunt the game. Unlike a draw tag, there was no pressure to take a shot on an animal if I wasn't confident in it, because I didn't have a tag to fill. So for the 2 years leading up to going, I practiced. I got coaching. And I went to 3D shoots and hunted deer with my recurve to prepare. Leading up to going, I was the most confident in my recurve shooting skills than I had ever been. I was ready.

Leading up to the hunt, kudu and gemsbok were at the top of my list of animals to shoot. It's something about the African animals with big horns on their heads that does it for me. But when I arrived, my PH (Professional Hunter, aka Guide) turns to me and says, "Sam, listen. Unfortunately, you came at the worst time to hunt with a bow. Getting a kudu and maybe even most of the game on your list will be very difficult. We have had an insane amount of rain and the bush is as green and full as I have ever seen it. Very little will be coming to the water holes so we will have to get creative." That evening we discussed the game I would like to chase after and I mentioned how I would also like to get a sable and a cape buffalo someday, but due to the costs, I didn't put them on my list this time around. But since it was unlikely I would get everything, we decided to add sable to the list to go after.

I was very excited about chasing the sable. Leading up to the trip I looked at pictures of all the possible game I could afford to go after, and sable quickly rose to the top. Even more than kudu. I'm not sure what does it for me, but that animal looks amazing to me and I wanted to try hunting one.

The first few days were really rough. It rained the first full day. I bet they got three inches or more of rain on top of already soggy ground. It was an odd experience. The terrain and plant life looked like south Texas, but the wetness reminded me of hunting the thick swamps in northern Minnesota where I grew up. I got a stalk on the sable we were after that first day and got to within 10 yards of him. The noise of the rain assisted in that sneak, but the brush was so thick and the wind such that my approach had a bush between him and I, so I couldn't get a shot. We chased that sable and other mature sable for the next few days along with hunting some other animals when we would come across them (blue wildebeest, zebra, gemsbok, and impala). I bet I had over 20 stalks on various animals. But with the vegetation being so thick and being limited to 25 yards and under, a shot never presented itself.



## Broomstick in South Africa

### Hunting with a recurve (continued)

*Sam Kezar*

After a sit the evening of day three where I got a zebra (that's another story), we learned that the sable had started to hit a water hole as the weather had cleared up and gotten sunny and hot. So that evening of day four we get to the blind at the water hole. They had spread out some feed pellets along with alfalfa. I took a few practice shots out of the blind to verify good shooting positions and lanes, and then the tracker and I got in while the PH drove off to let us sit. After about 45 minutes two young eland bulls came in to eat on the pellets and alfalfa. A while later, my tracker looks down the road and sees the sable bull coming in. I stood and got ready. I was shaking bad with anticipation. I hadn't gotten that much buck fever before in a long time. But the wind was blowing his direction and the sable turned and walked back down the road and into the bush the way he came.

A short while later, he comes back out of the bush. I thought to myself, 'he may just yet come in if we are patient'. He clearly wanted a drink and some food, but he didn't get that big and old by being dumb either. For the next hour or so, the sable would come out of the bush and onto the road, stand there and observe his surroundings, and then go back into the bush. The last time he came out of the bush, he stood and looked back behind us and stared towards the entrance road to see if the Toyota Fj the PH was driving was going to come chase him like we had done for the past few days. Finally, after about 10 minutes he started his way towards the blind and the water hole.

I was ready to not waste any time and shoot him as he passed at 15 yards, but the smart old bull started taking a wider birth from the blind and passed by in the brush on the opposite side of the trail with no option for a shot. He then made a loop to go to the water, making sure to get a drink facing the blind at about 20 yards (no shot). He wasted no time after his drink and walked right towards the feed pellets, but again facing directly at the blind with his head forward. We had a staring contest while he would eat and then quickly pick up his head and stare into the blind window while chewing his food. He even would have his head forward so even if I had wanted to attempt a frontal shot, his head blocked his vitals. While this was going on, I made sure I was not standing directly in line with the vertical shooting window. I only had one of my eyes leaned over into the window so I could see what he was doing.

After a few minutes of the feeding stare down he started turning away. He completed a full turn to likely start walking away and I took the opportunity while he was turning to step into the shooting window and draw to anchor. I quickly saw that I had a strong quartering away shot. Perfect! I aimed for the opposite front shoulder and ran my shot process. The shot broke and the arrow flew straight and true into his side, burying all the way to the fletchings and causing fluids to spray once the arrow impacted his side. The sable hit full speed in one stride and ran straight away into the bush.

Once the PH showed up after a 15-20 minute wait, we tried analyzing the shot the best we could with no video. In typical fashion, my mind started to betray me and I was beginning to





## Broomstick in South Africa

### Hunting with a recurve (continued)

*Sam Kezar*

second guess my initial feelings that it was a good shot and he was dead. So we gave it as much time as the PH dared, given it was going to be dark in about an hour. Had it been a deer, I would have been cautious and waited overnight. But because we didn't have an arrow, video, or a quick blood to analyze what exactly happened, we needed to trust our instincts that it was a fatal hit and start looking. I also didn't want the animal to rot or be eaten by leopards or jackals, so we started slowly and quietly tracking.

We found blood in the first 20 yards, but it smelled like guts. Not good. But soon within another 20 yards, my PH says to me, "you can put away that arrow and raise that bow up to the sky. There is your sable!" as he pointed ahead another 10-15 yards to a big white belly in the grass. I rarely ever let out a yell or big signs of emotion when I come up on an animal that I've killed, but this one was special and so rewarding. I let out a big "Ahhhooooo..." and raised my bow up over my head as I ran up to see.

