

*The  
South Dakota*

November 2023



*Bowhunter*

## In This Issue

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|   |    |
|---|----|
| Editor's Note.....                        | 3  |
| Presidents Column.....                    | 4  |
| 24 Banquet Info.....                      | 6  |
| Secretary / Lobbyist Colum.....           | 7  |
| Early Harvest Success.....                | 8  |
| The Sounds Our Deer Make.....             | 13 |
| North American Model of Conservation..... | 15 |
| Sponsors.....                             | 17 |
| Membership Info.....                      | 20 |

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*On the Front: Al and Will Krause of Black Hills Archery in the Brooks Range Alaska.*

*On the Back: Board Member Jake Scouting for the 23 Season.*



# Editor's Note

What a crazy late summer here at SDBI. Getting really ramped up for 2024 banquet, getting new members taken care of, it has been a really good busy! I have met a couple of our new members over the last couple weeks and what a classy bunch of people we have, just a passionate group of conservationists that love their rights to utilize the great resource of South Dakota and beyond! Along with that everyone's favorite season is upon us, hunting season. I have already spent as much time in my tree stand as my wife will tolerate and my 12 year old has already missed one deer. Its been a great season for so far and that is the truth of it. I have been procrastination writing because I have always had someplace fun to be this year. Like most parents, if the kids are ready to hunt were hunting.

This newsletter is our newsletter, your newsletter so I am challenging you all to provide me with the content. I need you harvest pics, stories, pics of your kids doing the traditions we teach them. Put your personal stamp on the newsletter and please consider submitting. I have gotten comments when I have asked a couple of people why don't you send me that picture, or share with me that hunt story. One response I get often times is, "well its not a trophy so nobody wants to see that." And I really have a hard time with that logic. I am going to quote Jake I recall him saying any successful harvest is a trophy! And he is 100% correct. If you take a young buck, a doe or that monster of a lifetime all successful harvests should be celebrated! As I started hunting with my son last year and now on year two, he filled his mentor tag, his first ever last year with a really nice doe, but to him you would have thought he just got a world record. And for myself I am a meat hunter, goal one is to fill my freezer but now I am more of a memory hunter with my son. I get just as much excitement or more helping him have a successful hunt rather than myself. So send me your great pics, your memory harvest from the 2023 season! Email them to [sdbi.net@gmail.com](mailto:sdbi.net@gmail.com) or through our social media channels. Don't be surprised if they get shared with the SDBI family for everyone to enjoy. I love seeing our members having great seasons and what they harvest.

Have a great November and December in the field, and celebrate every trophy!

- Phil

Pictured me and my son hunting memories and trying for that trophy!



*Next deadline to submit articles or pictures is Dec. 21st 2023*

Email articles, photos, want ads, cartoons, and letters for newsletter submission to :  
Phil Lentz  
[sdbi.net@gmail.com](mailto:sdbi.net@gmail.com)



## Presidents Column

I hope this edition of our newsletter finds you all well and enjoying the fruits of fall. The rut should be heating up and I wish all of you a safe and successful archery deer season. We're blessed to have the opportunities we have in South Dakota to pursue big game with archery equipment and SDBI remains committed to ensuring those opportunities are here for you and our future generations for many years to come.

Personally, my hunting season has been fantastic thus far. I had enough to points to draw a Wyoming elk tag this year and was able to spend a week in the beautiful Wyoming backcountry with some good friends. On the third day of our trip, I notched my Wyoming elk tag with a good general area bull and filled the freezer for the winter. The bull read the textbook and came into our calling on a string. A 50-yard shot took out the top of his heart and he was down in a matter of seconds, the blood trail and tracking job being short and easy to follow.

I always say, the best way to screw up a good elk hunt is to shoot an elk, that's when the fun stops and the work starts! The pack out was around 2 miles downhill, but it was through some nasty deadfall and steep terrain. The good news is I had spent the entire summer training to run the Chicago marathon, which was coming up the first weekend in October, so I was in great shape. We made it back to the truck in one heavy trip and celebrated our successful hunt. I'm also happy to share that I finished the Chicago marathon in October, my first full marathon. Being able to bowhunt in the high country is a passion of mine, and largely has driven my desire to stay in good shape to be able to chase critters in wild places for as long as I can. I sincerely hope all of you are blessed with the health to do the same.

