

DAKOTA
TERRITORY
BUFFALO ASSOCIATION



DTBA Pioneer Award

The Pioneer Award is a very special & unique to the DTBA. It is one of the highest honors a member can receive from the association. It began to award those for their contributions to the buffalo industry as a whole - not specific to the DTBA. The DTBA board dug a little deeper and began to recognize recipients for service to the association. The Pioneer Award is presented as the board & membership see it is fit as to not be an annual award. A huge thank you to the recipients thus far! Your contributions are invaluable to the DTBA!

Pioneer Award Recipients

1999: Elmer Butler

- received the award posthumously to show appreciation for all he did to help save the buffalo. Elmer purchased his first buffalo in 1947 and from then on, worked tirelessly to save any buffalo he could and build his herd. Because of his South Dakota roots, involvement with buffalo and ties to the DTBA, Elmer was a natural fit for the award.

2000: Bob Bradeen

- honored for his work with Custer State Park to establish and promote one of the largest and longest-running buffalo auctions. Bob was a pioneer in the auction business, forging a new path by assisting with establishing and conducting numerous buffalo auctions.

2001: Ralph & Mary Mahoney

- Ralph and Mary Mahoney were founding members of the DTBA and enjoyed a long and storied career in the buffalo business. The couple worked tirelessly to promote buffalo and the association. They hosted one of the first association meetings at their ranch near Fulton, SD. They supported the association events, show, sale and continued their contributions up until poor health caused them to pull back on their involvement in association activities.

2003: Dr. Sam Holland

- the state veterinarian for many years, received the award for his service to the association on a legislative level. Dr. Holland was a huge friend to the buffalo producers

and worked tirelessly to ensure any legislation that came up that could be detrimental to buffalo producers was knocked down or amended to ensure a friendly approach to buffalo. Dr. Holland was also instrumental as a watchdog for any livestock health concerns that could affect buffalo.

2006: Sandy & Jacki Limpert -

- founding members of the association, with Sandy serving as the first president. Jacki also served on the board of directors and the couple was instrumental in brainstorming ideas to elevate the DTBA. The Reality Based Carcass Class was an idea Sandy took to Bruce Anderson and it served the association well for many years, with DTBA offering the first heifer carcass class in the industry. Jacki was a promoter of all things buffalo, assisting with conferences, cooking demonstrations and hosting events at the ranch. Always supporting, always putting the needs of the association before their own. Sandy was also in on the creation of the Young Guns Yearling Bull Challenge, another industry first, and they hosted the class numerous times when finding host ranches became difficult. Jacki also assisted with the very successful 2007 International Bison Conference (IBC) hosted by DTBA/NBA in Rapid City. It was four years in the making, and to date, the most successful international gathering of buffalo stakeholders.

2013: Bruce Anderson

- what can you say about Bruce! Bruce was on the board of directors and brought an entirely different voice to the DTBA. It was a good change. He sponsored anything you needed, donated meat for conferences, cooking demos, etc. Then he ramped up his involvement and got on the board, eventually serving as president. Bruce opened the doors at Western Buffalo Company and embraced the carcass contest, even though it took away from his business and tied up his crew for 3-5 days. He gave presentations, shared insider information about the meat business and was a friend to nearly every producer in the region. He always had the best interests of the producer and the animal at heart. He would do anything to ensure DTBA was successful, and his fundraising ideas were out of this world! He was always thinking of ways to promote the association and further the cause. Bruce was also a key figure in the 2007 IBC event.

2016: Chad Kremer

- Another founding member and, much like Bruce, what do you say to capture Chad's contributions to the DTBA? Chad served on the board and, like some others, worked his way up to president. He was very thoughtful and insightful but talk about a hard worker! Chad never shied away from an opportunity to support DTBA. As the manager of the Custer State Park herd, he ensured that the park animals were included in the Young Guns and Girlz contests to gather information for that herd, but also in support of a program he believed in. Chad served as the show/sale chairman for many years and that included taking time off work to spend a couple of days setting up pens and the sale ring for the annual event. Chad was always one of the first calls when something was needed and he never said no. Chad was another one that always put the needs of the DTBA first.
- Chad was also instrumental in the 2006 IBC and led a wagon train kickoff event through the park, which was essentially an additional event and a logistical nightmare. Chad handled it all with a smile on his face and the betterment of the DTBA on his mind.

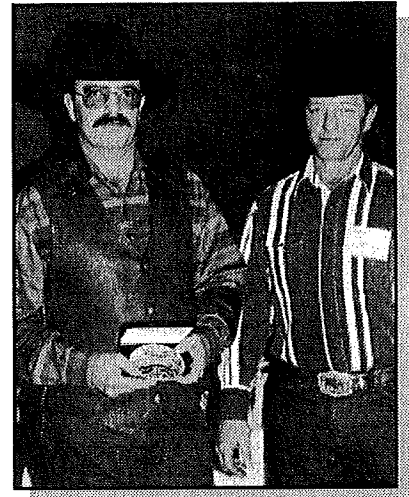
2017: Rod Sather

- the International Social Director! Rod is a promoter, supporter and truly a friend of the DTBA. Many of the fundraising ideas were brought forth by Rod, not to mention his generous sponsorships and his incredible gifts of membership to so many producers/friends/entities over the years. Rod is always thinking of ways to promote the association and how to keep it moving forward. Rod tends to work in the background a bit, but his presence is powerful. Rod's enthusiasm for all things buffalo is a key element in his mindset of sharing that with everyone. A consignor, a buyer, a sponsor, a promoter, a supporter. Those are just a few of the many roles Rod held in the DTBA. He also played a huge role in the success of the IBC event, possibly selling more raffle tickets than anyone else AND purchasing one of the custom Harley Davidson motorcycles that commemorated the event.