There is no better feeling as an archer when you make a good shot and the animal dies within seconds. The arrow entered in back on the sable in the stomach area, but buried in so deep at the right angle, that it stopped on the opposite shoulder after having sliced off the top of the heart and through the liver and opposite side lung. He died at a full sprint within about 60 yards.

I was shooting a Heartland Custom Bow 60" recurve that is 50# at 28". I have it set up with a fishing string rest, shooting Day Six 400 arrows, cut to 31". Total arrow weight was 575 grains with a Rocky Mountain Specialty Gear 3-blade cutthroat, 150 grain broad-head. I shoot 3 under at distances under 25 yards with a finger tab. For distances over 25 yards I shoot split finger as I use gap aiming method. I've received coaching from Tom Clum Sr. and his Solid Archery Mechanics course for olympic style archery, designed for hunters. I have never been more confident with my accuracy with this bow and would strongly recommend you look into his course.

On the last evening of the hunt my PH says to me that I was the first person in over 13 years that has come and hunted with a "broomstick" and the only person that he knows who has taken a sable with one. I'm sure someone else out there has done that, but this will be the biggest sable on my wall, so I'm going to be as proud of this hunt as anything else I've accomplished yet. Thank you for letting me share my story.



## Broomstick in South Africa Hunting with a recurve (continued)

*Sam Kezar*



Sable Antelope. Green score of 110" SCI. SCI minimum for archery is 86".



# General Membership Meeting Minutes

*Dana Rogers*

*Note from Dana: Here is the Donation Request form we discussed during the meeting. Also, the general membership meeting notes. I'm not the fastest writer so I apologize if anyone notes anything glaring I missed. On a personal note, I am disappointed and a bit upset at myself for not having a better plan to help with my note taking. There were a couple of discussion points and motions I should have dropped my pad and pen and jumped up and into the discussion on. I prioritized my secretary duties and I will learn from that.*

## ***South Dakota Bowhunters Inc.***

### ***2022 General Membership Meeting Minutes***

Feb 19, 2022

#### **I. Call to order**

The 2022 General Membership meeting of the South Dakota Bowhunters was called to order by President Jake Leibke and began at approximately 5:15 pm on Feb 19, 2022 at the Alliance center in Sioux Falls, SD.

#### **II. Roll call**

President Jake Leibke, Vice President Ronn McDaniel, Treasurer Ryan Biel, Secretary Dana Rogers, John Meyen, Tim Pravecek, Trevor Davis, Justin Broughton and Wyatt Skelton were all in attendance.

#### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Minutes of the previous general membership meeting were read by Rogers. Approval of meeting minutes was motioned by Lon Sharp, Jim Dahlberg 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion to accept/approve passed.

#### **IV. Financial Report:**

Treasurer Ryan Biel reported that SDBI has \$21,792.99 in Checking and \$15,421.55 in Savings. Biel had previously printed a few line-item expenses and deposits and distributed those to various membership tables in attendance. Randy Knippling motioned to approve and Ed Hiller 2<sup>nd</sup>. Financial/treasurer report approved.

#### **V. Old Business**

NONE

#### **VI. New Business**



# General Membership Meeting Minutes (continued)

Dana Rogers

- a) Printing Newsletters – Rogers requested quotes to print our newsletters again. We have received several comments requesting printed newsletters over the few years SDBI stopped printing and mailing for financial reasons. Rogers gave approximate estimate costs for 300 copies and printing and shipping of ONE quarterly issue. Estimate of \$1,000 for printing and shipping 300 copies from the Sioux Falls printer who previously did it for SDBI. Rogers gave approximate estimate of \$500 to print 300 copies from a Pierre based printer, but that did NOT include shipping costs. Jim Dahlberg motioned for discussion and Chad Scholten 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- i) Discussion ensued. Information about membership numbers and how many do NOT have an e-mail address. Rogers provided SDBI currently has 295 paid members and 34 that have NO e-mail address on file. Dahlberg asked about an option to print the 34 copies and send them to members without e-mail. Leibke offered that printing costs would most certainly increase per issue the lower number we ordered. Rogers would have to request those details on smaller batches of printed newsletters.
- ii) Sam Kezar asked if we could have members select the option to receive e-mail .pdf copies or a hard copy. Rogers reported yes and SDBI had done that in the last year or two before financial situation led the board to cease printing and mailing. But we can certainly do that again if membership wishes.
- iii) Lon Sharp offered that some members like the advantage of having a printed copy to hand off to others once they are finished. *Point being to help recruit new members (Rogers).*
- iv) Motion to NOT print was made. Rogers does not have motion or 2<sup>nd</sup> written down (? Anyone remember). 13 voted to approve motion to NOT print. 12 voted opposed and wanted to print. Motion to NOT print passes.
- v) Bob Struck (?) motioned to print ONE copy of newsletter (January Issue) and mail to membership. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> (?), vote and passed. *If anyone can help me here with my missing details, I'll add them. (Rogers)*
- b) SDBI Petitions to GF&P – Justin Broughton reviewed and explained the gist of our 4 2021 petitions to GF&P Commissioners and the results. They were all voted down due to “timing issues”. Broughton asserted that we had good discus-





## General Membership Meeting Minutes (continued)

*Dana Rogers*

sions with GFP staff about the petitions in our October meeting. Josh Delger did mention some about this information in his GFP seminar in broad strokes (Rogers). Rogers asked membership if they wish SDBI to continue with petitions in 2022.