As our attention now turns to chasing rutting bucks and autumn starts to fade to winter, I want to update you on some future happenings with the organization. First and foremost is our annual convention next April in Deadwood. Tickets are now on sale and sales have been brisk. We have a limit of 200 seats for the event and expect it to sell out quickly. We're already over halfway there. If you plan to attend, please make sure you buy your tickets early to ensure you have a seat. We're extremely excited to have Randy Newberg as our keynote speaker this year. Randy is humble, engaging, and as accomplished a public land hunter as you will find. His advocacy for public land access and conservation has helped bowhunters across the west access opportunities for hunts they may have only dreamed of. I look forward to introducing Randy to all of you in April.





## Presidents Column Cont.



Finally, I'd like to touch on the topic of the deer management plan currently under review by the Game Fish and Parks. There has not been much movement from the department on the plan since our last newsletter. I do appreciate everyone who took the time to complete their deer licensing surveys sent out by SDBI. We'll be using those stats and data points to guide our approach to our recommendations to the GFP as we start to see what comes from the department. I urge you all to stay informed by following along with our e-mail updates and all our social channels on Facebook and Instagram. We'll be updating you every step of the way.



# 2024 Banquet

South Dakota Bowhunters proudly presents Randy Newberg for the 2024 Annual Banquet. Tickets to go on sale October 1<sup>st</sup>. Only 200 tickets available! Convention is held at Cadillac Jacks in Deadwood April 5-6th 2024

- Ticket Options:
- Lifetime Member: \$50
- General Ticket: \$60
- Under 18 Ticket: \$25
- Table of 8: \$550 (table package included 8 tickets, \$100 in general raffle tickets, SDBI swag)
- Ticket prices increase \$10 Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Tickets will be on sale 10/1 @ [www.sdbi.net](http://www.sdbi.net)



**Do you have your tickets yet? Don't wait and get your tickets today.  
This will be a great convention!**

**Do you have ideas or suggestions for convention 2025? It is a way off  
yet but we start planning just as soon as 2024 convention ends. Share  
you thoughts, ideas, concerns with us.**

**Email your ideas to; [sdbi.net@gmail.com](mailto:sdbi.net@gmail.com)**



## Secretary / Lobbyist Column

Hopefully your early season hunts have been fun and everyone is getting ready for a great November Rut! The antelope and deer numbers out here on the western plains have certainly seen better days from my observations. Thanks to everyone that has supported SDBI by purchasing their summer raffle tickets and banquet tickets for the April convention in Deadwood. Rob's putting together a great event with some fantastic seminars and of course getting Randy Newberg to volunteer his time to support SDBI.

If you haven't taken the time to purchase your banquet tickets yet, please do so ASAP. The seats are limited to 200 and at this writing, we are already nearly ½ way to selling out. As always, I want to thank my fellow board members for all their hard work and dedication. Phil Lentz in particular has really been awesome in his tireless efforts these past several months. We are really trying to look for more ways to increase memberships and retain the members we have. Please, whenever you are visiting with fellow bowhunters, let them know about SDBI and the importance of why they should join.

The hot topics of the day are the possible changes to our Deer Management plan, license allocations and what changes could perhaps come from these decisions. President Justin Broughton will be representing SDBI and doing his best to express our wishes and positions. We tried to provide him the most up to date membership information by creating a survey and asking for our members to respond. Unfortunately, as with most of the survey's sportsmen are asked to respond to, the response rate was far less than we'd hoped. Here are a few strong majority responses we can see come through.

81% of SDBI members responding also apply for firearms deer licenses.

75% of SDBI members responded that they do purchase preference points. Obviously, those that ONLY bowhunt have not had too previously.

90% of respondents are opposed to including archery permits into the 2 choices draw system.

89% are OPPOSED to moving non-residents up from the 4<sup>th</sup> draw to the 3<sup>rd</sup> draw.

Approximately 2/3 of respondents would be open to requiring a permit draw for all Mule Deer opportunities.

