Volume 51 - Issue 3

# Arizona Wildlife News Summer 2009





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Official Publication of the Arizona Wildlife Jederation- Conserving Arizona's Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

## THE ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S 86th ANNUAL MEETING

	JOIN US FOR A "BACK TO NATURE CAMP MEETING" JUNE 12-14, 2009 - DIRECTIONS TO SITE PROVIDED TO REGISTRANTS
	CONSERVATION AWARDS CEREMONY OUTDOOR BANQUET PREPARED BY THE ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION
	FEATURED SPEAKERS ON CONSERVATION ETHICS AND THE NORTH AMERICAN CONSERVATION MODEL
	SUNDAY MORNING ANTELOPE HABITAT PROJECT ENJOY THE OUTDOORS AND THE CAMARADERIE! BRING THE FAMILY!
123	REGISTRATION FORM
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Guest's Names _			
Address			
City, State, Zip			
Email Address			Telephone
		/	
Delegate	Alternate	Guests	
Saturday Luncheon @	\$20.00 per adult	Number of tickets	= \$
	\$8.00 per child	Number of tickets	= \$
Raffle Drawing Ticke	ets @ \$5.00 each	Number of tickets	= \$
-		Total Amount Enclosed	
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### AWF Mission Statement:

AWF is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring and assisting individuals to value, conserve, enhance, manage and protect wildlife and wildlife habitat.

**On the Cover:** Western Stimulator, Watercolor by Robert McKeon, Phoenix.

This watercolor is part of a set of 3 paintings, matted and framed along with a small shadow box just below the illustration with the hand tied fly inside. All 3 are in a private collection in Alpharetta, GA. http://www.rmckdesign.com

If you have a photograph or painting that you would like to submit for consideration on a future cover of Arizona Wildlife News, please contact AWF at the address below.

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The Arizona Wildlife Federation welcomes stories, art and photographic contributions. We will consider, but assume no responsibility for unsolicited proposals, manuscripts, art, photographs and transparencies. Contact the Federation office at 480-644-0077 for details.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the Arizona Wildlife Federation at the above address or phone number or by email <u>editor@azwildlife.org</u>. AWF does not assume any financial responsibility for errors in advertisements that appear in this publication. If notified promptly of an error, we will reprint the corrected ad.



## **Sportsmans Mail Pouch**

John Underwood

Dear Readers and Editor

Just to let you know the Arizona Wildlife News is losing our excellent Executive Editor of the last several years, John Underwood. John has put his heart into making this quarterly the well laid out magazine that it is. When I first met him, we spent many an hour envisioning how we would change what was then a newsprint publication called the "greensheet" into a professional publication that the AWF could be proud of and use to communicate with its members.

John, I feel immense personal gratitude to you for staying on track with it and with all the other things you have done for the AWF over these years. You have been a steady and enthusiastic friend and workmate on the AWF Board and on the magazine. You have chosen to take a well deserved rest, but we hope you continue to join us at events, activities, and even in the pages of the Arizona Wildlife News in future days.

AWF Regional Director, Larry Audsley, from Tucson, will be taking over the duties of Executive Editor with the Fall Arizona Wildlife News issue. Larry is excited to begin this new venture and has been brainstorming ideas for articles and new features, which is exactly how we will be able to keep the AWN an interesting and relevant publication.

The Arizona Wildlife News, re-created by John Underwood, now turns to a new page, and I am looking forward to what will be coming next!

Ryna Rock, President

We urge our readers to communicate to us cheers and even jeers (given in good taste, or course). Keep your communications short and to the point. All must be signed. If you send us questions, we will seek answers and print them here. There may be times mail volume may prevent us from publishing every letter we receive, but we will do our best to print as many as possilbe.

Send your 'snail mail' to:

Sportsman's Mail Pouch Arizona Wildlife Federation PO Box 51510 Mesa, AZ 85208

Send your email to: Editor@azwildlife.org

It is our goal to provide a well-written informative magazine and your feedback will help us do that. This is your magazine, let us hear from you. April 16, 2009

AZ Wildlife Federation P.O. Box 51510 Mesa, AZ 85208

Dear AZ Wildlife Federation,

THE BANQUET ROOM WAS READY AND THE ATTENDEES WERE READY AND THE DOORS OPENED AT 4:00 PML Our 600 BANQUET ATTENDEES FILED IN QUICKLY AND IT WAS NON-STOP UNTIL 11:30 pm. WHEN THE LIGHTS WERE DIMMED AND THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET WAS OVER ARIZONA'S ELK ONCE AGAIN CAME OUT THE WINNERS!!! We grossed approximately \$425,200.00 and netted approximately \$307,300.00 and all of the money raised will stay in Arizona!!!!