- i) Sam Kezar motioned to add the two new petitions and keep the original four previous petitions and pursue all. Paul Sand 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- ii) Voice vote motion passed. SDBI will continue to pursue old petitions and draft/add two new ones.
- c) Lobbyist Issues – Rogers discussed HB 1112 Crossbows for Seniors bill and result. Thanked all who e-mailed, called legislators and particularly those that drove to Pierre and testified and those that called in via Zoom and testified. We also had a handful that were not allowed to testify in opposition due to time constraints. Rogers paraphrased overall process and e-mails sent to membership on the subject. Rogers asked membership what they wanted to do in the future. Jim Dahlberg motioned to ensure SDBI continued to oppose. Sam Kezar 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed with voice vote and discussion ensued.
- i) Dahlberg offered that GFP is neutral and some organization needs to stand up and fight Crossbow inclusion. SDBI is the only organization that works to publicly oppose them. Jake Leibke offered that SDWF is neutral. Rogers reminded that we have dialogued with SDWF and it's been touch and go that SDWF would even remain neutral instead of SUPPORT crossbows due to their board makeup.
- ii) Chad Scholten wished to amend Dahlberg's motion that SDBI oppose crossbows but continue to support their use with approved medical permit exemptions. Ed Hiller 2<sup>nd</sup> that motion and a voice vote passed the amendment. SDBI will continue to oppose Crossbow inclusion in archery seasons but support medical exemptions for properly documented handicapped individuals.
- d) Jake Leibke wanted to publicly thank the older generation of SDBI members for all the work and support of the organization over the years. Thank You all for your hard work and what you've done for all of us in the past.
- e) Ronn McDaniel wanted to ask the membership about possible compromise discussions on the Crossbow issue. Do we want to entertain discussions with proponents about a separate crossbow season? Chad Scholten motioned NO on sup-



## General Membership Meeting Minutes (continued)

Dana Rogers

porting an option of a separate crossbow season. Forrest Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. Voice vote, SDBI will not support discussions of a separate crossbow season.

- f) Sam Kezer brought up the possibility of making the crossbow designated as more of a firearm and NOT a bow. Bob Fahey offered we are our own worst enemy on this. Saying things like “Cross gun.” Fahey suggested “Easy killing machine” instead. Leibke suggested using “Easy killing machine” instead of cross gun. Sam Kezar motioned to have SDBI lobby to make a change in designation of crossbows or to clarify them in statutes as more of a firearm. Forrest Cain 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Bryan Bauer suggested looking up crossbow definition in statute online. Justin Broughton looked it up and read the definition. Forrest Cain and Sam Kezar wished for a more clear, more pronounced definition to further define a crossbow is NOT a bow. Finn Sacrisson asked if there was a regulation or way to remove scopes from crossbow use. Leibke and Broughton commented and suggested nomenclature definition of “Shoulder fired weapon”. SDBI could work to keep shoulder fired weapons out of archery season. A vote took place on the motion to reclassify crossbows as firearms. Voice votes defeated reclassification as a firearm pursuit.
- g) Forrest Cain motioned to pursue reclassification of crossbows as a “Shoulder mounted; trigger fired weapon”. This would include crossbows, air bows etc. and help keep them out of archery season. Chad Scholten 2<sup>nd</sup>. Voice vote motion passed. SDBI will research and pursue how to reclassify crossbow to approved motion definition.
- h) Jake Leibke brought up donations and spending our funds. Ronn Kolbeck asked about donation requests. Rogers could not recall a single request for a donation in the past two years. A question came about our request process. Rogers said we have a form the requester fills out and sends to board for consideration. Rogers said he would dig that out and e-mail it to membership. We are a 501-3C. Chad Scholten asked about balance requirements and donations to make. Rogers said he recalled some reference to that in our By Laws but needs to check. Someone brought up South Dakota Youth Hunting Adventures as a possible donation option. Another suggested Archery in the Schools program. Leibke talked about how to donate. Bob Fahey, do orgs have to fill out or can SDBI fill out the paperwork, nominate orgs and give monies. *(Rogers) I think we need to keep it with organization requesting but no reason we can't keep orgs updated and still send out*



## General Membership Meeting Minutes (continued)

Dana Rogers

*requests for donations so they are aware.* Forrest Cain spoke about lack of Bowhunters Education funding. Is SDBI willing to put back in for mandating bowhunters ed and to help fund that?

- i) Jim Dahlberg made a motion to get bowhunters our opportunity to hunt the same number of antlerless deer and get those numbers of antlerless permits that firearm hunters such as current county antlerless rifle permits. Leon Callahan/Forrest Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- i) Antlerless archery permit motion discussion ensues. Forrest Cain, we need to be able to get multiple antlerless tags by zone. Now we can only get one, while non-resident firearms hunters can get triple doe rifle permits in some units for \$80. Jim Dahlberg's motion was amended to Resident Bowhunters only. Dahlberg/Cain. Virgil Johnson discussed the GFP answers to antlerless permit question.
- ii) Chad Scholten, GFP struggles to sell firearms permits in some units. Why not sell them by unit as an extra archery antlerless permit? Voice vote ensued; motion passed. *SDBI will research and draft a petition with the intent of allowing resident bowhunters to obtain additional archery antlerless permits in under prescribed units and use them during archery season. (Rogers)*
- j) New Board Positions – President Jake Leibke, Treasurer Ryan Biel and John Meyen are at the end of their three-year terms. President Leibke is willing to stay on the board another three years but feels he hasn't done as much in the President position as he'd like and would give the position of President up. Ryan Biel motion/Ronn Hammer 2<sup>nd</sup> to have Jake Leibke serve another 3-year term. Ryan Biel will be vacating the position of Secretary and leaving the board. We thank him for his years of volunteerism and great service to SDBI. John Meyen is willing to continue on and serve another three-year term. Tim Pravecek motioned/?2<sup>nd</sup>? to retain John Meyen to another three-year term. That leaves a vacant board position. *Rogers had previously requested volunteers. One volunteer was Jason Stone of Chamberlain. He provided a short bio and Rogers previously e-mailed that to the membership and board for review.* Stone was introduced and Randy Knippling motioned to add Jason Stone to a board position. Rogers 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jason Stone will fill a new three-year slot. Jim Dahlberg motioned to accept Leibke and Meyen and fill Stone in vacant slot. ?2<sup>nd</sup>, Voice vote, motion passes.
- k) First Annual Charlie Bledsoe Memorial SDBI Bowhunter of the Year. Leibke discussed a "Wall of Honor" idea option that a member sent to Rogers to look at as a means to honor de-