The other questions were less distinct in identifying a clear majority position of 2/3 or higher.

We encourage every member to become directly involved in processes like this. Hopefully, SDGFP will have open meetings and hearings to provide every citizen the opportunity to voice our thoughts. One thing we continue to discuss at the board level that I would like to see get much more of concerted push for. MANDATORY harvest surveys and check ins. Many states already require this. They can easily be done over the phone or internet. You check in your animal, provide vital biological information and then receive a verification code back to "validate" your harvest. Some people may have concerns over something like this. I'd ask why? If you hunt Mt. Lions or Elk in SD you already have to actually take your animal in within 24 hours. For us to look at biological impacts and true statistics when some of these changes come up, shouldn't we have 100% accurate and factual data to make these decisions?

Early in 2024 we will once again face a legislative session. As your lobbyist, I'll be watching to see what bills are pushed forward that may affect us. I'd certainly encourage each of you to be involved in the state political process and keep your eyes peeled for areas that impact sportsmen. I've discussed and worked on a few scenarios with other groups and the SDBI board, but it's not something we formally do as an organization. I do think there are areas where sportsmen should become proactive legislatively though. If there are areas, you'd like to see changes, the South Dakota Wildlife Federation is a great organization.

As always, we have future opportunities to help with projects. Board positions will come open and other volunteer positions/events will need to be staffed. Please consider getting more involved and help SDBI increase our reach and impact.

~Dana



# Early Harvest Success!



Top: Craig Oberle

Below: Keith Pullins







# Early Harvest Success!



Top: Tim Hoeck

Bottom:  
Josh Hagemann





# Early Harvest Success!



Submitted by Danny Fraser





# Early Harvest Success!

Joel and Austin





# Early Harvest Success!

Ronn McDaniel with a bonus trophy!





# The Sounds Our Deer Make

*By: Christian Monson*

Most of the time deer seem like ghosts walking through the woods. For the hunter it might sound like the forest is filled with everything but deer. In reality, though, deer are quite vocal animals, and they express themselves with a variety of noises that all mean different things, from warnings to sweet talk. Knowing these sounds is essential to the effective hunter. Not only can they let him know where deer are and what they're doing, but certain sounds may repel or attract certain types of deer at certain times. It might sound complicated, but there are definitely harder languages to learn. In the end learning the vocabulary of deer speak is a lot of fun. One of the things that have helped deer survive for so long is their herd mentality. They take care of each other. One way they do that is by warning each other when there's danger. Specifically, there are a few sounds you should be aware of because if you hear them, it probably means a deer knows you're around and has just alerted the rest of the herd.

## Sniffs:

If a deer begins to sense something is off, they may start making sniffing sounds. Not only are they trying to get a better smell, one of the easiest ways they can find you out, but they're also putting the rest of the herd on edge. The sniff doesn't sound much different than a human sniff, only stronger and deeper. Imagine air being sucked in through a deer's large nose.

## Stomping:

Along with sniffing, suspicious deer may begin lightly stomping their hooves. This happens when they first suspect danger but aren't quite sure where or what it is yet.

The noise sounds just like a wood block striking the ground and is usually noticeable since the deer are otherwise as silent as mice. The stomping puts the rest of the herd on alert so that they can more easily pinpoint the threat.

## Snorts:

The snort happens when a deer is positive there's danger around. It means whatever methods you've employed to camouflage your body, noises and scents haven't been enough. The snort sounds similar to a human sneeze, and nothing is more disheartening than hearing it off in the distance just when you've given up for the day and decided to start making your way out of the woods. The deer will snort, raise its tail and run away. The sound will alert other deer, and they'll all do the same.

## Angry:

When they're in the rut, male deer shed some of their usual cautiousness in order to chase the does. This certainly applies to their sounds as well, and a buck in the rut will be a lot louder than usual. In fact, he'll make a variety of sounds to intimidate other bucks or warn them of his presence, and he'll respond to sounds that make him think there's another male around. He'll make sounds to try to seduce the does as well.

