

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2023 Greater Dacotah Chapter-SCI Newsletter

The Greater Dacotah Chapter (GDC) extends a thank-you to everyone that was able to attend the 2023 annual Banquet and Auction and for your continued support for Hunting and Conservation!

The event in 2023 was down in attendance probably because of the date change moving into July. We were truly fortunate with many of the area legislators attending, supporting your hunting traditions, conservation, and the shooting sports!

GDC is truly fortunate to have the best auctioneers (Les Ohlhauser) and (Adam Karrels) volunteering for hunters and conservation at our banquet and auction which make SCI events some of the best in the nation and the world!



**Les Ohlhauser and Adam Karrels have been the Auctioneers for the Greater Dacotah Chapter for 17 years. These two volunteer for conservation organizations throughout the US, and we are extremely fortunate to have the "Best of the Best."**

**This was our ninth consecutive year for the Hunter/Conservation award which is dedicated to sportsmanship, hunter Advocacy, conservation, and hunting accomplishments.** This year's award was presented to Dr Jeffrey G. Olson. Jeff has hunted around the world from South Dakota to Africa, collecting many trophies and building upon his efforts in conservation, health care in remote areas, and an advocate for hunter-based opportunities worldwide. Jeff was a SD Game Fish and Parks Commissioner for two terms and his accomplishments included the Outdoor Campus West, GFP land acquisitions in western SD totaling over 10,000 acres, purchased for wildlife management and public hunting opportunities! Jeff started the Greater Dacotah Chapter and has served as president for two terms. Jeff started the SD Sportsman Against Hunger program and last year they reached a milestone of over 1 million pounds of hunter harvested protein donated in this state. Jeff is also a member of every conservation organization in the area and a mentor for SD Youth Hunting Adventures. Jeff demonstrates a lifelong commitment to wildlife conservation, education, and the hunter-conservationist philosophy.



**Presentation of the 2023 Greater Dacotah Chapter Ninth Hunter Conservation Award to Dr. Jeffrey G. Olson: SCI Regional Director Jordon Wisecup, Dennie Mann, and GDC President Greg Delzer**

The Youth Hunter Award considers hunting efforts, conservation efforts, and outreach efforts to our youth to get involved in hunting and conservation. This year's Award (#6) was presented to Ryley Tracy. Ryley is a member of Youth Hunting Adventures which is one of the premier hunter-mentored organizations in the world and an organization that GDC has supported since its inception 16 years ago!



Presenting the award to Ryley Tracy is SCI Regional Director Jordon Wisecup, Brian Dail, Dennie Mann, and Greg Delzer

The second "GDC First for Hunters " award which involves dedication and support to Hunting and Conservation Organizations with long term donations and program support. The 2023 recipient is Henno Cronje! Henno is owner and professional hunter of HS Safaris in South Africa. Henno Cronje has been offering a variety of hunts over the last 10 years with impressive comments from hunters that have purchased a variety of plains game, and dangerous game hunts. Paul Vinatieri has taken his entire family hunting with Henno in South Africa, and last April he booked a hunt for his grandson for plains game trophies! Paul has hunted Africa many times and he has stated that HS Safaris is all you could ask for in an unforgettable African Safari. Henno is teamed up with Rupert Venter (Dream Team Safaris) offering the best archery hunts available.



Presenting the "First For Hunters Award" to Henno Cronje, RD-SCI Jordon Wisecup, Brian Dail, Dennie Mann and Greg Delzer



Greater Dacotah has developed a great working relationship with both state legislators, and representatives and senators at the national level by providing comments concerning conservation programs and supporting hunting as an effective tool for wildlife conservation in the world, including the 2019 Recovering Americas Wildlife Act, traveling with firearms, utilizing hunting as a management tool in National Parks and wildlife refuges, ESSA, and delisting grizzly bears in the GYE, delisting of wolves in the Western Great Lakes population and the Rocky Mountain populations, utilizing hunting as a management tool for bison in Grand Canyon National Park, and opening hunting on National Wildlife Refuges including La Creek NWR near Martin! The Greater Dacotah Chapter continues to advocate for hunters and hunting opportunities. If you hunt, join SCI!