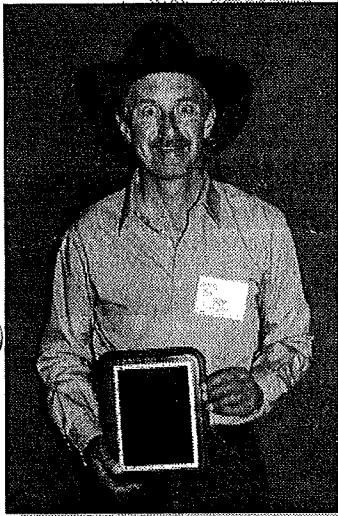
2018: Karen Conley

- Karen served more than 20 years to DTBA being the creative force in creating, establishing, and running ALL programs of DTBA including: regular newsletters that now hold most of DTBA history, BHBC Show & Sale, Premium Calf & Yearling Auction, Realty Based Carcass Class, Young Gun Bull Challenge, Girlz Gone Wild Heifer Challenge. Most of efforts made under her leadership were extremely innovative being industry's first.

Scenes From The DTBA Awards Banquet



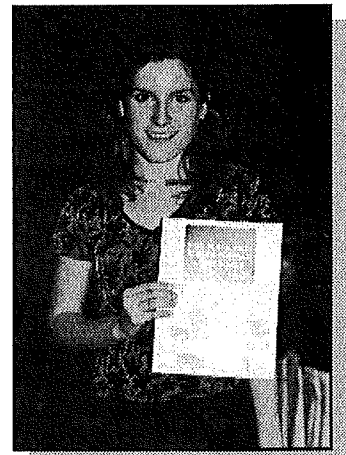
On the left, Sandy Limpert, Buffalo, SD, shows the belt buckle the DTBA gave to him as outgoing president of the association. On the right, is newly elected president Greg Smeenk of Newell, SD.



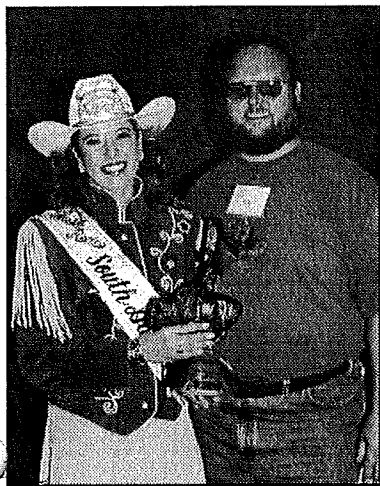
Roy Liedtke of Gillette, WY accepts a plaque as a retiring member of the DTBA Board of Directors.



The DTBA presented their first Pioneer Award at this year's banquet. Longtime buffalo producer, Elmer Butler, was slated to receive the award. After his unexpected passing in early December, his family accepted the award on his behalf. Marcie Hepper, Raleigh, ND, on the left, presented the award to Elmer's son, Jim, Elmer's wife, Lavonne and grandson, Frank, all of Faith, SD.



Alicia Keith, a senior from Basin, WY., won the DTBA art contest and her drawing was used on the cover of the 1999 DTBA show and sale catalog.

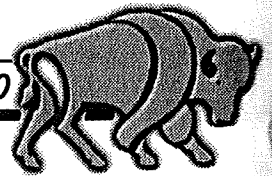


Sather of Mosquito Park Enterprises in Presho, SD, was the lucky bidder and took home the bronze and a thank you from Tommi Jo.

Tommi Jo Casteel of Vale, SD, the 1999 Miss Rodeo South Dakota, helped hand out awards at the DTBA banquet. In return for her help, this Tony Chytka bronze of Jerry Olson, titled "American Originals" was auctioned off with all the proceeds going to help Tommi Jo with her expenses. Rod



These are two of the coveted trophies awarded by the DTBA for the Black Hills Buffalo Classic show.



Winter Conference Recap

Nearly 300 bison producers and enthusiasts from around the region made their way to Rapid City, SD the last week in January to attend the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association's annual Winter Conference. The conference is held in conjunction with the Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale and the Black Hills Stock Show.

The association kicked off the activities with a reception and registration at Prairie Edge Trading Company and Galleries in downtown Rapid City. It was wall to wall people as members came in to register, snack and browse through the store.

On Friday, testifying their commitment to the association, members turned out in large numbers for the opening of the conference. President Greg Smeenk offered some remarks and following his presentation, Ron Cody, the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for South Dakota, got up and shared his thoughts with the membership.

Cody made a point to let the bison producers in the room know that the state is behind their efforts to reestablish bison in their native region. "We have great expectations for the industry," he noted. "We are here to aide, support and assist your industry. It is not a niche or a hobby, but an agri-industry and we are here to lend our assistance in any way we can." Cody was speaking on behalf of SD Secretary of Agriculture, Darrell Cruca, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Following Cody, the South Dakota State Veterinarian, Sam Holland, gave a report and update on some of the diseases facing the bison industry. In his remarks, Holland noted that ethics and integrity are vital to this growing industry. He also spoke on the Yellowstone issue, gave an update on Brucellosis and the Triple U and then launched into an explanation of testing bison for TB. He encouraged producers that are interested in having the TB test dropped for bison, to get serious about the issue and gather all the facts and come prepared to lay the facts and figures before they request that the testing be dropped.