A huge THANK YOU! to you for helping make the Eighth Anniversary Arizona Elk Society's Banquet a great success. Your donated Antique Gun was a welcomed addition to the Banquet. Your support of our organization is truly appreciated.

The Antique Gun had a final bid of \$3,800.00. You requested a 50-50 split and that would be \$1,900.00. Enclosed is check #2647 for \$1,500.00.

Should you have any questions or need additional information please do not healtate to contact me.

The Arizona Elk Society Banquet Committee and the elk of Arizona, THANK YOU for your support.

Yours in Conservation,

Cookie Nicoson

Treasurer/Volunteer 828-635-1074 928-699-9036



## WHADDA' YA' KNOW?

- 1. Name one of the two basic concepts of the North American Conservation Model.
- 2. What was "Field & Stream"'s original name?
- 3. What was the Division of Biological Survey?
- 4. Name the second basic concept of the North American Conservation Model.
- 5. What federal law first gave protection to water fowl?
- 6. Who asked John Muir to form the Sierra Club?

(Answers on page 9)

## **From The President**

Ryna Rock



nce again I find myself composing an article based on ideas and ideals triggered by an NWF Annual Meeting. You, my readers will surely be thinking I fall prey easily to the "revivalist spirit" rising at these gatherings of the NWF "brain trust" and the justifiably weary and sometimes struggling state affiliates. Even if we presume such a spirit drives the atmosphere at the NWF Annual Meeting, I remind you that I, like most others who attend, are seasoned veterans in the conservation arena, and within us is a vast store of formal, anecdotal, and experiential knowledge.

A phrase I heard often the last few days - "Think globally, act locally". Something held in those words has stuck with me, seems relevant to recent discussions related to the future course of the Arizona Wildlife Federation. Central in the discussion has been how to discern which of the many activities and issues that pass through our office to focus our energy and time on. Some have expressed that we should take on fewer items, others have asked that we focus on just Arizona items. We have been reminded as well of our budgetary limitations and to consider "pulling back" our overall presence in the face of an unknown economic future.

I would be contemplating all this even without attending an NWF Annual Meeting, based on the time of year we're in. Our own Annual Meeting is coming up fast on June 12-14 in the North Country, with accompanying elections, resolution consideration, and a new budget.

To get the worst out front, the AWF has been affected by the current economic downturn just like all non-profits have, and your officers are considering all kinds of options for our coming year in that area. Working at being fiscally responsible doesn't necessarily have to come at the expense of decreased visibility and presence. It does mean we need to concentrate collectively and individually on greatly elevated commitment and ingenuity. Speaking strictly for myself, I feel "pulling back" is not a good choice and that this is a time for recommitting to our mission, clarifying our message, and speaking it more loudly than ever before.

Our level of advocacy and activism has been extraordinary in recent years, and we continue to develop our regional response levels with an ear to the ground through our regional directors. Beyond that I feel strongly that we must maintain a wide-view", even a global view, that will propel us to "act for Arizona" following a view through that lens. To think we can ignore the "wide-view" should make us examine the intent of our personal purpose in not engaging in collective issue actions that exist and demand engagement from us as an organization. There is no doubt that these "wide-view" issues will be the "drivers" for most Arizona based concerns that we will wish to address in one way or another. Our connection to the National Wildlife Federation gives us the capability for responding to "wide-view" issues with minimal commitment of energy and time, through utilization of personnel and systems they are able to provide. I can think of no good reason to turn our backs to those tools, which can be used very affectively, while still maintaining local efforts on whatever level we choose to commit to.

That "C" word, commitment, is pretty sobering for all of us who are officers for the AWF and that is appropriate. The world is filled with groups whose officers and members like the "idea" of belonging to an advocacy group, but lack any real personal commitment to making things happen. Each one of us must take a long, hard look at our personal network and our level of commitment, being brutally honest about whether or not we have made ourselves step at least slightly out of our comfort zone to advance the worthy goals of the AWF. We are in times that demand this investment, as we face challenges in the conservation arena that we have not seen the likes of in not just our lifetimes, but perhaps not

## The State We're In!

in the lifetimes of many generations before us. Like it or not, these are the challenges of our time, and we need to own them. To use that increasingly more familiar phrase, "If not us, then who, if not now, then when?"