# General Membership Meeting Minutes (continued)

Dana Rogers

serving SDBI members. Jim Dahlberg and Chad Scholten offered that they didn't want to have "a popularity contest". Not to diminish Charlie Bledsoe but jealousy will ensue and could diminish Charlie's contribution. Don Nankivel stated this was the first time he agreed with Jim Dahlberg. Scholten motioned this would be the first and last Charlie Bledsoe memorial SDBI bowhunter of the year. Dahlberg 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote ensued but had to go to hand count vote. Aye's 17 and Nay's 13. Motion passes, first and last Charlie Bledsoe memorial SDBI Bowhunter of the Year. (Rogers) *As I was doing all the writing of notes trying to keep up with meeting minutes, I did not comment at the discussion portion. HUGE regret/failure on my part. Nobody picked up the discussion on the "Wall of Honor" and it was not motioned.*

l) 2023 SDBI banquet in Yankton. Venue will be the Easton Center. Bruce Cull is a POC but Ronn McDaniel and Ron Pesek will likely be doing the heavy lifting. Ronn McDaniel discussed that everyone should bring a bow. There is a range and 3D targets.

m) 2024 SDBI banquet. Jake Leibke asked for volunteers to take on the role of POC and pick a location to hold the event. After a minute of silence with no volunteers, Leibke stated evidently nobody wants to have an SDBI banquet in 2024. Chad Scholten asked for a moment to confer. He and Forrest Cain have stepped up and volunteered to host a 2024 banquet in Deadwood SD.

n) Motion to Adjourn by John Meyen, Justin Broughton 2<sup>nd</sup>. Voice vote passed, meeting adjourned.

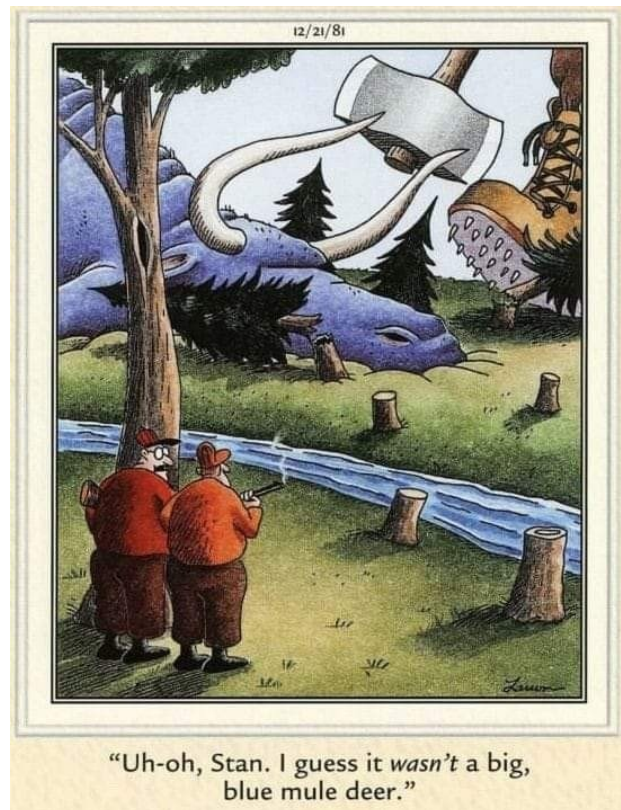
Minutes taken by Dana Rogers **DR** February 19, 2022.

x *Jake Leibke*

Jake Leibke

President

South Dakota Bowhunters Inc.



"Uh-oh, Stan. I guess it *wasn't* a big, blue mule deer."





# SDBI Donation Request Form

*Dana Rogers*



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## Jason Stone Bio

### Jason Stone

Chamberlain, SD



#### Introduction

Hello fellow SDBI members, my name is Jason Stone, I am born and raised in Chamberlain, SD. At this year's convention, I had the honor of being elected to your Board of Directors and ultimately as the Treasurer of the board. I currently reside in Chamberlain with my wife and two kids and am a Market President for a local bank. Wondering if the treasurer thing was a set up...haha. Either way, I'm thrilled to represent the organization and continue my support of bowhunting in the State of South Dakota. I wanted to write a short column here to introduce myself and provide my vision for SDBI moving forward.

To start out with, as you all are, I am a very passionate bow hunter, as well as a dedicated conservationist and land manager who strives to continually find better ways to manage habitat for our next generation of hunters so they too can experience the wonderful public resources our state has to offer.