Holland also got into a discussion regarding meat inspection and how important it is to the emerging bison meat industry. The group also thanked Holland for his watchdog efforts regarding legislation that would adversely affect the bison producers.

The afternoon session featured guest speaker, Dr. Marlowe Gobel, who owns Medicine Lodge Ranch in Dubois, Idaho. He specializes in ACL reconstruction and meniscal allograft transplants and his expertise in this area has made him a much in demand keynote speaker. In his presentation, "Bison Musculoskeletal Form and Function" Gobel used human models to explain the muscles and various cuts of meat on bison. Gobel took the audience through a first hand look at how conformation affects performance and what bison producers should be looking for in their animals to maximize their breeding practices.

The election of the new DTBA officers then took place and the business meeting wrapped up. There were three positions up for election on the board; Greg Smeenk, the current president was up for re-election; Jud Seaman had served his two terms as had Dixie Byrd. A handful of candidates were offered for election by the membership and when the votes were tallied, Greg Smeenk was re-elected to the board and two new board members were announced: Scott Peterson and Roy Liedtke. Following a short board meeting, new officers for 2000 are: President, Greg Smeenk, Newell, SD; Vice-President, Chad Heim, Rockham, SD; Secretary/Treasurer, Roy Liedtke, Gillette, WY; and Directors, Scott Peterson, Belle Fourche, SD; Annette Smith, Newcastle, WY and Chad Kremer, Vivian, SD.

During the meetings and presentations on Friday, the Black Hills Buffalo Classic judges were looking over the animals entered in the 2000 show and making their selections. The awards were presented that evening.

Bob Bradeen:

DTBA Pioneer Award Winner



The Dakota Territory Buffalo Association made the decision last year to step forward and honor some of the pioneers in the bison industry. In a region blessed with an abundance of bison and visionaries, it is no easy task to select one individual deserving of this award. The person selected to receive the award this year is most deserving and his work with the bison industry is widely known

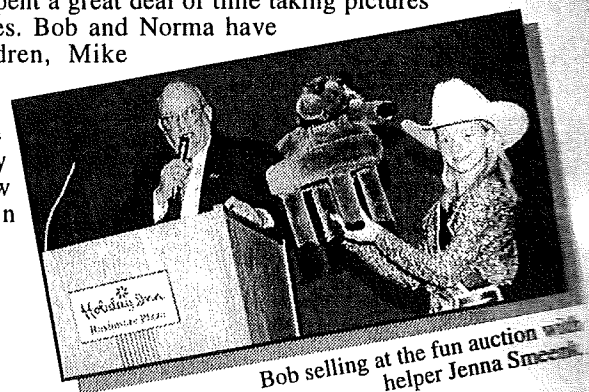
and respected. He has spent his lifetime developing a business related to the bison and that business is now being carried on through another generation and is probably successful beyond any ideas he might have had. We congratulate Bob Bradeen of Custer, South Dakota on being selected as the recipient of the DTBA Pioneer Award for the year 2000.

Bradeen Real Estate and Auctions of Custer, South Dakota was founded back in 1923 by Bob's father, Bert. As a young boy, Bob grew up learning the auctioneering trade from his father. Bob was never formally trained to be an auctioneer, it was just a talent he added to his repertoire through hours of practice and dedication. Bob then took this self-taught skill and later used it to make a living for himself and his family.

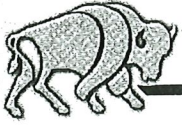
Being a native of the area where perhaps the world's most famous buffalo auction takes place, Custer State Park, Bob was a natural choice to call the annual Custer State Park Buffalo Auction and he was hired on to conduct his first sale there in 1976. Since that first sale, Bob has sold several thousand head of bison at public auctions and has eagerly given advice to new producers on selecting good stock.

Never realizing the influence he had on the industry, Bob was truly a pioneer in paving the way for public bison auctions. Today, Bradeen Real Estate and Auctions conducts over 100 auctions annually, 25 of which are buffalo auctions. The buffalo auctions take place all across the country, from Spokane, Washington to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Bob's son, Ron, is the driving force behind the buffalo auctions now, but Bob is sure to attend any buffalo outing he can, enjoying the companionship of his friends and the majesty of the great buffalo.

In addition to Bob's work auctioneering for buffalo auctions, his wife, Norma, was instrumental in the family business as well. She spent many hours clerking, cashiering and closing out auctions. She also enjoyed documenting the buffalo auctions on film and spent a great deal of time taking pictures of the sales. Bob and Norma have four children, Mike and Ron of Custer, and Steve and Nancy who now reside in California.



Bob selling at the fun auction with helper Jenna Smeenk



DTBA Hosts Successful Winter Conference This Past January

Nearly 200 buffalo producers and enthusiasts from around the region made their way to Rapid City, SD the last week in January to attend the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association's (DTBA) annual Winter Conference.

On Saturday, President Scott Peterson offered some opening remarks and addressed the crowd. Peterson led the audience through a brief overview of the association's activities the past year. Nominations for new directors were also taken.

South Dakota State Veterinarian, Dr. Sam Holland, gave a report and update on some of the diseases and issues facing the buffalo industry. One issue that is always on the top of the list in South Dakota is the position on field kill of buffalo. Holland noted that it is becoming more frequent in the state and without the benefit of enough staff to cover the inspection requirements, the state has allowed some veterinarians to become certified to carry out the necessary field kill inspections. In that same line of thought, Holland noted that producers should be aware of the criticism that is out there regarding buffalo hunts. He noted that some individuals and groups consider the hunts to be inhumane treatment and it will be a matter of when, not if, the matter will be brought to the public's attention. He cautioned producers to stay informed on these issues so they can be prepared to deal with them when the time comes.

