

*The  
South Dakota*

May 2023



*Bowhunter*

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*On the Front: Dana Rogers, Corsican Ram, TX Hill Country  
Hunt with longbow*

*On the Back: Dana Rogers, Angora Goat, TX Hill Country  
With a longbow*



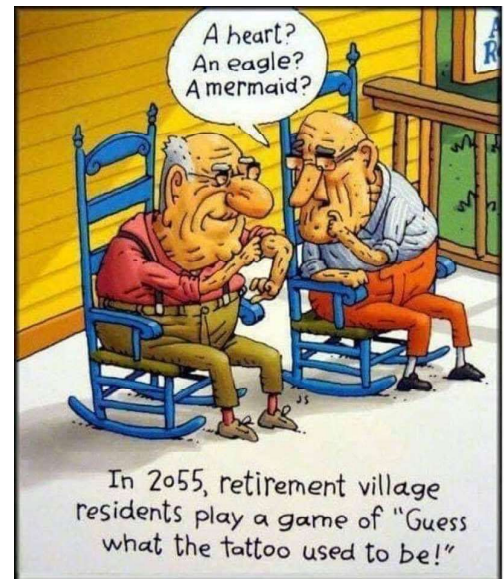
# Editor's Note

*Mike McKnight*

I graduated from SDSU with a wildlife and fisheries degree so identifying birds is something I have been doing for over forty years. For years my kids and wife thought I was just making it all up when I would identify a bird but thanks to Professor Les Flake I knew what I was doing, at least most of the time (although I have been known to wing it from time to time but don't tell my family). I have found that the older I get the more I enjoy bird watching all year but particularly so while I am bowhunting. Now, with the never ending increase in technology it is easier than ever and you can actually identify birds through sound. The "Merlin BirdID" app is available for free wherever you get your apps and allows you to record a bird song and it will identify that bird from the sound only. It is truly remarkable, accurate and a lot of fun. It will also help ID a bird visually as well through a series of relevant questions - size, habitat, color, etc.. I prefer the Audubon app for just random questions and visual identification but it does not have the sound ID feature as best I can tell. Try a little bird ID the next time you are out - it will help pass the time and increase your enjoyment of being in the woods.

Why am I writing about bird watching? Success in bowhunting is not dependent on seeing game or filling a tag. Sometimes the most successful hunting trip is the one where you sit alone with your thoughts, observing nature and maybe identifying a few birds. Don't let anyone ever tell you otherwise.

Play hard and have fun!



*Next deadline to submit articles or pictures is*

Email articles, photos, want ads, cartoons, and letters for newsletter submission to :  
Mike McKnight  
msmcknight2912@gmail.com



# President's Point

*Justin Broughton*

Think spring bowhunters! This winter has been a long and impactful one for man and certainly for beast. As I write this quarter's column, we are staring down the barrel of yet another late spring blizzard. Our deer and antelope herds have had a hard time of things this winter and I feel we may be looking at some significant winter loss in certain parts of the state. I'm hopeful spring will arrive soon and the news from around the state will be more positive than my expectations.

The good news is that SDBI's board and membership won some significant victories this past quarter with the Game Fish and Parks Commission. For the first time, we will have a cap and draw in place for public land archery deer and antelope tags in South Dakota. Considering the severe winter and the struggles of our mule deer and antelope herds this change could not have come at a better time. We did not get the commission to consider our requested changes to the petitions to include tighter restrictions on private land tags, lower cap numbers for deer and antelope, and the special buck format for private land tags but the commission was listening and asked good questions of the department. I'm cautiously optimistic that as we engage with the department in the upcoming deer management plan that we can craft better regulations and management practices for our struggling ungulate populations across the state. I also want to use a few column inches here to thank everyone for attending our annual convention and banquet in Yankton this past February. We had a great event, some excellent seminars, and a very accomplished keynote speaker in Randy Walk. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet many of you in person and to hear your concerns and how SDBI can better serve bowhunters in the state going forward. We managed to raise a few dollars for SDBI and enjoyed a fantastic evening of fellowship and fun with our fellow bowhunters. I'm already counting down the days until we can gather again in Deadwood in 2024.