#### Vision

As a new board member for the SDBI, my vision and interests lie one in the same with that of the organization. I am a passionate and proud bow hunter and conservationist who is committed to leveraging my voice and influence for the betterment and continued efforts of the SDBI to protect and improve our archery opportunities for all in the State of South Dakota. As a Banker, I have continually promoted and educated my producers on the benefits of utilizing State, USDA, NRCS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and FSA programs to transfer poor quality crop land back to native habitat in ways that are very beneficial not only to the wildlife, but to their own operation. By educating them on ways they can do so and actually improve their own bottom dollar, I can personally say I've helped these producers contribute to turning 1,000's of acres back to native habitat and thus helping to improve the conditions for our great State's public resource, wildlife. In addition, I serve on the South Dakota Banker's



## Jason Stone Bio

Association Legislative Committee and Agricultural Committee where I am able to provide a direct voice at the State Level with these efforts anywhere and anytime I can and am able.

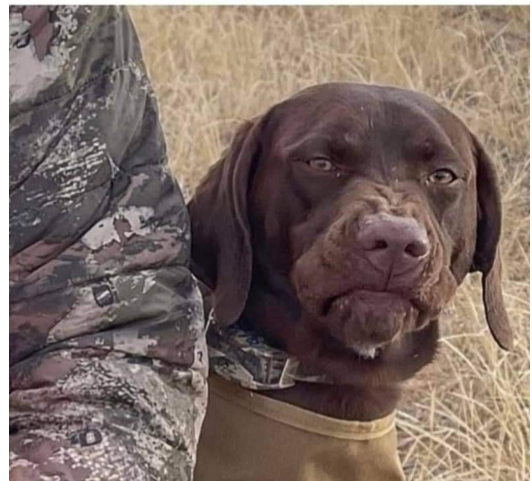
My primary vision for the organization focuses on growth. Growth in our voice, in our numbers, our relationship with our regulatory bodies, our exposure to various communities across the state, and ultimately growth in the strength our organization holds with all.

I understand and I hear you, this is not a simple task. It's a task that takes hours of brainstorming, planning, preparation, and execution by us all. I get it and understand that we all have tremendously busy lives. However with bow hunting being my number one passion, I'm prepared to dive in and commit to this cause. I urge you to do the same. SDBI currently sits at roughly 280 members, or roughly 1% of the total number of Resident archers in our state, and that FLOORS me! When I see that number, I think, how in the heck can we fail at growing our membership base? We shouldn't, and we won't! But, it will take an effort by us all to sell ourselves and the organization. My first call to action for our members is to simply make a conscious effort to simply TALK about SDBI on a more regular basis and ENCOURAGE people to become a member. Talk about us at your local archery club, at any 3D shoot you attend, and anytime you can when talking about and reminiscing about our past hunts and experiences with our friends. We ALL Do it, let's see if we can find the opportunity to slip SDBI into those conversations more often. We are a 501C3 organization and our membership fee is very affordable! This is an easy first step to growth that we all can take and I ask for your help in doing so!

Remember to have them follow SDBI on Facebook and to purchase their membership at [www.sdbi.net](http://www.sdbi.net)

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve you and SDBI on the Board of Directors and I look forward to meeting many of you in the near future!

Your dog watching you miss the 26th bird of the day.





## Future Bowhunters Being Developed In our Schools

*Ron Kolbeck*

The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) began in Kentucky in 2002. It is now taught, as part of an in-school curriculum, in 47 states and several foreign countries. NASP in South Dakota was introduced as a pilot program in 2007 with 12 schools participating. Sponsored by South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, South Dakota was the 42nd state to introduce the program.

South Dakota NASP currently has over 300 schools trained and equipped in the program. Over 13,000 South Dakota students participate each year with many being introduced for the first time to a shooting sport. Students participate not only in Bullseye target archery but also in 3D target shooting which includes North American game animals as targets. A State Bullseye and 3D Target tournament is held each year that attracts 500-1,000 students from across the state.

The 2022 GFP-NASP tournament is scheduled to be held on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD. Both the Bullseye and 3D tournament will be held with shooting to begin at 8:00 AM and concluding at approx. 5:00 PM. Students will be competing for trophies and prizes as well as the opportunity to advance to National and World Tournaments. Costs for the tournament are covered by SD GFP; however, the success of the tournament is dependent upon volunteers. Please consider supporting these youth as a volunteer by contacting Curt at [outdoorprogramming@gmail.com](mailto:outdoorprogramming@gmail.com) or call (605)220-2130.

While the mission of NASP is to promote instruction in international style target archery as part of an in-school curriculum, the program has also been very successful in creating interest in bowhunting. I saw this firsthand with many of these kids coming to my Bowhunter Education classes and coaches reaching out to provide Bowhunter Education as part of their after-school program. However, with the recent changes in Bowhunter Education requirements and resulting lack of classes available across the state, I am concerned that many of these kids will be left to fumble around on their own to learn the nuances of hunting with a bow and arrow and all the responsibilities that go along with it. They may also get frustrated and not follow through with exploring their interests.

I am hereby asking all SBDI members to reach out to your local schools and NASP instructors to determine how you might be able to help continue to develop that bowhunting spirit and desire in our youth. If you are not comfortable in a teaching environment, consider being a mentor to share what you have learned over the years and provide them with encouragement. I guarantee that helping a youngster harvest that first deer or turkey will put a smile on your face as well.