Holland touched on the Country of Origin Labeling issue, again noting that it will be mandatory in just a couple of years. He also told the group that label claims are becoming a big issue and certification of those claims is something they need to be aware of. "Affidavits and recordkeeping are very important when it comes to the label claims," Holland told the group.

As far as diseases are concerned, one issue to be on top of is that of roping steers. They are a substantial carrier of tuberculosis and Holland warned the crowd that if they have contact with these animals it would be wise to keep them separate from buffalo and from cattle, due to the substantial risk of spreading TB between the animals. He also spoke about West Nile Virus and the importance of vaccinating horses for the disease. Anthrax was present in the state this year, thanks largely to the hot and humid weather the state experienced this past summer. It was present in the western half of the state for the first time in many years and Holland cautioned that producers should be aware of the threat, especially when going into a dry area. Chronic Wasting Disease is another hot topic in the disease arena, but Holland said the consensus is the disease is limited to cervids such as deer and elk and there does not, at this time, appear to be any threat to other species from this disease.

Upon completion of his presentation, Dr. Holland was asked to stay at the podium and Peterson then announced that the DTBA was awarding the Pioneer Award to Dr. Holland for his outstanding service to the buffalo industry and to buffalo producers, both in and out of South Dakota. Dr. Holland has been a watchdog for the industry and the DTBA and has worked diligently for many years to ensure the buffalo industry has a level playing field with other livestock entities.

Steve Noyes, Deputy State Statistician for South Dakota, made a presentation to the group about the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Noyes went through the process of filling out the census and then explained to the group what the information can and will be used for and the importance of participation. The 2002 census will be the first time that buffalo have been included, so the importance of getting accurate numbers is critical and the data could be crucial to our industry as it continues to grow

and receive more recognition in the marketplace. Census information can be used to garner funding money and also to increase the visibility and status of various groups.

Merle Maass, president of the National Bison Association (NBA) Board of Directors, addressed the DTBA group and touched on many of the benefits of joining the NBA and also briefly outlined the focus and plans for the NBA in the coming months. He noted that the focus of the NBA has shifted the past year and a half.

The final presentation of the morning was entertaining and active, to say the least. Gail Griffin, NBA state and regional liaison and also executive director for the Minnesota Buffalo Association, took the group through a presentation that not only stressed the importance of supporting both national and regional associations, but also about stepping up to the plate and helping those organizations achieve their goals. Griffin is widely recognized for her devotion to the buffalo industry and was recently named the NBA's Member of the Year. Her presentation brought out lots of laughter and gave those in the audience some food for thought. Participants in her presentation got a little taste of "thinking on your feet"!

Following the lunch break, NBA Executive Director, Dave Carter, addressed the group. Carter went through a timeline of the past year and a half, beginning with his coming on board as the executive director and where the NBA has gone from there. He reviewed the two marketing summits that have been held to date and then went through the various projects the NBA is working on, including meat inspection, Section 32, animal identification and a meat classification system. Carter also walked the audience through the NBA's new "Buffalo Stampede" campaign that will take place in Nashville, TN this spring. The NBA is working on a variety of projects, but as Carter noted, they all center on one theme...meat production. Carter also urged cooperation between the state and regionals and also asked for member support to help ensure the success all the NBA projects.

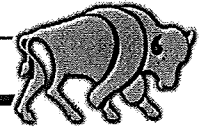
The highlight of the day's events was a carcass cut out demonstration presented by Jim Ferguson of the Saskatchewan Meat Processors and Larry Erber from the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology. These gentlemen first presented this demonstration in Regina, Saskatchewan this fall at the Canadian Bison Association meeting and agreed to attend the DTBA conference to do a similar presentation. DTBA organizers felt this tied in perfectly with the group's Reality Based Carcass Class and also carried forward the meat production theme that is running full steam in the business. Assisting in the demonstration were Bruce Anderson, owner of Western Buffalo Company in Rapid City and Al Holzer, the plant manager at Western Buffalo Company.

The election of the new DTBA officers then took place and the business meeting wrapped up. There were two positions open for election on the board. Jacki Limpert will continue in her role on the board and the new member will be Lorene Bender. Following a short board meeting, new officers for 2003 are: President, Scott Peterson, Belle Fourche, SD; Vice-President, Jud Seaman, Rapid City, SD; Secretary/Treasurer, Jacki Limpert, Buffalo, SD; and Directors, Steve Schmitz, Jefferson, SD; Rick Knobe, Sioux Falls, SD and Lorene Bender, Britton, SD.

During the evening festivities, the group played Bison Bingo. Shawna Stevens won the feeder donated by Doug Woodall, Hi-Hog Equipment and Rob Trynoski won the buffalo print donated by the DTBA.



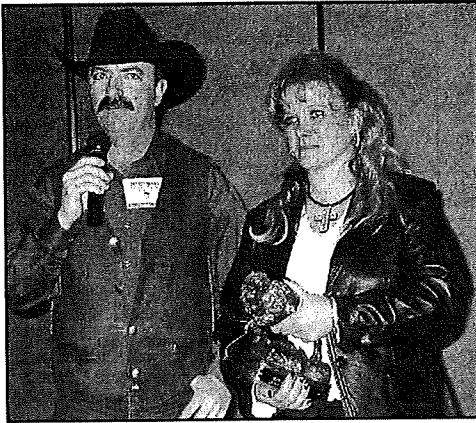
Deb Strandberg, center, was the winner of the drawing for a custom made bison leather-trimmed coat donated by Larry and Linda Rolfstad, Rocking R Bison Leather.