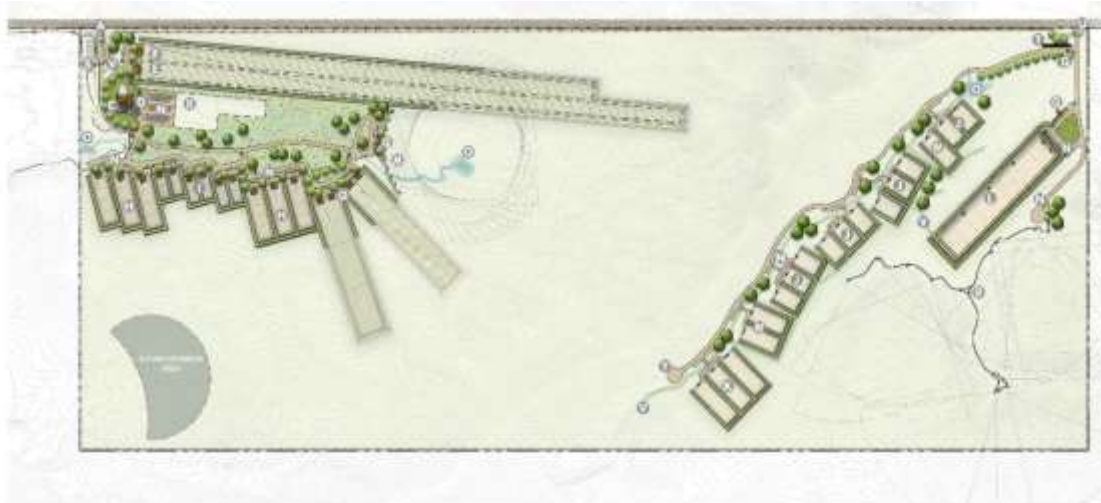
**Educators receive training on the importance of Hunter Based Conservation and the North American Model of Conservation!**

Because of the Jackson Hole airport rehabilitation project SCI was unable to host educators at the “American Wilderness Leadership School” in 2022 and in 2023 the property is up for sale. The educational opportunity for educators will become more regional in scope. SCI will utilize opportunities throughout North America and continue these Hunter based educational opportunities. As a result, the AWLS program will no longer be offered in its traditional form. SCIF’s education department will now be providing customized education programs that will have many components of the traditional AWLS program. The primary difference will be the programs will now be customized specific to state, regional, or local conservation needs. SCIF staff working with a sponsoring organization will provide educators with a structured curriculum for this programming. Laurine Wolf (Deputy Director of Education & Humanitarian Services), **stated that the Customized Education Program can also be customized for audiences other than educators, including NGO’s, state agencies, wildlife professionals, and first-time hunters. They can also create a Learn to Hunt Program specifically designed for women.** SCIF will be providing more information on how these programs can be developed in your state or region. GDC is truly fortunate to have educators every year apply for the four fully funded openings. Excellent job SCI in the continuing educational opportunities put together by staff and volunteers educating our teachers about how important the **North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is to wildlife and resource management in this country.** Hunters and the shooting public fund wildlife management and resource management programs through the state wildlife agencies. Approximately 1.2 billion dollars comes from state hunting license fees, another 1 billion is derived from the 11% federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition which is the “Pittman Robertson Act of 1937”, in addition another \$500 million dollars is generated from hunting and conservation organizations to state wildlife programs. The total wildlife budgets for the fifty states are 2.7 billion dollars per year, so almost 100% of the funding is from these three sources!



John Kanta GFP Terrestrial Chief receives a \$20,000 check from Greg Delzer for the Shooting Range and Educational Complex. This brings the total for the Chapter to \$50,000, with an additional \$100,000 from the Safari Club International Foundation!

The GFP Firearms Range and Training Center is a priority project for the Greater Dacotah Chapter. GDC has been a part of this project since its inception in 2021 with 4 board members on the steering committee. GDC submitted a \$100,000 grant proposal to the Safari Club International Foundation for the educational aspect of this complex and last fall the grant was awarded to the Department of Game Fish and Parks. This facility will provide shooters and hunters the opportunity to develop skills and safety measures on the range and in the field. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is building a similar range and training center near Grand Junction which the GFP range will be remarkably similar. **South Dakota Game Fish and Parks and the Greater Dacotah Chapter want to thank everyone for your continued support for this Public Shooting Complex and Training Center!**