## Future Bowhunters Being Developed In our Schools (continued)

*Ron Kolbeck*



Jackson Hoffman, 2021 NASP State Champion (Bullseye and 3D)

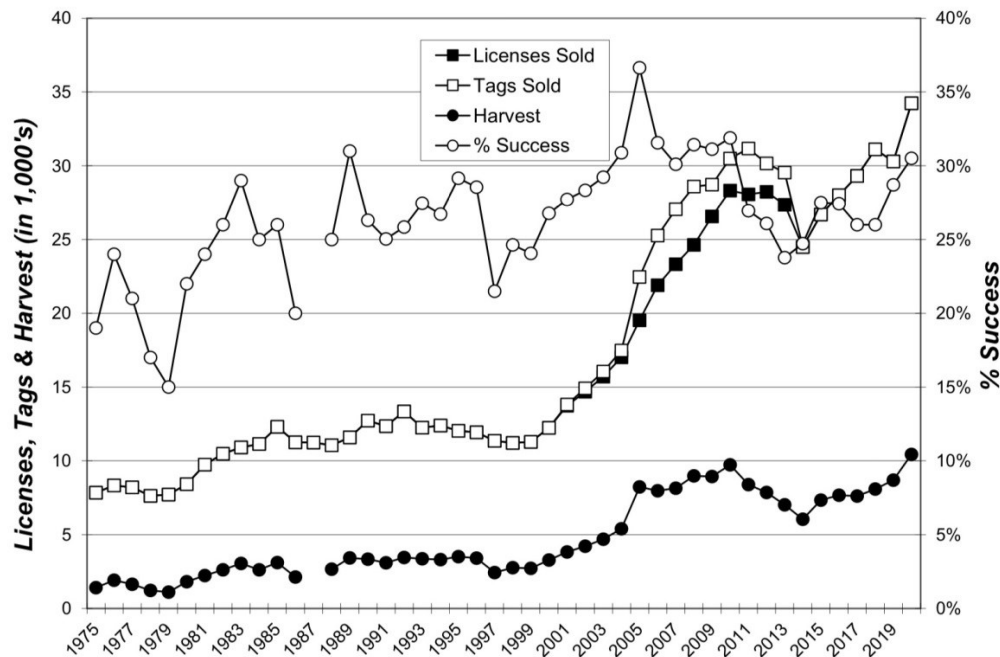


# South Dakota Bowhunting and Technology

Mike McKnight

The first archery season in South Dakota was in 1953 in the Black Hills. Archery hunting subsequently became legal statewide in 1956. Like in most states that preceded South Dakota, it was not an easy sell to the GFP. The story goes of Charlie Bledsoe of Bledsoe Archery convincing the GFP of the killing efficiency of a bow by shooting an arrow through a five gallon bucket full of sand, no doubt with one of Charlie's cherished Bear recurves. This happened after a GFP officer had shot a rifle in to the same bucket with the sand stopping the bullet. Witnessing an arrows power led to convincing GFP to hold an archery season. "Give them a season....they won't kill anything anyway", suggested Commissioner Holger Anderson. Or so the story goes. In 1953 and up until 1966 the only bows available to a bowhunter were recurves or longbows - primitive bows, not because of their inability to handle the task but rather due to their simplicity. In 1966 Hollis Allen is credited with the invention of the compound bow (a bow with the mechanical advantage of wheels and pulleys) and years after compound bows were invented they eventually made their way to SD. Research in Iowa shows that by the late 1970's over 70% of bowhunters used compounds. Likely a similar pattern followed in SD. Indeed, SD GFP's own website shows a graph with archery hunter numbers and success rates from 1975 to 2020:

Archery Deer 1975-2020



From studying this graph and its data, it seems safe to say that any statistical data prior to the late 70's is probably based primarily on the use of recurves and longbows. Anything from 1980 forward is likely predominantly compound bow related.

The graph above reveals a couple of interesting trends. First, as we made the steady shift in SD from primitive bows (longbows and recurves) to compounds the success rate increased and continued to do so on average steadily to a tag success rate in 2020 of 31%. Secondly, and equally as important, is the fact that as archery shifted from primitive bows to compounds the number of hunters steadily increased. The easier it became to shoot a bow the more hunters became attracted to bowhunting. This is not the only reason for an increased number of bowhunters - certainly population increase in SD was a factor as was a nationwide increase in the popularity of archery. That said, making bowhunting easier through sights, release aids, increased let off, treestands,



# South Dakota Bowhunting and Technology (continued)

*Mike McKnight*

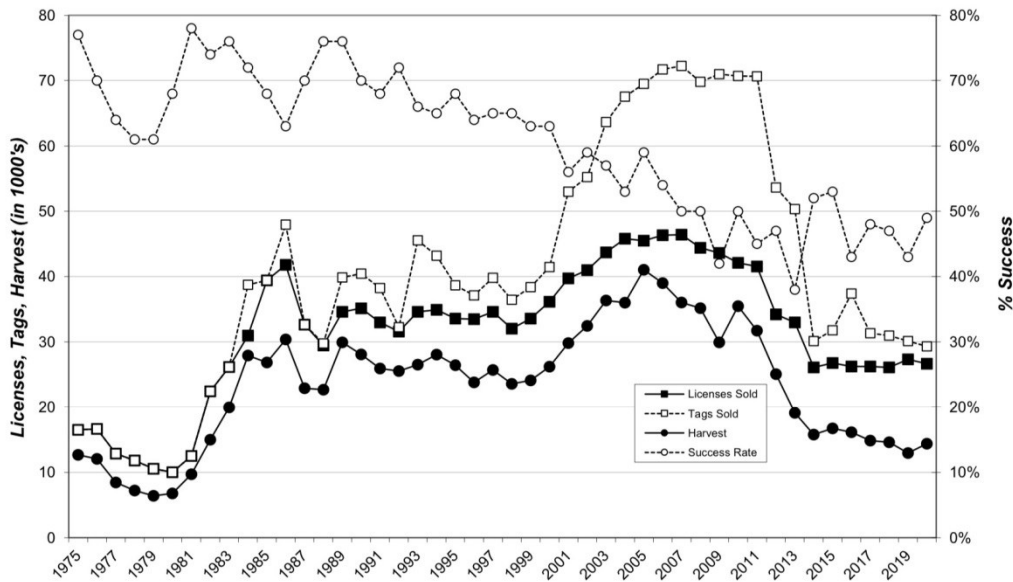
pop-up blinds, camo clothing, “scent free” clothing, scents, decoys, calls, trail cameras etc. certainly had something to do with the increase as well. This is not to say that technology is inherently bad but the impact on making bowhunting easier cannot be ignored. Another factor to consider is the fact that SD has a short rifle season with difficult limited draws for available tags. To be able to get out and shoot a deer or antelope with a rifle is hard to get licensed to do. Other than elk, all one has to do to hunt pronghorns, deer or a turkey with a bow is apply for the tag. According to Matt Knox with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries: My only comment is this: “If a state has a short firearms deer season, crossbows and other archery gear will be very popular,” Knox said. “Short gun seasons ‘drive’ deer hunters to archery seasons. And if an archery/crossbow license gets the deer hunter an additional deer tag—especially a buck tag—then the push to archery and crossbows further increases.”