Today's conservation and environmental arena requires coalition building and building upon shared values. Today's successful conservation advocacy and environmental groups have recognized that fact, and those that haven't are narrowing in focus and effectiveness as we speak. This self-destruction is not confined to any one kind of group, as was evidenced by the discussion at the NWF Annual Meeting of several affiliate groups that currently suffer from it. They may not survive.

Unfortunately, much of the recent outreach we have seen in Arizona lately is concentrated on the disagreements among our numerous conservation, sportsmen/women, and environmental groups, actually celebrating what divides us, creating ways to increase the separation these tensions create rather than working to find consensus on those issues and concerns we actually share in common. Reality is that we will only be as successful as our network is big. We will not be successful because we find another way to exclude more Arizonans from working for wildlife and habitat. Does anyone really think in all honesty, that sportsmen/women or for that matter so-called "greenies", or ranchers, or agencies, or whoever can be the solitary force that stands alone to sustain all the wildlife and habitat of Arizona and every other state in our union against the challenges that face us today? C'mon! Get real! The Arizona Wildlife Federation members and officers are called to a larger vision than that and always have been. We have a legacy to uphold.

I almost forgot! Is this a time when I again have to say, "These are not the official opinions of the Arizona Wildlife Federation, but are solely my personal view on these matters"?

Ryna Rock, President

## Then



**Historical Tales** 

Reproduced by Ryna Rock from Arizona Wildlife Magazine, December 1938

## MR. DING GOES TO TOWN

Authored by famed conservationist and first President of the National Wildlife Federation, J. N. (Ding) Darling

his is addressed to all those who would rather rest sitting under a shade tree than cultivate repose leaning against barbed wire fence post, to all those who would rather picnic beside the clear, rippling waters of a brook than hold their noses from the stench of a sewage-polluted river. I want to talk to those who prefer bass and trout to mud turtles, water lilies in their ponds to green scum, and to all those who are willing to pause long enough in their weeping over their income taxes, bridge scores and social security to point out the real fact that unless you give some thought to the conservation of the sustaining resources of nature from which all the fortunes and fame of our nation have come from in the past and must come in the future, there will be something more to worry about on this continent than slumps in the stock market and sit-down strikes.

We may inflate currency but it won't put back soils on our eroded farms nor bring back our forests. We may accumulate all the gold in the world in our treasury but it won't put water back on our artificial deserts nor restore our food crops, fish, fowl and gifts of nature. Remember, they don't produce the Fultons, Edisons or Henry Fords on Arabian deserts. Such miracle workers need rich natural resources for their background.

Come what may, be it Communism, Socialism, dictatorship or a continuation of our so-called democracy, no matter how benevolently inclined the form of government we may choose, none of them can give us prosperity or abundance of living in the future if we are to continue the reckless violation of nature's bountiful laws and destroy the very foundation of our living necessities. It's an old saying that you never miss the water till the well runs dry, but it would be a good idea to look down the well once in a while to see how the water level is holding up.

That we have poured down the rathole much of that which Nature gave us on this magnificent continent is apparent to anyone who will give it a casual glance. Our forests, of priceless value if we had them back today, have been hacked and burned away. Our rivers, which once teemed with fish and aquatic life, have become sewers to carry away the water of our civilization. The soils, riches in the world, have been so abused that millions of acres which once produced food and a comfortable living for human beings are now abandoned and become eroding wastes, scars of a heedless and prodigal existence, of a few brief generations. They say we abandon 25,000,000 acres every year as a result of soil exhaustion. As long as this continent had virgin lands to which we might move, words of caution went unheeded. We have now come to the end of our frontiers. We must sit down where we are and live and eat - for how many thousands of years it is only a question of your ability to imagine.

It is time for us, the custodians of our own fate and that of our children's children, to heed the signs which are written along a trail which civilization has blazed through the ages. As hungry man has progressed across the face of the earth he has left a desert in his wake. From the Mongolian desert, once the cradle of the human race, to our own dust bowl, we in the United States have the world's record for speed and efficiency in destructive waste and, if we don't alter our ways, we will soon catch up with the Chinese, who have been at it since prehistoric times.

They still have a salmon run up the Rhine River. We in the USA have none left in our streams on the Atlantic Coast and but few on the Pacific within the boundaries of the United States. I sometimes think that conservationists are like the old man who was a member of my father's church. On Wednesday night, at prayer meeting, he used to testify that he thanked God salvation was free. He had been a member of the church for 40 years and it hadn't cost him a cent. What Nature has given us hasn't cost us a cent either, except the effort to pluck it from the face of the earth, but it is beginning to cost us dearly and will cost us more and more as the resources of our nation disappear. We may find that salvation isn't as free as we thought it was.