Limperts Receive Pioneer Award

It's no easy task to keep secrets in this small buffalo world, but the DTBA Board pulled off a good one at the winter conference.

There had been talk for a while about it being time to award another Pioneer Award this year. In talking individually to the board members over time, one name came up several times, actually two names, Sandy and Jacki Limpert. It just so happened that Jacki was serving on the board at this time, so making plans for the award became somewhat difficult. However, she missed a conference call back in November and the



first topic of discussion was to unanimously agree to award the Pioneer Award to the Limperts. Under strict orders not to mention this again, the plans were underway.

It's not often you can surprise someone right under their nose, but President Seaman even managed to get most of their family to attend the banquet and still keep it a secret. It took a lot of talking and covert phone calls, but was well worth it in the end.

Congratulations to Sandy and Jacki, true pioneers and leaders in every sense of the word. We thank them for their ongoing contributions in every facet of this industry.

One Final Word Of Thanks...

With an event the size of our winter conference and show and sale, it's difficult at best to recognize each and every volunteer, consigner, buyer, donor and sponsor. However, we'll give it a shot.

We had some great vendors this year, Larry and Linda Rolfstad, Rocking R Bison Leather, Felicia Sargeant, National Buffalo Museum and Gary Meyer, Eastman Feeds. They do a lot to enhance our event each year.

Joe Painter stepped up and took on the Show Chairman's job this year. I'm not sure who all helped out, but I do know Zane Holcomb, Chad Kremer and Tom LeFaive all pitched in, along with Steve Sutton and his crew. Many thanks to all of them.

Larry Carr got wind of us needing some additional sponsorship monies at the last minute and he went out and proceeded to gather up more sponsorships. He also helped set up the IBC booth and other items. We appreciate all of his assistance.

Nancy Hepper came to the rescue and helped with registrations and setting up for the day. It was wonderful to have help with that "small" task! She also helped clerk the Fun Auction. Lorene Bender also helped out with watching the table and loading stuff out, as did Jacki Limpert. Steve Schmitz took care of the details on the ever-popular Bison Bingo, which everyone enjoys.

Todd and Mike Goetz helped in so many ways. Todd helps load and unload and took care of the hospitality room. Dan and Teresa Meyer also helped with that. Mike did the IBC video and put together most of our ten year anniversary slide show. I'm glad there's a techno junkie in the family.

We had numerous donations to the Fun Auction and a big thank you to everyone who brought items. Your generosity helped make for a VERY successful auction for your association.

I know I've missed a lot of you, so please let Karen know if I've missed out and we'll recognize them in future newsletters. Thank you all for your support and dedication.

Sell The Sizzle ~ We Need Your Recipes

You've got a copy or two around the house and you've given them out as gifts. They are the ever-popular DTBA cookbooks.

Believe it or not, since the cookbook came out in July of 2002, we have sold nearly 2,000 copies of the book. It has been a great fund raiser for the DTBA and a great way to spread the message about buffalo meat.

After running out of cookbooks due to unexpected demand, the board authorized a reprint order of 500 books. This will tide us over until we can get a new cookbook organized and printed. Yup, we're going to do it again. The cookbooks are so popular that we feel another version would be money and time well spent. One thing we'd like to do this time is offer more buffalo meat recipes as well as more information on the preparation and handling of the meat.

There is a form in this newsletter for submissions. I can send out more or you can email recipes or write them down on any handy piece of paper. You are welcome to make copies of the form and submit as many recipes as you like. The more we have, the better our cookbook will be. When writing your recipes, please make sure all the ingredients are listed as well as measurements and cooking times. Include your name and ranch name so proper credit can be given to our fantastic cooks.

The goal is to have a brand new cookbook in time for the July 2007 IBC event. Start looking in your recipe files! We need everyone to participate.

A big thank you to those individuals who have already sent in recipes. Everyone has one or two (and even more) great recipes they can share with others to help make this cookbook the best one yet. The first one met with rave reviews and offered up some fantastic recipes. We need another book full of them just like that. Keep them coming!

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*A Collection Of Recipes From Members Of
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Anderson Pioneer Award Recipient

By Karen Conley

In the buffalo business, it's all about relationships. They are forged in business and friendship, through good times and bad. Your word and a handshake are the foundation of the relationships, the people are the heart and soul.

For so many of us, this industry has provided us with lifelong friends, an extended family if you will. This past February, Dakota Territory Buffalo Association was proud to honor one of our own. A business partner, a friend and more importantly, a member of this buffalo family we all cherish.

Back in 1950, a small meat plant was built more than a mile outside of Rapid City, South Dakota and became known as Ken's Western Meats. In April of 1979, Ken's Western Meat was purchased at complete auction by Wayne Anderson. Wayne's son, Bruce, was enlisted to help run the plant as a way to enhance the family's feedlot operation. Bruce's partner at the time was Rollie Hartman.

In May of 1979, a young man came along and met Bruce in a meeting that was destined to forge one of those lasting partnerships. Jud Seaman stopped by the plant, met Bruce and landed himself a job that would last until July of 1999. Jud eventually bought out Rollie and became Bruce's partner in RC Western Meats.