Moving forward into 2023 we have a few new challenges to look at as an organization. Number one on our list is submitting a petition to have the crossbow removed from the archery paddletfish season here in South Dakota. We will also be looking at some other troubling trends impacting our bowhunters including the ever-increasing competition amongst turkey hunters in the Black Hills, filming and exploitation of our wildlife for monetary gain on our public lands and furthering our influence as an organization in the state relative to decision making impacting our archery seasons, licensing, and access.

2023 has already seen great momentum and growth in membership for SDBI. I have challenged the board, and now I challenge our membership as well, to double the size of SDBI prior to our 2024 convention. There is power in numbers, and we can have a bigger impact on decision making in Pierre if we can expand our influence amongst bowhunters in the state. If every one of our existing members can find one additional bowhunting buddy to join our ranks, we'll accomplish our goal of doubling membership in no time flat. We are also working to expand our social footprints and the sharing of our mission and impacts on Social Media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook. I encourage you to follow us on both platforms if you have not done so to keep up on all our activities. We have also begun selling or-

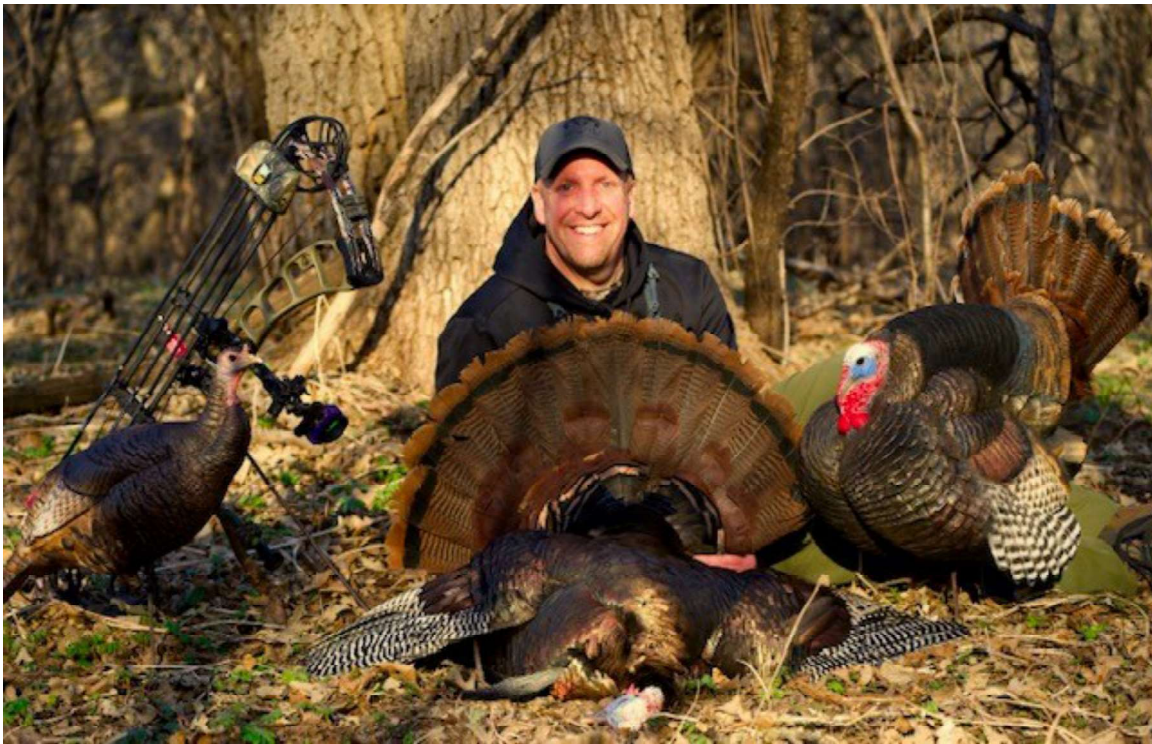


# President's Point (continued)

*Justin Broughton*

ganizational license plate decals to members. Please reach out to a board member to obtain your decals or for more information on how to obtain organizational plates as you renew your license plates for 2023.