## What about grunts:

Bucks make a loud grunting sound to show their dominance. While all deer make soft, long grunts to call to one another, the deep, short grunt of the buck is the male claiming the territory and does in it as his own. He'll usually make it when he's decided on a specific doe to chase, and he'll continue making the grunts as he chases her. The sounds are also attractive to the females. When other bucks hear the sounds of antlers rattling, they know two males are fighting and will usually come to watch, especially the dominant buck of the area because he'll want to know who's fighting in his territory. This is why imitating this sound can attract them.

## Rattle Rattle:

The buck rattle isn't a vocalization of the deer. It's the sound of two bucks fighting. When they spar, they clang their antlers together making a rattling sound. Before the rut begins, this can be light sparring just to size each other up, but when the does are in estrus, this becomes serious fighting to determine dominance. If



## The Sounds Our Deer Make Cont.

### Wheezing:

The snort-wheeze is an especially aggressive sound used to intimidate rivals. It sounds just like the name implies: a snort followed by a raspy wheeze. Two bucks vying for territory and does may make these sounds at each other to display their dominance. If one buck is smaller or more timid, the noise might send him running, but the more aggressive males usually make this sound just before they spar. This noise combined with the rattling antlers really gives the impression of a fight and will attract curious and dominant bucks to the area.

### Other sounds:

Being herd animals, deer need some way to communicate, and one of those ways is sound. They don't just make noises to show fear or anger, but they also make different sounds when they're excited, happy or even bored. Does especially have a wide range of vocalizations they use with each other and their fawns.

### Doe grunts:

The grunt of a doe is much higher than that of a buck because the females have smaller bodies, and just like in humans, this results in a shorter airway. The does don't grunt to show dominance, though. Basically, they just do it to talk to one another. Deer are highly social, and they try to gather together when they can, so a grunt is the deer's way of telling others it's around and ready to mingle, so to speak. The mothers also grunt to call the fawns if it's feeding time or if they're moving to a new location.

### Doe bleat:

Does also bleat in social situations. The bleat is a higher-pitched vibrating sound, similar to that of a goat. They mostly do it when they are gathered together or with their fawns, and it signals contentment.

When the does go into heat and are ready to mate, they make their own sound to seduce the bucks. This is the estrus bleat and it's higher than the bucks' calls. It almost sounds like a kazoo. When a doe wants to mate, she'll stop and make the bleat which lets the buck chasing her know she's ready. This can be one of the loudest noises deer make and is very distinctive.

### Fawn sounds:

Baby deer, or fawns, make a lot of different noises to communicate with their mothers. The does have strong maternal instincts and respond quickly to calls from their babies. Consequently, if you're hunting a doe, the best way to attract her may be to mimic the sounds of a fawn. When the fawns are nursing or trying to nurse, they whine. It's a rising and falling pitch that actually sounds a lot like a rusty screen door blowing in the wind, but the fawns make it to bond with their mothers. Like most social communication between deer, it is not audible from much of a distance. If a fawn is in danger, it will call for its mother's help. The call sounds like a loud continuous cry that can sometimes be eerily human. If it's enough to make you feel like you need to go see what's wrong, just imagine how it sounds to a mother deer. Does will normally come fast to find the crying fawn, even if their own babies are safe by their side. As you can imagine, the noise increases in volume depending on how much the fawn feels in danger. It might be quiet and rhythmic if the fawn is merely lost and looking for the herd, or it could be loud and panicked if it's being chased by a predator. You're mostly likely to hear this sound at the beginning of the season when fawns are still small and dependent on their mothers, and that's also when you'll have the best luck imitating it, though it can be successful year-round. Fawns also make a goat-like bleating sound similar to the does when they are happy. Because of their small bodies, the pitch is higher than that of the adults, but it serves basically the same purpose. The fawns bleat when they're playing with each other or socializing with their mothers, and it encourages social bonding within the herd. You're likely to hear young deer playing around and bleating while their mothers feed.



# North American Model of Conservation

## **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 2) Markets for Game Are Eliminated and 3) Allocation of Wildlife Is by Law. 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](http://wildlife.org/publications/technical-reviews).