I have just returned from a swing around a circle, covering pretty well the Mississippi Valley from the Gulf to the Canadian Border looking over the refuge areas which have been restored during the last three years in an effort to save the waning populations of migratory waterfowl. To be sure, these refuges are few enough and far between, like the oases in the Sahara Desert, but they are now functioning like a New York hotel during an American Legion convention. Four years ago they were arid wastes, drained of their water by man and barren of vegetation. They are now verdant marshes, full of all kinds of water birds, ducks, geese, sandpipers and fur bearing animals. Reproducing their normal, healthy broods in evident gratitude for a little spot where Nature's laws again rule their existence.

I would like to point out with emphasis that this series of restoration projects for waterfowl are the result of a nationwide emergency which brought the forces of wildlife conservation together in a demand to save the duck population. It is a small demonstration of what can be done when the wildlife conservationists concentrate on a job. This big of restoration grew out of a temporary hysteria over the crisis in the wild duck population, of which the conservationist's became suddenly aware. For once a united movement demanded action and got it. It showed us the way to a much wider field of operations, including restoration of all wildlife species, water and soil.

Continued on Page 21

## Now



By John Underwood



Just when you thought dealing with Swine flu was paramount, along comes a Fish Advisory affecting one of the states premier fishing lakes. Hopefully this will dispel any concerns you have fishing Roosevelt Lake .

## 1. What is the fish advisory at Roosevelt Lake ?

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), the Arizona Game & Fish Department (AGFD) and the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) are advising anglers to only consume largemouth bass from Roosevelt Lake at the recommended rates due to mercury contamination. This advisory does not limit recreational use of Roosevelt Lake for fishing, bird watching, swimming or other types of recreational uses.

## 2. Where is this fish consumption advisory in effect?

This fish consumption advisory applies only to Roosevelt Lake. This lake is a reservoir located in Gila County, Central Arizona, northwest of Globe, at the confluence of the Salt River and Tonto Creek.

## 3. How did the fish consumption advisory for Roosevelt Lake come about?

Mercury was detected at elevated concentrations in fish taken from Roosevelt Lake as a part of a study conducted by ADEQ and AGFD. Average mercury concentrations of 0.63 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) and 0.61 mg/kg were found in largemouth bass and channel catfish (see below) respectively. A maximum concentration of 1.2 ma/ka was found in largemouth bass and1.1 mg/kg in channel catfish. Based on a risk assessment using these data, a fish consumption advisory has been issued jointly by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and ADEQ. Channel Catfish (Ictalurus punctatus) Largemouth Bass (Micropterus salmoides)

## 4. Why is mercury considered harmful?

Mercury is a liquid metal that is transformed by bacteria to methyl mercury (or "organic" mercury) which can then be ingested by living organisms. While methyl mercury has been linked to a variety of health effects, the primary basis for this fish advisory is its toxicity to the nervous system, including the brain. Most at risk are babies and unborn children whose mothers consume fish containing mercury prior to or during pregnancy, or while nursing. Exposure to mercury at elevated concentrations can delay walking and talking and cause learning disabilities in children. If you have questions about eating fish during pregnancy or while nursing, please contact your health care provider.

## 5. I've eaten fish from Roosevelt Lake in the past, am I OK?

The process for calculating risks from exposure to mercury is very conservative. Consuming the average fish from Roosevelt Lake at the rate of one 8 ounce fillet (weight before cooking) per month is within a margin of safety for pregnant women and women of child bearing age and therefore should be even more protective for men. Methyl mercury will naturally leave your body over time once exposure has stopped. This process occurs at a rate of roughly one half of the total amount in your body about every two months. If you have any questions about risks from mercury you may have consumed in the past, please contact your health care provider.

### 6. Where did the mercury come from?

Mercury occurs naturally in the environment and is found in low concentrations in Arizona soils. Cinnabar, a natural solid form of mercury, occurs as reddish veins in or near recent volcanic rocks, like those found throughout Arizona. Seven of Arizona 's 15 counties contain significant deposits of cinnabar with historic mining and exploration for the metal occurring in several areas, including Maricopa, Gila, and Pinal counties. Mercury has also been used in many industrial and agricultural applications, placer mining, and is found in coal-fired smokestack emissions. Mercury can enter lakes and streams from any of these sources and will build up over time, especially if a water body is dammed and the sediments cannot be naturally flushed out. It only takes a small amount of mercury in a water body to bioconcentrate in fish. To illustrate, one part per million (the same as one milligram per kilogram) is like one day in 2,739 years or one third of a cup of water in a 20,000 gallon swimming pool.