Enough business for one quarterly column, after all it's almost turkey season. It's time to shake off the winter blues, get out the blind and decoys, and hear the sweet sounds of spring. I am an avid turkey hunter and look forward to the season opener each spring with barely bridled enthusiasm. I hope to see many of my fellow SDBI members out in the turkey woods this spring, if I run into any of you, please stop by for some conversation and to talk a little turkey. Best of luck to you all, may your arrows be true.





# Secretary/Lobbyist Report

*Dana Rogers*

I hope this spring finds each of you well and perhaps planning a spring turkey, bear or bowfishing trip. At the time of this writing, we are finished with our annual banquet/convention in Yankton. Huge Thanks to former VP Ronn McDaniel for running point on this years convention. It's a thankless job and takes quite a bit of time and effort. Also thanks to the local members there in Yankton that put time in to make it a success. The Easton NFAA center is a great venue for that type of event.

The annual convention was a great time and success, thanks to the efforts of all who put in so much time and effort. Also, thanks to all the members that attended and our guest speaker Randy Walk of Hoyt Archery fame. Board members Ronn McDaniel, Wyatt Skelton and John Meyen all decided to move on and we absolutely thank them so very much for their past efforts on behalf of SDBI. It takes a LOT of work and effort from board members to make everything happen. Each of these men gave a lot of themselves for SDBI and to advance bowhunting in South Dakota and I thank them so much for that.

With those three stepping down, we got an opportunity to welcome three new board members to take their places. Rob Mahaffey of Rapid City, Ron Kolbeck of Salem and Phil Lentz of Sioux Falls. thus far, I am extremely thrilled with the passion and energy all three have brought to the table. Each of them has come with some great ideas and energy to help SDBI make gains in the future.

We were given a bit of a reprieve with the legislature this year. none of the legislators brought forward a crossbow bill in this session. We really only had one bill to deal with extensively. A bill brought forth by non-resident money by a small handful of landowners to allow ALL landowners an elk permit on their own land. Never mind the fact it had no residency requirement, no acreage requirement, no elk use requirement nor was it a depredation type Cow only permit. I and other members worked to get this killed. With the help of the SDWF, Izaak Walton League and a few awesome SD legislators, we managed to get it killed. I do believe there is room to work with resident landowners that do experience elk use and depredation to make options available for them to get cow permits in the future. Hopefully that will happen through the SDGFP and sportsmen interaction on the elk stakeholder group.

As most of you know, SDBI has set me on a course to pursue several petition options on their behalf the past six years. We have had limited success with most of our petitions. We can look to the creation of the true limited entry unit in the Custer National Forest (35L) to require all bowhunters to draw that limited entry permit to hunt their. We hope this will eventually lead to much better mule deer hunting there, like we used to experience before the massive pressure influx of several years ago.



# Secretary/Lobbyist Report

*Dana Rogers*

With our most recent petition being turned around and directed back to the SDGFP Staff to "Do Something" about unlimited NR archery deer and antelope pressure, we saw a proposal take shape this winter. On March 9th, several of our board members, Justin Broughton, Jake Leibke, Jason Stone, Ron Kolbeck and I attended and testified in person. Board members Rob Mahaffey and Trevor Davis zoomed in online to testify and a few more SDBI members zoomed in to testify as well. Thanks to Mark Viehweg, Sam Kezar, Finn Sacrisson and Joel Murano for those outstanding contributions.

The SDGFP Commissioners finally voted to approve the GFP Proposal. This will now require that non-resident deer and antelope bowhunters that wish to bowhunt public land in South Dakota to draw a limited permit. 2,200 public land deer permits and 450 antelope permits. The proposal did NOTHING to limit private land archery permits though. We feel this is a good first step to trying to get a handle on the disproportionate harvest as well as human pressure on our public lands. More will likely need to be done going forward, but we'll wait for those statistics to bear fruit and see where further change may need to happen.