- WATER PLAN LEGEND**
- A. SOUTH VIEW OF BENTON BUILDING
  - B. HUNTER EDUCATION BUILDING
  - C. ENTRY W/DO
  - D. PARK
  - E. 200 YARD BAY
  - F. 300 YARD BAY
  - G. 200 YARD FIELD BAY
  - H. 100 YARD BAY
  - I. 50 YARD BAY
  - J. 40 YARD BAY
  - K. 100 YARD ACTION BAY
  - L. 50 YARD ACTION BAY
  - M. 40 YARD VERTICAL SHOOTING BAY
  - N. MULTILEVEL CLAY SHOOTING
  - O. PARKING
  - P. DRIVEWAY AREA
  - Q. HALL BAY/WR
  - R. SPORTING CLAYS
  - S. RIFLE CLAYS
  - T. STORAGE SHEDS
  - U. HUNTER VESTIBULE/ENTRY
  - V. MANLE
  - W. 75 YARD ACTION BAY
  - X. BENTON BUILDING
  - Y. TURNAROUND



This project is located on four hundred acres ten miles north of Rapid City and will include 50-yard bays for handgun, 100-yard bays for handgun and rifle, 300-yard bays for rifle, 600–1200-yard ranges for IBS & F Class, sporting clays, along with a training and educational facility. A world class shooting complex!



**Cory Johnson (Lane Silencers) and his daughter Josie shooting the M&M Long Range match south of Rapid City. The Greater Dacotah Chapter sponsors the Youth Shooters at this competitive shooting opportunity.**



Training and Educational center-parking areas adjacent to the 1200-yard range



**Auction Hunting Opportunities were amazing this year from an Ibex in Spain, Bison hunt in South Dakota with Guide & Gun, Coues Deer Hunt with Rincon Outfitters, Black Bear Hunt with Adventure Destinations, Fishing opportunities in Canada and Alaska, and a variety of African safaris, and custom rifles.**







The 2024 SCI Banquet and Auction will have some of the same hunting opportunities as this year. Let the Board know if you have options that we have not considered, and we will see if they are available!



## Greater Decotah Chapter Safari Club International

*Putting YOUR Contribution to Work in the Community and the World*

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Project Funding</u>	<u>Total Funding</u>
<b>1 SD Game Fish and Parks</b>		<b>\$ 314,245.00</b>
Mountain Goat Projects	\$ 8,000.00	
Big Horn Sheep Projects	\$ 67,475.00	
Protocol for Monitoring Grasslands in the Black Hills	\$ 19,600.00	
Rapid City Hunter Safety Courses	\$ 300.00	
Being an Outdoors Woman (BOW)	\$ 3,500.00	
GFP Sensory Safari in Schools	\$ 700.00	
GFP Parks and Wildlife Foundation Project Funding Source	\$ 8,650.00	
Commission Meeting	\$ 250.00	
Cooper GPA Water Project	\$ 5,000.00	
Outdoor Campus - West	\$ 20,000.00	
Habitat/Access Enhancement Project	\$ 28,375.00	
Law Enforcement	\$ 2,395.00	
Shooting Complex - GDC and SCIF	\$ 150,000.00	
<b>2 South Dakota State University Graduate Research Projects</b>		<b>\$ 21,487.00</b>
Pronghorn Antelope Fawn mortality - Radio Collars - Refurbished - Telonics	\$ 2,262.00	
Mountain Lions Tracking - Telonics, Mountain Lion Kitter Collars & ear Tags	\$ 6,625.00	
Bobcat Radio Collars	\$ 2,600.00	
Deer study Radio Collars - Telonics	\$ 10,000.00	
<b>3 South Dakota Wildlife Federation Camp</b>		<b>\$ 9,425.00</b>
<b>4 Safari Club International American Wilderness Leadership School</b>		<b>\$ 19,186.00</b>
<b>5 Black Hills Conservation Initiative in Conjunction with RMEF</b>		<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
<b>6 Journey Museum, Rapid City (Sensory Safari)</b>		<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
<b>7 South Dakota Youth Hunting Adventures</b>		<b>\$ 58,636.00</b>
<b>8 Blue Bag Program</b>		<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>
<b>9 Sportsmen Against Hunger</b>		<b>\$ 17,790.00</b>
<b>10 The Wildlife Society</b>		<b>\$ 3,500.00</b>
<b>11 Namibia, Africa - Kudu Mobility Study</b>		<b>\$ 2,600.00</b>
<b>12 Mozambique Water Project</b>		<b>\$ 7,500.00</b>
<b>13 Safari Cares</b>		<b>\$ 1,200.00</b>
<b>14 Sun Catchers Therapeutic Riding Academy</b>		<b>\$ 2,600.00</b>
<b>15 Wounded Warrior Program</b>		<b>\$ 1,300.00</b>
<b>16 Care for Zumbo</b>		<b>\$ 12,900.00</b>
<b>17 SCI National - Regional and Global Conservation Programs</b>		<b>\$ 132,456.00</b>
Hunter Defense Fund, SCI-OAC, Education Initiatives		
<b>18 Black Hills Raptor Center</b>		<b>\$ 13,000.00</b>
<b>19 Humanitarian &amp; Community Outreach - Project Funding</b>		<b>\$ 8,400.00</b>
<b>20 Shooter Education, Competitive Shooting, Range Development</b>		<b>\$ 41,100.00</b>
<b>Total thru April 15, 2023</b>		<b>\$ 680,825.00</b>