The plant dealt mostly in beef, pork and game. They began processing some buffalo back in 1979, with Wall Drug being their biggest customer. In the late 80s, RC Western Meats found itself short of buffalo meat to supply their customers. In an effort to find more buffalo to supply the plant's needs, Jud attended the Gold Trophy Show and Sale one year and purchased every two-year-old bull and one or two yearling bulls.

That was the turning point for the little meat plant on the edge of Rapid City. They began attending buffalo functions and building those relationships. In July of 1999, Jud left the plant and Bruce became the sole owner of RC Western Meats. Al Holzer stepped in and took up the role of plant manager. Office manager, Gail Hise, was and still is another key person in the plant's operations. Bruce then hired Ken Eisenhauer as the first salesman and with the addition of Jeff Storm to the sales team, the plant was positioned for future growth.

Changing the name to Western Buffalo Company, Bruce took the final step in his commitment to the buffalo industry, dedicating the plant and staff to the full time business of processing buffalo. During the late 1990s, they began to see a glut of buffalo, which was immediately followed by the industry plummet of 2000 and 2001. Western Buffalo Company became a lifeline to so many producers, keeping them afloat by purchasing their animals and sending them out the door with a check in hand to keep them going.

Continued on Page 3

Follow And Like Us On Facebook



The association now has our own page on the popular social networking site, Facebook. The board felt that it would be a beneficial place for the association to share our message and be a valuable tool to help keep our Facebook friends updated on current happenings. We are posting updates and photos for

both the Young Guns and Girlz Gone Wild classes and our upcoming conference and show and sale.

If you are not already on Facebook, considering joining. We'd love to have you stop by our page and like us! Your comments and feedback are also welcome and needed so we can make this an area that is beneficial for you to use.



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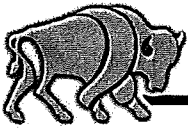
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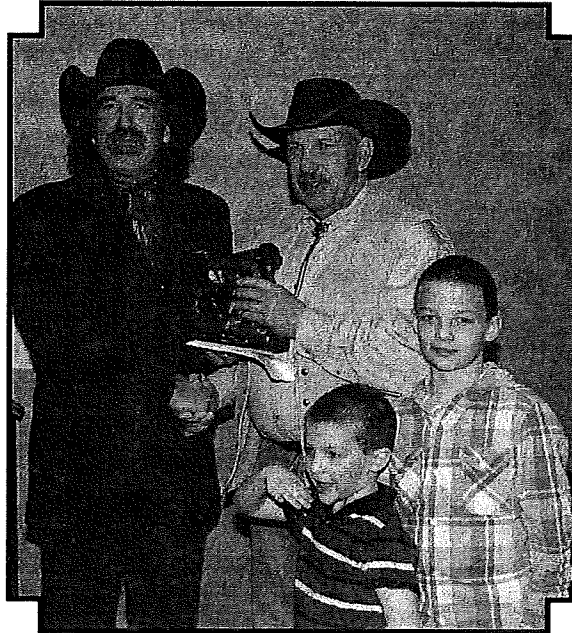
Anderson Pioneer Award Recipient at Winter Conference

Continued from Page 1

"Bruce committed himself and the plant to buffalo at a critical time while the industry was in a downturn," says Scott Peterson, a good friend of Bruce and customer at Western Buffalo Company. "His actions had a major impact on the industry, especially in our region."

Peterson also noted those personal relationships that have served Western Buffalo Company so well. "Bruce runs his business based on relationships he has developed with the industry and the people in the industry. That has allowed him to become one of the major players in our industry today."

Bruce's level of involvement does not stop at the doors of the meat plant. He has taken a personal interest in the industry and immersed himself in opportunities to help promote and further the buffalo. He has served on the board of directors for the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association as both a director and as the president. Bruce also gives his time to the National Bison Association, serving as a regional director and now as the vice president. He attends many regional meetings and auctions and has given countless presentations and industry updates, thus becoming a valued resource in



Scott Peterson, left, presents Bruce Anderson with the DTBA Pioneer Award. Bruce's sons, Hoyt, center and Wyatt, right, joined him for the presentation.

this ever-changing landscape of buffalo production.

At the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Winter Conference this past February, Bruce was recognized by the association for his dedication to the buffalo industry. The association presented him with their Pioneer Award. This award is bestowed upon those who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to further the cause of the buffalo. Bruce is the sixth recipient of the award in the association's 17 year history.

"I am so fortunate to be a part of this industry," notes Anderson. "I was lucky enough to be able to have the ability to create a revenue stream for buffalo producers while being able to make a living for my family. I have received far more than I have ever given in this industry and for that I am very grateful."

Those relationships forged over the years have served Bruce and his business well. His personal involvement, his integrity and his desire to better the industry have served the

rest of us very well. We are fortunate to have him as a valued member of our buffalo family and he is truly one of the pioneers of today's buffalo industry.

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A Time To Reflect And Reward

By Karen Conley

Chad Kremer photo by Samantha Limpert

The DTBA 20th Anniversary celebration was a smashing success, with plenty of fun, educational opportunities and much reminiscing. It was a fitting time to take a few moments to honor some individuals who have gone above and beyond for our association and the buffalo.

Chad Kremer was the recipient of the Pioneer Award this year.



The award is given on an as needed basis and Chad joins just six other recipients and is the first since 2012. This award is presented to those individuals who go above and beyond for both our association and the buffalo industry in general.