Streams and Game Trails

## 7. How did the mercury build up in the fish?

Once mercury has entered a lake or stream, it is readily taken up by bacteria found in sediments. Mercury can then build up in tissues of insects as they feed on these bacteria. When these insects are eaten by predators and these predators are, in turn, eaten by even larger predators, the mercury concentration increases every step, all the way up the "food chain" to "top predators" such as the largemouth bass. Concentrations of mercury in large, older fish can be many times those found in the insects at the bottom of the food chain.

### 8. Is it safe to fish in Roosevelt Lake ?

Yes. Recreational fishing should not be affected by this advisory. It is safe for people of any age to handle fish in catch and release situations and as stated above, contact with the water should not pose a risk. Fish are also a good source of low fat protein and as long as the fishing public does not consume bass at rates greater than those advised for Roosevelt Lake , the likelihood of health risk is minimal. Also, eating smaller, younger fish which contain less mercury or other types of fish such as trout, sunfish, and bluegill can lower the amount of mercury you consume.

### 9. Is it safe to swim in Roosevelt Lake ?

Yes. While mercury has been detected in water samples taken from Roosevelt Lake, it has always been at extremely low (parts per trillion) concentrations. Once mercury enters an aquatic ecosystem such as a lake or stream, it accumulates in the muscle tissue of living organisms such as aquatic insects and fish where it primarily remains, moving from organism to organism. Thus, in aquatic ecosystems, the vast majority of the mercury is most likely contained in the organisms inhabiting that system, leaving only very small amounts in the water. Swimming or taking part in other recreation in and around the water does not present a human health hazard due to mercury.

### 10. Is this just an Arizona problem?

Public consumption advisories regarding mercury are common throughout the United States and Canada . At least 48 states and a number of territories and tribes have issued mercury advisories as of 2008. With this advisory for Roosevelt Lake, Arizona currently has 13 lakes with mercury advisories. Also, in January, 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration jointly issued a fish advisory covering both commercially and recreationally caught fish, advising women who are pregnant or who may become pregnant, to limit consumption of all fish to one 8 ounce fillet (weight before cooking) per week.

More information, and the text of this advisory can be found at:

epa.gov/mercury/advisories.htm

azdeq.gov/environ/water/assessment/download/fish0305.pdf gf.state.az.us/h\_f/fish\_consumption.shtml

### **Roosevelt Fishing Report**

On the subject of fishing, my grandson, Steven and I were at Roosevelt for four days during his spring break in March. The first couple of days didn't produce anything to write home about, but the next two were. We had tried everything in our tackle boxes without much luck, so on the third and fourth day we switched to live minnows. That was the ticket. We soon ran out of the live minnows and since I had brought along a tub of Berkley GULP Alive 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch minnows, we hooked'em up and didn't miss a beat in catching some nice Bass. All fish returned for the enjoyment another day. This was a pleasant surprise and I will be getting some more Berkley GULP Alive bait before my next trip.

### Access to your favorite Fishing Spot.

Twenty-three percent of anglers report that one of their fishing spots has been closed to angling in the past three years, according to a January 2009 survey by Southwick Associates. This compares to 25% who reported loss of a fishing location in a similar survey a year earlier, in January 2008.

The access problem is most acute for freshwater anglers. Of those reporting a loss of access, 74% said that they lost a fishing location on fresh water; just 24% reported the loss of a saltwater location. Reported access loss results for 2008 were 77% fresh water and 17% salt water.

Let me know if you have had any problems here in Arizona. Streamsandgametrails1@cox.net

### Suggestions for a safe boating season.

Don't drink while operating a boat. Appoint a designated boat operator. Or, better yet, save all drinking activities until

you are safely on land.

Be overly cautious on major holiday weekends. The weekends of Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day are considered the deadliest weekends both on the water and on the road for accidents involving alcohol. Take extra care to use defensive boat operating skills during these weekends, and be aware that local law enforcement officials will step up their efforts to identify boaters who are under the influence.

Wear your life vest. Many boating deaths and accidents could be avoided each year if boat operators and their passengers would simply wear their life vests. And don't forget - most states have laws that require children to wear life vests at all times while on a boat.