That evening, we also held our annual SDBI Hospitality night with the commissioners and Senior GFP staff. We awarded an awesome Conservation Officer the Wildlife Manager of the Year award and had a few hours of fellowship to discuss issues with all that attended. Tim Pravecek, Bob Barden, Finn Sacrisson and Dan McCormick were able to attend as well as the rest of the board that testified at the Commission meeting.

These issues we've been involved in on behalf of the Bowhunters here in South Dakota have certainly struck a chord with many. I believe we've signed up over 30 brand new members this past month. I believe we can directly point to our involvement on these issues with the legislature and in particular the GFP Commission. Working for the wildlife of South Dakota followed by the resident bowhunters interests is something we can all be proud of in SDBI.

To those that have helped me lobby, work to persuade staff and commissioners, I can't thank you enough! It's been a very frustrating process but I hope most are happy with some of the progress we've made.



# Introducing Ron Kolbeck



*(Ron with his 2022 Black Hills buck)*

As a new SDBI board member, I was asked to provide an article to introduce myself to the members at large. After some consideration I determined that the best way to do this was to explain what has motivated me to first become a BowHunter Education and HuntSafe instructor as well as provide leadership in various conservation minded organizations over the years. This is the same motivation that will guide me as a leader for SDBI.

Having been introduced to bowhunting at a very young age, my mentors (my dad and uncle) passed along a strong sense of a hunter's responsibility in wildlife conservation. My interest in wildlife conservation continued to grow as I read many publications and articles, including writings by Leopold, Muir, Grinnell, Roosevelt and others. I received my first formal exposure to The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation as I was studying to become a Bowhunter Education instructor. Then, in 2006 I watched "Opportunity For All" for the first time as Shane Mahoney explained the model and its history. This instilled in me a greater sense of pride and determination to protect wild resources and ensure they continue for generations to come. I continue to use this video in my hunter education classes and at other public showings in the hopes that it will have the same impact on others.

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is a set of principles that helps us understand, evaluate, and celebrate conservation achievements and assess whether we are prepared to address challenges that lay ahead. This model was developed over several decades and influenced by many influential leaders and organizations, but the common purpose appears to be a desire to preserve wild resources and thus preserve self-reliance and pioneer





# Introducing Ron Kolbeck (continued)

skills that helped build the United States and Canada. Today, urbanization continues to erode these qualities.

There are seven principles (The 7 Sisters) that describe the key properties of the model.

1. Wildlife resources are a public trust.
2. Markets for game are eliminated.
3. Allocation of wildlife is by law.
4. Wildlife can be killed only for legitimate purpose.
5. Wildlife is considered an international resource.
6. Science is the proper tool to discharge wildlife policy.
7. Democracy of hunting is standard.

These seven pillars formed the foundation for wildlife conservation in Canada and the United States, but some have questioned the validity of certain components in contemporary times. In fact, many challenges to these principles have been made in recent discussions on issues here in South Dakota. Therefore, I will be taking a closer look at each of these principles over the next several issues to explain their history, provide an update on their current status, and identify current and potential challenges.

I invite anyone to reach out to me directly if there any issues or concerns that I may be able to address.

Hope to see you all in the field or on the range!



*(Ron is also a certified Basic Archery Instructor Trainer for the NASP program and a certified 4-H Archery coach. He is pictured here with his daughter Georgianna after she won her first tournament.)*



## Introducing Phil Lentz

Being I am a new Board Member I would like to take a moment to formally introduce myself. My name is Phil Lentz, I grew up hunting in Southern MN, and hunting was a large portion of my life. Greatest memories I have from my youth is hunt camp. Moved to SD for collage with my wife and we never moved back to the “challenging” state of MN. I didn’t hunt much here in SD until I got into archery. My son gets credit for it. He was really wanting to try archery when he was 8 and then it just turned into an addiction after that. My family loves the outdoors, we spend as much time outside as we can. As a family we are National Park chasers, our goal is to visit every park. We are about 1/3 of the way there. I am an employee of the Department of Public Safety for the last 18 years.