Chad is a charter member of the association and has played a vital role in so many areas. He has served on the board and is a past president, as well as the outgoing show/sale co-chairman. Behind the scenes, Chad has been my right arm for many years...the driving force behind getting the show and sale handled. From pen set up to feeding and watering to helping tally points for various awards, Chad has been right there. Always quiet and always working. When asked, no matter the task, the answer is always yes.

Through his job as herd manager at Custer State Park, Chad has helped to foster a great working relationship between the park and our association. We have partnered on numerous projects and Chad has worked tirelessly to get the park participating in the Young Guns and Girlz Gone Wild classes.

One of the biggest challenges Chad took on was the 2007 International Bison Conference. He was the engineer behind the Wagon Train that took place just ahead of the conference in Custer State Park. Clearing trails, lining up food, entertainment, horses, wagons, security, hosting the media...it was a circus and the ringleader never faltered. I vividly remember the sweltering heat and hauling down pickup loads of cases of water and Chad was right there to help unload, despite the fact that he had a million other things to oversee.

Chad is one of the quiet ones that just gets things done. His passion for the animal and the people in this industry is unrivaled. He has the best interest of the animals at heart and strives to help any newcomers with a welcoming smile and words of wisdom.

I could tell many stories about the selfless attitude, the generous heart and someone who truly values all that this animal and the industry gives us. Chad's family, wife Suzi and children Hannah, Grace and Isaac, have been by his side every step of the way and he has instilled in all of them that same sense of value and generosity.

Thank you, Chad. Your efforts to better the industry and the DTBA have helped to build a solid foundation for a bright future.

Another staunch supporter of the DTBA and the industry was honored on this same evening. A special award was given to the entire Limpert family, Sandy, Jacki, Brodie and Samantha. The family operates Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch and they have played a crucial role in keeping our Young Guns and Girlz Gone Wild classes afloat in years where we were searching for host ranches and coming up empty handed.

Under their guidance and watchful eye, the classes have blossomed and, as a direct result, the auction has grown into one of

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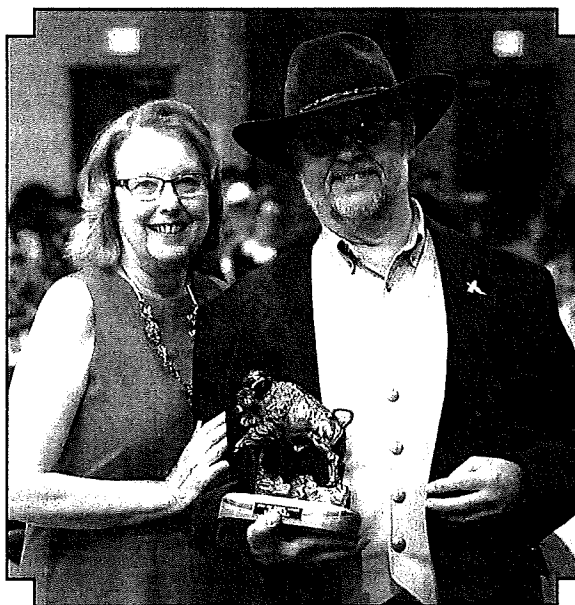
Sather Honored With Pioneer Award

By Karen Conley

He's the most interesting man in the buffalo world. Whether he's prowling around the fields of the Muddy Boot near Vivian, SD or lounging on Lake Okoboji in Iowa, the International Social Director's mind is never idle. He's always thinking about a new way to promote the buffalo business or some twist on what's already being done. You could search high and low and you'd never run across someone with more passion for the buffalo.

Rod Sather's roots run pretty deep in the buffalo world. He says he can't recall if the buffalo or the conference came first, but back in 1972, he attended the National Buffalo Association conference in Pierre, South Dakota. The host ranch was the Triple U just north of Ft. Pierre. Rod rubbed shoulders with the movers and shakers at the time and he was hooked. That fall, he purchased some calves at the Custer State Park Buffalo Auction and that was the beginning of one heck of an adventure!

Those calves grew up in southwest Minnesota and the herd grew from there. About 1993, Rod landed in Lyman County, South Dakota to do some bird watching. He was enamored by the wide open spaces and all the wildlife, thus a move was in order. Driving up the road to his new place, the road was nothing but gumbo and lo and behold, the Muddy Boot was now home.



Rod's holdings near Vivian, South Dakota grew over the years, with the acquisition of the Wells Ranch and then the Little Cedar Ranch. Buffalo dotted the landscape for miles around. I fondly remember going out to the office the first time. My directions were to go north on the gravel road, around the big bend, then north to the tree in the road, the road forks there and go east up the hill to the office. Many times I traveled that road and always laughed about the tree at the fork. No GPS needed!

2010 brought changes to Rod's life and a decision was made to sell the ranch and the buffalo. It was a surprise to his fellow producers, but Rod wasn't done quite yet. He continued to be active in the business and attend conferences and participate, as long as it didn't interfere too much with hunting season. Hunting is Rod's true passion, something he loves to do and share with family and friends.

August of 2012 brought another life changing event for Rod. He and Lynnette Laird were married in Big River, Saskatchewan,

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Sather Honored With Pioneer Award

Continued from page 1

Canada. It was quite the event, a shotgun wedding if you will! Life was good. Rod and Lynnette had finally made it official and they have thoroughly enjoyed spending time in both the United States and Canada, thus reinforcing Rod's role as the International Social Director of the buffalo world.