## Firearms and Ammunition Excise Taxes Up 31 Percent in 4th Quarter

According to the most recent Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax Collection Report, released earlier today by the Department of the Treasury, firearm and ammunition manufacturers paid more than \$98.1 million in the fourth calendar quarter of 2008, up 31.3% over the same time period reported in 2007.

## First Coyote Shotshell Load from Federal Premium Now Available

For the first time ever, Federal Premium® offers a shotshell designed especially for coyotes. This new 12-gauge V-Shokâ,,¢ load combines the proven FLITECONTROL® wad and super-dense HEAVYWEIGHT® shot for devastating performance.

Available now:

PHC120 BB / 12-ga, 3", 1-1/2 oz, BB HEAVYWEIGHT 1350 fps For more information on the new coyote load, or the entire

Federal Premium lineup, go to www.federalpremium.com.

Take those youngsters outdoors with you and you will experience the thrill of a lifetime. Until next time, Be Safe and enjoy Arizona's Great Outdoors.



## **Conservation Districts**

The Apache NCRD

By Ty Rock



or the 2009 second quarter of the Arizona Wildlife News our focus will concentrate on an NRCD that includes some of the most beautiful and varied country in Arizona – the Apache Natural Resource Conservation Distsrict. Authorized in February of 1942 and encompassing more than 1.5 million acres, its boundaries range from the Mogollon Rim, in Greenlee County, to the Navajo Reservation and from the New Mexico State border to the Navajo County line. Within this huge area of natural beauty lies Mount Baldy (11,300 ft. in elevation), as well as the head waters of the Little Colorado, Blue, San Francisco and Black rivers. Enough famous lake acreage exists in this NRCD, (including but not limited to, Luna, Big, Nelson, Mexican Hay, Becker, Lyman and Concho lakes), to make any fly rod twitch with excitement!

Since the "Apache" contains one of the highest concentrations of lakes and free flowing streams in Arizona, this district has placed an enormous amount of emphasis on conserving and improving stream banks, mitigating sediment concerns and completing a stream bank stabilization project on the Little

## (Questions on page 4) WHADDA' YA' KNOW? Answers

- 1. Our fish & wildlife belong to all North American citizens
- 2. "Forest & Stream"
- 3. Precursor to the US Fish & Wildlife Service
- 4. Fish & wildlife populations must be managed to sustain them forever.
- 5. Weaks-McLean Act of 1913
- 6. The Boone & Crockett Club

Colorado River near Springerville. Over 35 years of data has been compiled on the Coyote Creek and Lyman Reservoir, sub-watershed, alone. This has proven of invaluable assistance to the "Apache" in both demonstration and conservation projects. Currently, the District is in an on-going planning cycle for a series of projects to improve watershed health and forage production for wildlife and livestock, even looking to New Mexico for additional conservation partners.

Like many of the active NRCD organizations the "Apache" and their cooperators employ EQUIP, WHIP and other programs, as well as working closely with the Arizona Game & Fish Department, USFS, Arizona State Land Department, county and local governments, and other NRCD's. They are an active member of the Natural Resources Working Group, which is a regional coalition of government entities, business, academia and environmental groups. In addition to being the driving force behind the Little Colorado Weed Management Area, the District is part of the White Mountains Stewardship Project's Multi-party Monitoring Board. This is a coalition that is evaluating the environmental, economic and social impacts of the nation's largest forest health restoration project. As if all of the above were not enough, the "Apache" has helped to develop the Apache County Wildfire Protection Plan and participated in all of the USFS' inter-disciplinary teams addressing the Wildland-Urban Interface areas in the district.

Arizona has received national recognition by being asked to provide the 2009 Capital Christmas Tree, with the selection of the tree being made by the Capital Architect this summer. The Apache NRCD is involved in this process by sitting on the steering committee and serving as the project's fiscal agent. The harvesting of this national landmark will occur in November and the "Tree" will go on tour throughout Arizona before being transported to Washington, D.C. Additionally, Arizona will provide approximately 75 companion trees and 7,000 ornaments.

The Apache NRCD is a District that is staffed by dedicated, hardworking, knowledgeable individuals who have found innovative ways and means of dealing with conservation issues that are unique to their local environment. My impression is of an NRCD that is extremely viable, in this age of budget cuts and apathy, whose future seems to be assured.

## **BOW Happenings!**

# The BOW FOLLIES

By Linda Dightmon



t is a classic example one of one of those you-really-had-to-bethere events. The Saturday night fundraiser has evolved into a great time. The stars are the participants. Inhibitions are gone. The energy and camaraderie in the room is electric.