Assuming that the success rate for archery remains the same at its current rate of roughly 30% and the number of hunters continues to increase at historical rates or higher as we make bowhunting easier through whatever form of increased technology, crossbows or otherwise, we will logically see an increase in the number of animals killed which will in turn eventually lead to the demise of unlimited draws in the archery seasons. Bowhunting will no longer be the primitive hunting method with no or very limited impact on game embraced by GFP in 1955.

States that have gone to an “anything goes” approach (crossbows, sling bows, air guns, pneumatic crossbows etc.) to archery seasons are typically those looking to maximize harvest. South Dakota is not in a position at this point to maximize the harvest of deer or antelope. Below are similar graphs to that shown above for East River and West River rifle deer:

## East River Deer Regular Season 1975-2020

(does not include Special Buck or Landowner Own Land)





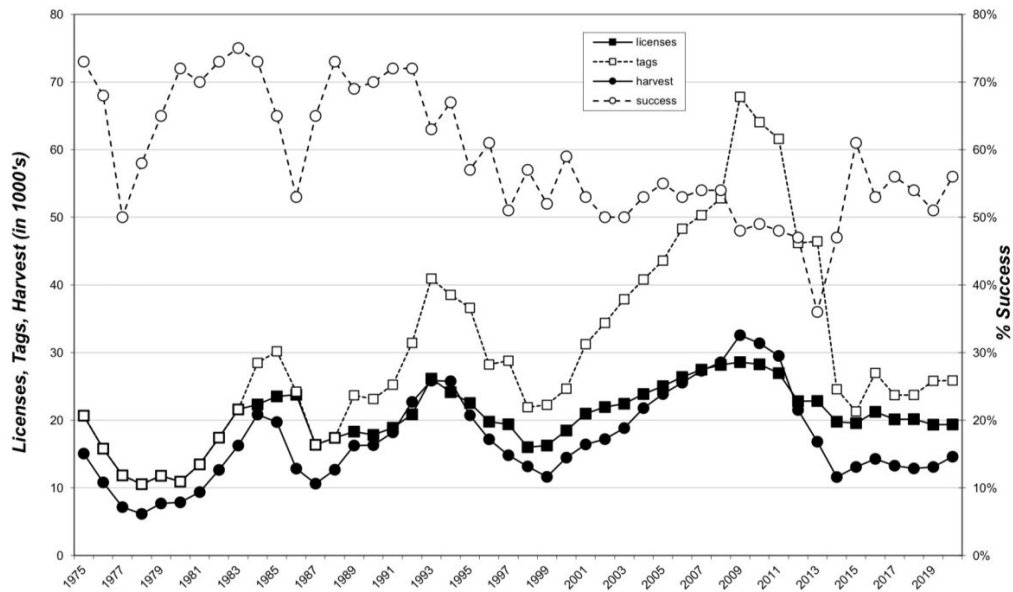
# South Dakota Bowhunting and Technology (continued)

Mike McKnight

of 5

## West River Deer Regular Season 1975-2020

(does not include Special Buck or Landowner Own Land)



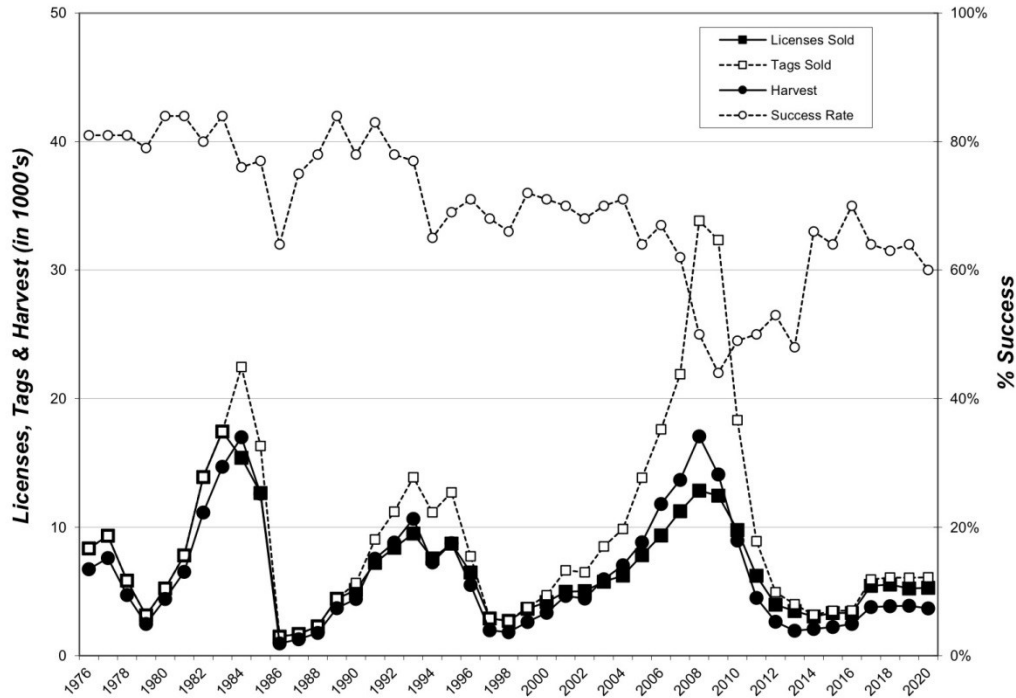
The drop in tags sold since 2011 is precipitous. This drop is indicative of a management objective looking to reduce, not increase or maximize harvest of deer. The same can be said for antelope. Look at the drop in tags sold between 2010 and 2012 as well as where tags are at in 2020. Is this a management plan looking to maximize harvest?