When I was humbled and honored to become a board member, I didn’t know what my roll was going to really be, but I have been worked into a couple rolls that I am very much enjoying. I guess so far, I have been more of a behind the scenes person. I have been doing website work, keeping the membership database up to date and keeping up with our members. My biggest and most important role is gaining membership. I am hoping to have a positive impact on growing SDBI. Justin stated he wanted to go from 300 members to 600 members in 2023. A lofty goal, maybe but its very much a reachable goal with effort.

One fun thing I have worked on with the board is getting the license plate project completed. I really wanted to display the SDBI Logo on my SD plates. We were not a registered non-profit with the Department of Revenue for the right to use the logo for that purpose. After getting that application process completed, we are excited to offer those decals for sale in 2023, just in time when everyone gets new plates. Please consider purchasing organizational license plates when you renew your vehicles this year so you can proudly display the SDBI Logo. At the time I write this I am waiting not so patiently for the decals to be printed and delivered for distribution. The decals will cost members \$15 per set. If you are wanting a set, please reach out to me and I will get that taken care of when I get the decals. I do have an active list for members already. The plate below is an example of what it would look like. Please keep in mind the decal will be transparent and much clearer.

I will do my best to serve the SDBI in whatever capacity I am tasked and it my honor to be a Board Member!





# NFAA-National Indoor Archery Tournament

*Ronn McDaniel, O.D.*

On March 24-26, the NFAA National Indoor Archery Tournament was held in Louisville, KY. South Dakota had a good showing with some top places as well. Four shooters from the Sioux Falls Jr. Olympic Archery Development program -- JOAD, came home with Second Places finishes. Both Coach Tim Audus, Senior Pro and Coach Jack Moulton, Silver Senior Recurve placed second in their class as well as Tressa in Youth Female Recurve and Lexi in Cub Female Bowhunter Freestyle. The SDBI Tyler Pierce family had a great time with 2 daughters shooting. According to Coach Dad, he thinks watching and coaching are way harder on the hairline than shooting competition himself.

The smiles tell the whole story, if you have the opportunity, get involved with youth archery in your area whether it is 4H, NASP, JOAD or just your local community club, your efforts can have unmeasurable rewards.





# NFAA-National Indoor Archery Tournament (continued)

*Ronn McDaniel, O.D.*





# NFAA-National Indoor Archery Tournament (continued)

Ronn McDaniel, O.D.





## Thank You from Tri Valley Archery Boosters!

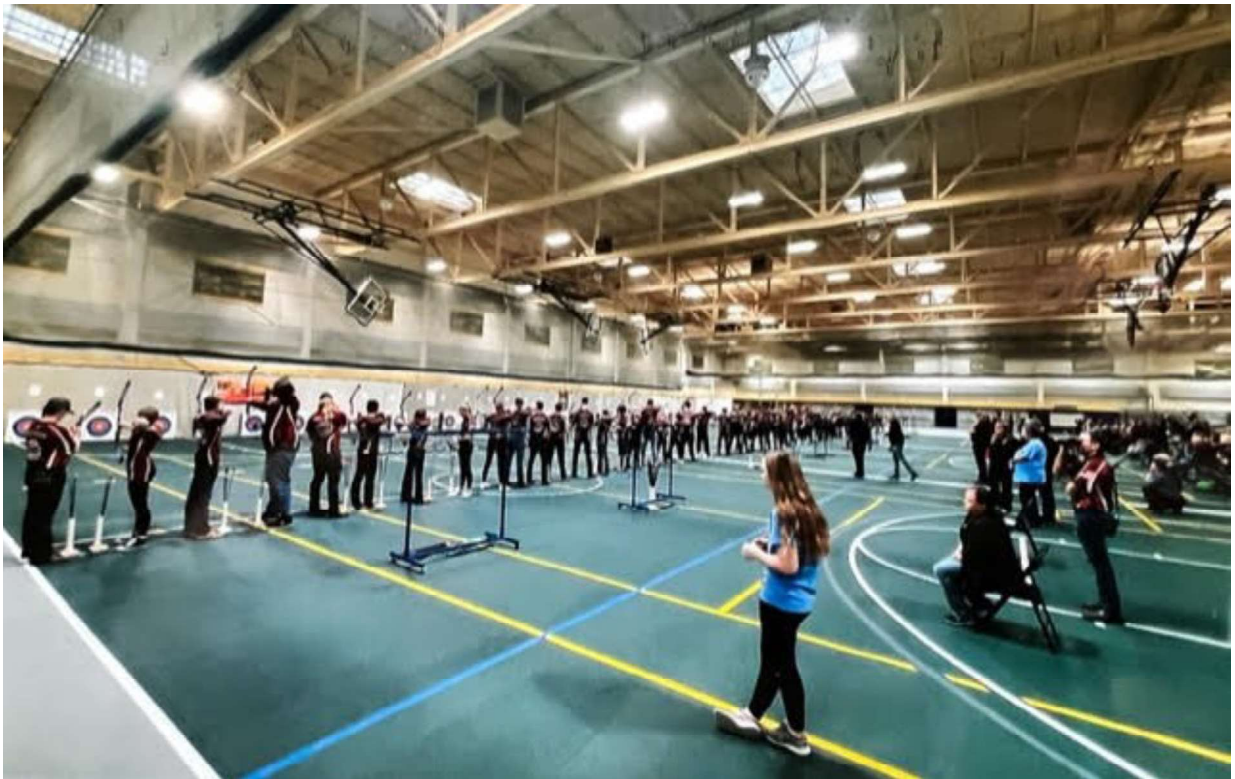
Thank you for your donation to Tri-Valley Archery Boosters. We will use those funds to cover registration fees for National tournaments. Included are a couple photos of our team at the state tournament in Sparks this year. We had a successful outing! We appreciate your support!