About a week prior to the workshop, we send out this message: CASTING CALL!!!

We are looking for short (5 minutes MAX. PLEASE!!!) "acts" They can be skits, fashions, poems, or songs. Etc. (Last time a last minute act invented and executed at camp won the prize!) Try to keep with an outdoors or a woman-based theme (or both). You may be solo or team up with a friend(s). Let us know when you check in if you have an act.

Many women have no intention of embarrassing themselves with an act but change their minds later. We have seen original poems, songs, skits and parodies about an experience from the weekend. Some bring costumes, music and props from home.

With a group of 100 we usually get 5 or 6 acts. Holly Dickinson, our Outdoors Essentials instructor, does a great job as master of ceremonies. She sets the line up, gives advice and sometimes participates in the their acts. She used to such a shy person! She warms up the crowd with really corny audience participation songs. The wonderful thing is: *Everyone Participates!* There is something really funny about a burly firearms instructor making 'moose' antlers with his hands. There is a three-judge panel and they take their job very seriously as there are prizes. Criteria is originality, staying with the theme and finally on the performance itself with extra points for being able to carry a tune.

In addition to the show we also have a silent auction and raffle. Participants donate items. We also have basic outdoor equipment that we have gathered from venders. The AWEF is also there selling BOW merchandise at the "BOWTIQUE". All proceeds go back into the program including scholarships.

The talent at the April '09 workshop was phenomenal! It was the best show ever. The judges had a hard time, as there really was no clear winner. We had a performance on Native American flutes that brought the crowd to their feet. One lady with a beautiful voice treated us to an Acappella melody that just melted your heart. There was a wellrehearsed and hilarious lip synch to Patsy Cline's "I've Got Your Picture, and She's Got You". There was also a poem about a toad. The winning poem is shown on the sidebar. This poem was written at camp, read by one participant and pantomimed by another.

We usually end the Follies with my one hit wonder lip synch of Lisa Koch's "I'm a Middle Aged Woman".

Like I said...you really have to be there!



## BOW Poem by Andrea Hathaway

"Dedicated to all BOW Participants of April 09"

So becoming a BOW Woman... What's it all about... Could it be shooting, Wilderness Medicine, Elk Hunting or even eating trout?

Indeed it is, and so much more... I tried to even have my Best Friend learn how to shoot a boar!

So in my fly fishing class, I was rewarded with a fly not a lure... And learned from Don and Gene that the tea from a mesquite tree may in fact make me a poo-er!

There are many things that BOW generously offers to us... Like how the prickly pear can help prevent cuts that puss!

Today in class while learning about medicine of the wild... I know now I need to pack in my first aid kit a great big nail file!

I have learned over these days at BOW that I am good at being a woman in the outdoors... However I seem to always find myself being concerned about the condition of my pores!

Overall, BOW is a place that I will always treasure...

As long as I NEVER am handed a snake or a fish that I have to skin or measure!



August 14-16



Images by Joseph Berke Ruth Hursch Kimberlee Kreuzer Trocy Unmocht

# ONE WORKSHOP LEFT IN 2 Traditional BOW

\$240, which includes instruction, program materials, lodging in rustic cabins and meals. This workshop will be held at Friendly Pines Camp in the tall pines of the Bradshaw Mountains.

All workshops feature evening entertainment, campfires and other night time activities to round out your nurdoor expensence. Classes include hiking, fishing, hunting, shooting, outdoor corking, GPS, wildemess suevival, rappelling, binding, map and compass, camping archery and many more?



For more Information: Visit our web site www.azwildlife.org

Arizona Wildlife Federation P O Box 51510 Mesa, AZ 85208 480-644-0077 Email: awf@azwildlife.org



# Discover Arizona

Becoming an Ouldoors Woman is an Outdoors Skills Clinic for women. The objective of the program is to provide women with an opportunity to team basic outdoor skills in a fun, non-threatening manner.

**Discover** You!

## Kid's Korner

## Why are the Verde River and Other Waterways Important to Our Natural Environment? CORNVILLE, 6TH GRADE

Young people in the Verde Valley were asked this question by the Verde Birding Festival. The winning answers in prose and paint are on these two pages.

## Enjoy!

Why Are the Verde River and Other Water Ways Important to Our Natural Environment?