# South Dakota Bowhunting and Technology (continued)

Mike McKnight

## Firearm Antelope 1976-2020



2

“C.J. Winand, a veteran biologist and longtime contributor to Bowhunter Magazine, has studied crossbow trends the past decade. He notes two standard changes when states legalize crossbows, with both occurring roughly within five years: crossbow harvests match or exceed vertical-bow kills, and crossbow hunters make up about 50 to 60 percent of all bowhunters.” [Will Crossbows Ruin Bowhunting](#), Patrick Durkin January 28, 2019.

Until we get to a point in SD where we are looking to maximize the harvest of mule deer, whitetail deer or antelope, we should not be looking to increase the use of technology any further in those respective archery seasons by adding additional hunters in the field with crossbows. According to the Wisconsin DNR, crossbows have a higher success rate than ALL weapon types, including rifles. Let’s get a handle on deer and pronghorn populations before we start finding ways to kill more of them.





## GF&P Commissioner & SDBI Mixer



SDBI Wildlife Manager of  
The Year  
Diana Landegent

Thursday night, March 3rd the SDBI continued tradition by hosting a mixer and meal during the SD GF&P Annual Game Commissioners Meeting in Pierre. There were more people that showed than expected from the SDBI, GF&P and Game Commissioners for the rest and relax. There was a donation of 2 large Alaskan Moose roasts with a couple smaller "archery harvested" SD Black Angus roasts dropped off with Pure Bliss Catering a few days prior to the event. Moose summer sausage, Whitetail summer sausage and snack sticks were part of the treats we ate as well.

I seriously can't remember the last time I had so much fun. The event was too short and there were just too many great people to meet and catch up with. The "Good Ol" days, archery tournaments, hunting stories, new friends, teasing and smiles were on the agenda with about half of us turning our right ear towards the conversation to pick up what was being said due to the background noise.

Conservation Officer Diana Landegent received the SDBI Wildlife Manager of the Year Award. I am very impressed by the comments made by those that work with her and comments from several friends of mine that live in the Chamberlain community. She showed up early and came into the room where the SDBI ruffians and a couple other early arrivals were conversing around a table. Officer Landegent quickly engaged in the many conversations and we all learned more details on what she has accomplished for archery, wildlife and her community. Her dedication and commitment was very apparent, it's something that's inside a person and she has learned to act on it.

I can't speak for the other SDBI members, but I came away from the whole event quite excited seeing everyone. Spending the evening talking about the How's, Why's and Where's of archery hunting with those that help protect, manage and help preserve the resource is just about as good as it gets...other than having a bow in hand out in the field of course.

Shoot Straight,  
Ronn McDaniel, O.D.



## Bob Barden — Bledsoe Memorial Award







## SDBI Banquet Pictures — 2022







## Banquet Pictures — 2022 (continued)







## Banquet Pictures — 2022 (continued)







## Banquet Pictures — 2022 (continued)



**I see Fred Flintstone got home  
last night**





# Saskatchewan Bear Hunt Pictures

*Ronn McDaniel, O.D.*







# Saskatchewan Bear Hunt (continued)

*Ronn McDaniel, O.D.*







# Saskatchewan Bear Hunt (continued)

*Ronn McDaniel, O.D.*







# Saskatchewan Bear Hunt (continued)

*Ronn McDaniel, O.D.*







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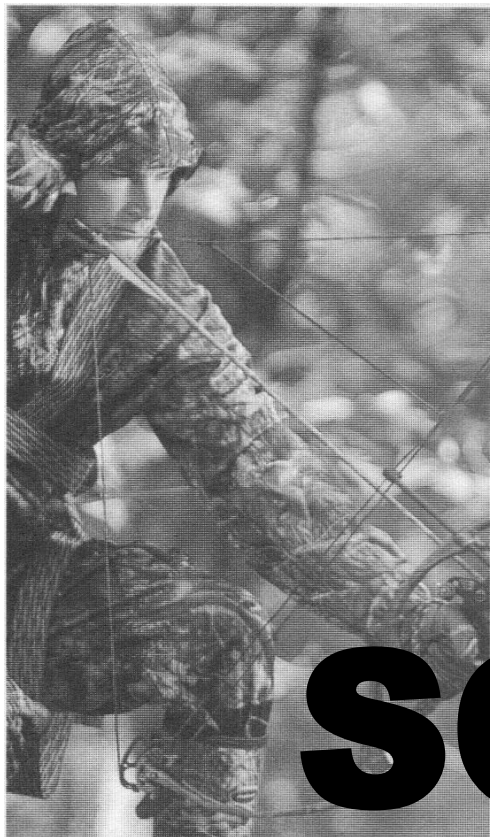
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