Thanks again,  
Tri-Valley Archery Boosters





Thank You from Tri Valley Archers!





## Commission Results/Wildlife Professional of the Year

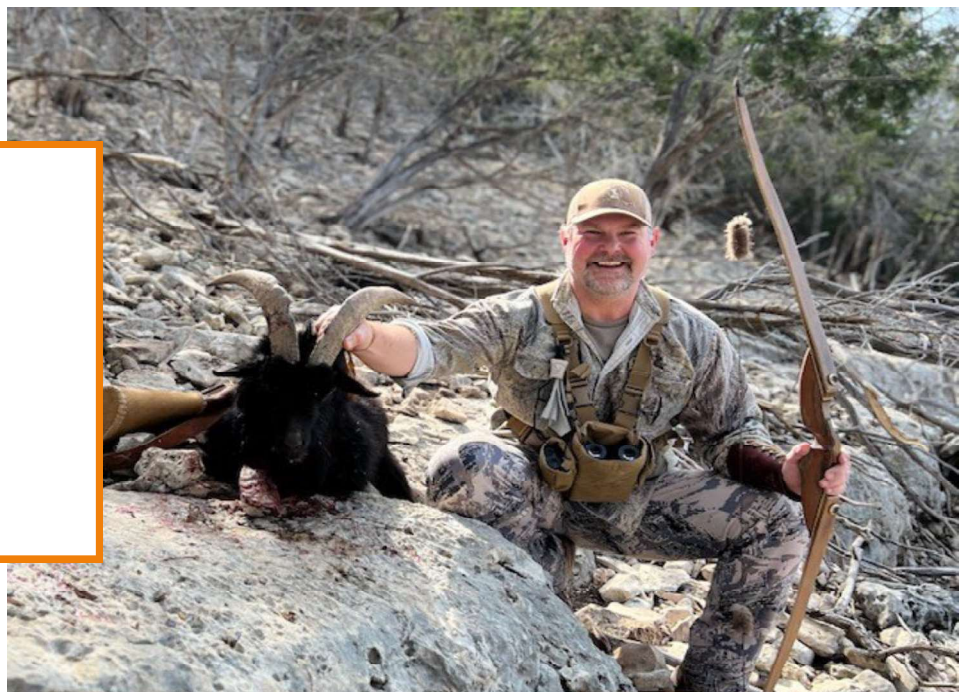
*Dana Rogers*

After Six years of effort, SDBI was finally able to get a win with regard to unlimited NR archery permits. The GFP Staff proposal was passed without any further changes. That ONLY affects PUBLIC Lands, while Private lands remain totally unlimited. The permits will be set at 2,200 public land deer permits for non-residents and 450 public land pronghorn permits. Huge thanks to President Justin Broughton, VP Jake Leibke, Treasurer Jason Stone, and board member Ron Kolbeck for making the trip in person and joining in testifying. Board member Trevor Davis, member Joel Murano and member Sam Kezar also 'zoomed' in and provided testimony. Thanks to all who made phone calls and sent e-mails over the years in support of petitions.