### **Markets for Game Are Eliminated**

The unregulated trafficking in meat, hides, and other parts of game animals and nongame birds in the 19<sup>th</sup> century led to drastic and, in some cases, catastrophic declines in populations. It has since been held in principle that markets for game and nongame wildlife are unacceptable because they privatize a common resource and lead to declines. Exceptions have been made for furbearers under the premise that activities are highly regulated, serve a conservation purpose, and helps manage conflicts between furbearers and humans.

The first documented efforts to eliminate markets for game animals were those of the New York Sportsmen's Club, formed in 1844 with objectives confined to protection and preservation of game, and funds appropriated solely for those purposes. They drafted, led efforts to enact, and enforced the first game laws directed against market hunting.

The Boone and Crockett Club was responsible for important legislation at the state and federal levels. Club member Congressman John Lacey of Iowa sponsored the Yellowstone Park Protection Act which passed in 1894, becoming the first federal law to protect game from market hunting. Subsequently, the Lacey Act of 1900 effectively made market hunting illegal nationwide and remains the most powerful legal tool to combat this activity. Other significant legislation includes: the Migratory Bird Treaty of 1916; The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Canadian Species at Risk Act of 2002, all of which extended protection from the market to a multitude of other species.

Commercialization of wildlife takes place yet today. The market for reptiles, amphibians, and fish is thriving and game animals such as deer, elk, ring-necked pheasants, quail, chukar, and more are actively traded. The sale of furbearers, antlers, and a variety of other wildlife parts also needs to be considered in light of the principle that markets for wildlife are eliminated. The State of South Dakota actually relaxed laws to allow for the sale of antlers and other game parts based on a desire to be able to raise money by selling the large number of antlers, mounts, pelts, etc. that they had confiscated over many years of enforcing game laws. This has made it easier for poachers to profit from their activities and has also led to financial incentives for shed hunting, which has led to increased harassment of game.



## Continued...

Contests and tournaments that create an economic incentive and the robust market for access to wildlife in the form of leases, reserved permits, and shooting preserves create and encourage commerce in wildlife. But even more harmful to wildlife conservation, is the resulting lack of opportunity for those that do not have the means and decision by many to quit participating in hunting and fishing altogether.

The commercial exploitation of wildlife has also taken on some new forms in recent years that should also be considered relative to this principle. This includes profiting from filming and selling hunts on social media as well as inappropriately utilizing our public resource to promote tourism and economic gain. I am not necessarily saying that these activities should all be eliminated, but if they are allowed to exist it should be highly regulated and monitored to allow for the scientific management of the public resource.

### **Allocation of Wildlife Is by Law**

Wildlife is allocated to the public by law, as opposed to market principles, land ownership, or other status. Democratic processes and public input into law-making help ensure access is equitable.

Game laws, game agencies, and game commissions established by states in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries focused primarily on eliminating commercial use of wildlife and on regulating numbers of game legally killed by sportsmen. Hunting methods were regulated to conform to acceptable standards of fair chase as outlined by the Boone & Crockett Club. Federal conservation programs were developed for protection of migratory birds through regulation, law enforcement, and refuge establishment. Federal conservation efforts also focused on predator control in an effort to benefit game populations and livestock ranchers. Passage of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937 ushered in an era of restoration, and the increase in scientific management led to fine-tuning the system of seasons and bag limits.

Clearly, defined laws exist regarding seasons, bag limits, methods of take, and areas in which seasons apply. What is not clearly defined is the applied enforcement of these laws. Enforcement priorities often depend on available resources and societal desires. Although state authority over the take of resident game species is well defined, county, local, or housing development ordinances may effectively supersede state authority. In addition, there are many examples where local courts have hindered the ability of the state agencies to effectively enforce game laws. South Dakota has seen the elimination of the Open-Fields Doctrine that has severely impacted the state's ability to enforce game laws and limit their ability to collect scientific data on the status of wildlife populations.

Competing land uses which effectively destroy or degrade wildlife habitat supersede the notion of allocation of wildlife by law. Examples abound where public lands have been dominated by one or more users, thereby reducing their wildlife value and allocation to the public.

### **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.





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# SDBI Clothing!

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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.**

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Hill City, SD 57745

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