**OVER THE PAST 23 YEARS, YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS  
HAVE FUNDED THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES FOR A  
TOTAL OF \$680,825.**



**The Weatherby Mark V \$1000 Table Sponsor Firearm drawing was won by Dr. Robert Ferrell! The continuing table sponsors that were not successful this year will have an additional ticket in the bucket for 2024! Congratulations Bob and thanks for your continuing support for hunting and Conservation!**

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**Some additional projects that we have contributed funding over the past years include the following projects. South Dakota Youth Hunting Adventures!**

In 2008, some local conservationists came together to start the South Dakota Youth Hunting Adventures.

The program has continued to grow, affecting hundreds of lives. Our goal this year is to take one hundred kids (children) on mentored hunts, primarily mentored antlerless deer hunts. We have a second smaller group in the northern Black Hills, a third group in Mitchell, and we are hoping to expand even further in our state. The SCI has worked closely with and supported this program since its inception. In fact, some of the biggest supporters of the SDYHA have been the local conservation groups to assist not only financially, but also by volunteering as mentors. The program is not a single day event - but a continued relationship with these youth hunters trying to expose them to a multitude of outdoor experiences!



Each child is required to take Hunt Safe. Both mentors and children must complete and pass a background check. We have a kick-off BBQ in July, a shooting day in August, and the youth season starts in September! Safety is a top priority, and we provide the opportunity for each child to understand and manage a weapon with which they are comfortable. Landowner relations, conservation, and fair chase are also key points we highlight in the program as well. Success in this program is hard to measure. One interesting indicator we have found is that on average, after age 18, 26% of the kids in this program purchase a hunting license via SD GFP.

We truly feel no other program like ours exists in the nation. We have some amazing volunteers that all come together to make this program work. If you have any questions, please visit our website [www.sdyouthhunt.com](http://www.sdyouthhunt.com), contact any SDYHA board member! The Greater Dacotah Chapter has been

involved with YHA since its beginning.



The purpose of the Game Fish & Parks Outdoor Campus in Rapid City is to provide direct experiences in hunting, fishing, and other outdoor skills. Free educational classes for youth, adults and families are held throughout the year. Visitors can explore indoor exhibits highlighting a variety of western South Dakota habitats and wildlife, along with a 4,600-gallon freshwater aquarium. The Campus also boasts over 1.5 miles of nature trails for your everyday use. GDC assisted in funding the Pittman-Roberson meeting and training room at the campus. This is one of the only outdoor campus complexes built by a Wildlife Agency advocating for hunters and outdoor enthusiasts!

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***The Greater Dacotah Chapter is committed to being one of the best events in the nation and we will continue to support SCI's Global vision of First for Hunters, national and global outreach efforts for hunting and conservation, educational efforts to attract youth hunting opportunities, educating our educators on the importance of hunting and the outdoor experience! At the present time GDC is the only active chapter in South Dakota, western North Dakota, and eastern Wyoming! Most wildlife and hunting based NGO's find it difficult to attract new board members but this chapter has board members from 26-75 years of age. We look forward to the challenges ahead by meeting and exceeding SCI goals to be the best of the best and first in the "Hunting Community"! The Board of Directors extends the opportunity for "Hunters" and "Conservationists" to join in 2024 for another great banquet and auction, advocating Hunting and Resource Conservation throughout the world!***

**Respectfully Submitted**



**Dennie Mann-Board Member-Past President**



**Board Members**

**Past President Paul Vinatieri, President Gary English, Karli Mattson, Aaron Fletcher, Tywone Westin, CFO-Mary Ann Mann, Gordon Bradley, Brian Cross, Secretary-Jackie Cross, Brian Dail, Dennie Mann**

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**Standing Guard** by Mary Ann Mann 2018

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