Later last evening SDBI held our hospitality night for the GFP Commissioners and Staff. We honored Conservation Officer Zach Thomsen as our Wildlife Manager of the Year and had great fellowship and discussions with the commissioners and staff. Board member Tim Pravecek and members Bob Barden and Dan McCormick also attended along with the rest of the board and many commissioners and senior staff. I've attached two photos showing the award.

One other note to pass along, SDBI was able to sign up approximately 30 new members in the past few weeks. Our mission and efforts on behalf of the public trust wildlife and conservation minded resident first approach seems to really resonate. It's also time to submit your articles and photos to Mike McKnight for the May Newsletter. [msmcknight2912@gmail.com](mailto:msmcknight2912@gmail.com)

Spanish Goat, TX Hill Country







# Wildlife Professional of the Year — 2023

## Zach Thomsen





## Surveys 2.0

*Rob Mahaffey*

During my testimony to the GF&P Commission last month I felt that all of my peers had pretty well covered why there needed to be a cap and draw for NR Pronghorn & Deer Archery Tags. It was obvious and in my opinion decades overdue. Instead I chose to verbalize the need going forward to establish a mandatory harvest survey system. We were all begging for a cap and draw over actual deer and pronghorn harvest numbers that weren't even close to accurate. How many archery deer and pronghorn were harvested in 2022??? NOBODY KNOWS. It's all just educated guesses at this point. Well that's not how science and biology work. We need to know. Our herds health and long term existence demand we know. Recently SDBI held a survey poll on Instagram and Facebook. The Poll asked how many followers would be willing to participate in a mandatory harvest survey for the 2023 Archery Pronghorn Season. The results were overwhelming in favor of a mandatory harvest survey. 95% said yes on Instagram and 92% said yes on Facebook. I get it, that doesn't represent all of the Bowhunters in SD. However it's good enough for me. I've been told internally at GF&P that these types of things create angst amongst hunters which honestly I feel it is more like someone being afraid that people will stop buying tags if something becomes too strict. We all know that's not true. You're either a hunter or you are not. You'll do what it takes to preserve our wildlife and assist the biologists in collecting real data. We as hunters need to be the ones pushing this type of change at GF&P. We all need to show them (GF&P) that we care. If it makes it sound any better we're one of the only states that has Pronghorn and Mule Deer that doesn't require mandatory surveys. Let's get this done!



## Convention 2023 Pictures

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# Convention 2023 Pictures (continued)





# Convention 2023 Pictures (continued)





# Convention 2023 Pictures (continued)





# Convention 2023 Pictures (continued)





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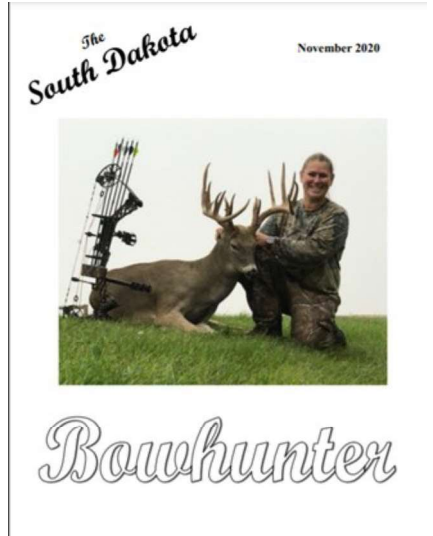
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- South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc. is a bowhunting organization interested in preserving and upgrading bowhunting in South Dakota.
- South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc. is a leader in the South Dakota Bowhunters Education Program.
- South Dakota Bowhunters, 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.



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