Rod is a lifetime member of the National Bison Association and the National Buffalo Museum. He serves on the board of the National Buffalo Foundation and holds memberships in the Canadian Bison Association, the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association, The Minnesota Buffalo Association, the Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association and the Western Bison Association.

Rod's sense of humor is unrivaled. He challenged Todd and I frequently, throwing out ideas for advertisements for Mosquito Park Enterprises. He would call me or send a photo and maybe a teaser line for an ad and we'd go from there. Some of my favorites were a photo of him in the stock tank after the 2007 International Bison Conference Wagon Train... "International Social Director Gets Tanked" was the ad. Nothing more needed to be said and it was all the talk when the ad appeared in Bison World.

Another ad was a photo of a large bull waking away. "Nothing Butt The Best" was the tagline on that one. There was never any shortage of ideas and laughter when dealing with Rod. I would get an email with nothing in the body but the subject line would say something. That was my cue to take it up a notch and come up with something creative. It was always and challenge and Todd and I would laugh at the finished product. Who else could come up with these ideas? We loved doing ads for Rod. Always a favorite.

Rod is always promoting, always putting the product in front of new people. He sponsors memberships for friends and strangers. He calls the DTBA office with suggestions for conference fund raising, fun auction items, speakers, topics of conversation. His mind never quite churning out ways to promote the animal, the business and the people. He is a tireless promotor for the National Buffalo Foundation and is always seeking ways to keep their message at the forefront.

On the homefront, being an avid hunter, Rod has opened the Muddy Boot to many a buffalo friend wanting to hunt. Pheasant season brings friends from far and near to take in the festivities, along with some of the best bird hunting in Lyman County! He freely shares his passion for hunting and a trip to the Boot is always an adventure. It's worth a trip just to see the memorabilia and experience the décor. The Muddy Boot is legendary.

Back on the homefront, buffalo once again roam the pastures around the Muddy Boot. Rod and Lynnette purchased some Girlz Gone Wild heifers and a few Young Guns bulls in recent years and the small herd is growing steadily. It seems the buffalo have just as firm a hold on Rod as he does on them.

Rod is so many things and such an integral part of the buffalo world. His passion shines like a bright star and a gathering is not complete without him and Lynnette in the room. Above all else, his friendship is treasured by so many of us and it's a rare occasion when you mention his name and someone doesn't recognize it. More often than not, the mention of his name triggers a slew of stories and plenty of laughter.

As a staunch supporter of the DTBA, it was a long overdue honor to present Rod with the 2017 Pioneer Award. The award is a mere token of our gratitude and thankfulness for all he has done for this association. His involvement is felt at every level and for that, we are blessed. It is a privilege to recognize his contributions and honor all that he has done.

Thank you, Rod. You are truly a Pioneer in every sense of the word.

DTBA Represented in Washington DC



In mid-September, the National Bison Association conducted their annual Washington Roundup. The purpose of this trip is for delegates to meet with their respective Senators, Representative, key staff members and USDA officials.

The group of nearly 25 delegates, including DTBA members Roy Liedtke, Dick Gehring, Bruce Anderson (Martha and Hoyt Anderson), Kevin Leier, Patrick Toomey and Karen Conley, conducted 25 meetings during their three days in the nation's capitol.

Key items discussed included the upcoming Farm Bill, funding for MCF research, and passage of a resolution making the first Saturday in November National Bison Day.

USDA meetings focused on animal health and nutrition research funding and prioritizing, eliminating the tariff on bison exports to the EU, opening up Korean and Japanese markets to bison, assuring future trade policies notate "bovine" in lieu of "beef" as a way to include bison, beginning farmer and rancher outreach, adapting FSA disaster assistance programs for bison practices, federal inspection issues and labeling of water buffalo products.

It was a very enlightening and informative experience into the inner workings of our government. These important outreach efforts all centered on the keystone "Bison 1 Million" campaign and many pairs of "Bison Hump Day" glasses were distributed on Capitol Hill, much to the delight of the recipients.

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Class	Animals Sold	High \$	Low \$	Average \$	2017 Average \$	Average Weight	Price/lb.
Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show							
Girlz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifer	31	\$5,000	\$2,100	\$2,976	N/A	744	\$4.00
Young Guns Yearling Bull	21	\$8,500	\$2,900	\$4,183	\$7,543	1,051	\$3.98
Total Head Sold	52						

Karen Conley

As I wrap up the post conference clean up and work through the process of turning over the reins of the DTBA to Patrick and Tammi and the new board, I have had some time to reflect on the many changes taking place recently. Change is not always easy, but it presents many opportunities!

I would like to thank each and every member for allowing me to work with and for you for the past 17+ years. It has been an experience I will never forget. So many of you have become more than a name...you are family. I am truly blessed.

Thank you for the kind remarks and words of encouragement over the years. We have had good time, bad times and plenty of challenges as well as successes. I have had the pleasure of working with many of you as members, board and committee participants, host ranches and auction customers. I will miss that interaction,

but I plan to enjoy participating as a member and volunteering as needed. I look forward to being able to spend time visiting and enjoying the gatherings!

Being presented with the Pioneer Award at this past conference was truly a surprise and very humbling, to say the least. To even be considered to be included in such a group is far beyond anything I ever expected. As I look at the beautiful bronze on my desk, it means the world to me. That will hold a very special place in my heart.

And lastly, I want to thank my husband, Todd Goetz. He is the one person that truly understands what DTBA has meant to me, how much went into it and what it all entailed. He was always there to lend a hand, offer an ear and help me out and for that I am very thankful. He runs a pretty good hospitality room, too!

~ Karen



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