Beth Walker, age 17 Rimrock (home schooled)

BY ATHENA LINDSAY - OAK CREEK SCHOOL,

Everyone knows how water is very important and some people don't. Some people don't realize how water is important to the environment, but water is important. The Verde River and other Waterways cross through mountains and wind through Valleys, and some even go to the desert hills, like Egypt. These waterways help animals that come around, like bears, snakes and birds. The Verde River is important too, as it is in the Colorado River Basin and it has migrating birds. The Verde River is a critical flyway for migrating birds, and is a home to Bald Eagles. The Verde River has lots of rare and non-rare plants, so the Verde River is an important waterway to the plants so they grow and the animals eat them. Some of the rare plants that live there are Sage, Ripley Wild Buckwheat and Arizona Cliff Rose, and some of the most common plants are Cottonwoods, Willows, Mesquite, Crucifix Thorn, and Greythorn.

The waterways are important to the animals too. The animals need the water to survive and give them nutrients and vitamins. Some of the animals that go to the Verde River are Bobcat, Grey Fox, Coyote, Jackrabbit, Cottontail Rabbit, and Javelina. The rare and not common to see animals are Beaver, River Otter, and Mountain Lion. The natural environment is counted on by people for water to drink and for purifying water so it won't taste weird to your taste buds. Water is also important to bugs because if we didn't have bugs some animals that eat bugs might die out, or bees might not make honey, and we might not have honey made by hardworking bees. The trees that live by the waterways are part of the reason we need water because if trees never existed, we probably would never be able to breathe because we give them nitrogen and they give us back oxygen. We need water to make juice, soda and to make soup in a boiling pot so we can eat and not starve to death. Water is a home to sea life animals and they need water because if fish go on to land they would dry out very quickly. The waterways are more important than you think because some animals would die if they didn't get any water in time.

If you think about water what do you think about? I think about the trees and the animals that live near the waterways and how we get water to drink by purifying the water to drink. You can look at all of the plants and animals that need water and the bugs that need it and if we didn't have water, people couldn't survive without it either. Waterways are more important than you think.



## CONTEST WITH A PRIZE!

Put your brain to work, win a prize and help us out! Right now the new "youth section" of the Arizona Wildlife News has the boring name, "Kid's Korner". We want your good ideas on a great new name. This new section is your place to share ideas, plan projects or just tell us what you are doing for wildlife and wild places. The winner will receive....a \$25 gift certificate to Sportsmans Warehouse!

Call Kim at: 480-644-0077 with your idea!

### BY PHIL WILLIAMS – MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL, COTTONWOOD, 12th Grade

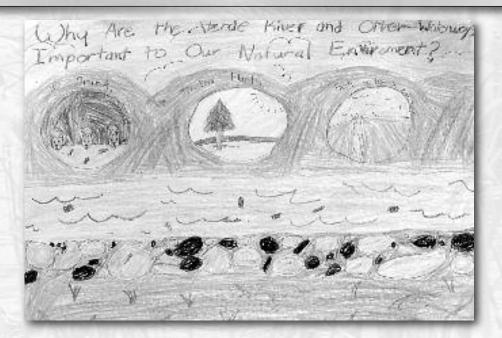
The Verde River, as well as other waterways in Arizona, is a very important part of the natural environment in Arizona's Southwestern climate. Why may they be important? The answer has been supported throughout all of life's history – water is the basis of survival for ALL living things on Earth.

The waterways throughout the Verde Valley give the area its name, the water supports many plants, as well as animal life in the valley, which poses why water is important. The waterways in the Verde Valley are also important because there is little or no rain in the hot desert climate that surrounds the valley. Also, the water in the Verde River, and other waterways, help contribute to evaporation and takes part in the rain cycle in Arizona. The water that creates rain also washes away silt build-up and debris that collect along the Verde River.

Water is important to the diets of animals around the Verde Valley, because water makes-up about 60% of a creature's body, which makes water a very important factor in the diet of all animals. Water also allows for plants to be grown, and survive, which creates food for animals along the food chain, and allows them to survive, and in turn, keeps all of nature on checks and balances.

The Verde River and other waterways also create a habitat for the species of animals that live in its surrounding area. Some animals cannot be found anywhere else in the world except for in the parts of Arizona where there is water! Ancient people of Arizona lived near the rivers in the Verde Valley, and relied on the river for their survival, and without it, they would have perished.

So, when asked why the Verde River and other surrounding waterways are important to our natural environment, the answer is simple: All living creatures need water to survive, the landscape needs the water to let nature run its course, and the waters that run through and surround the Verde Valley allow for these things to happen. That keeps our natural environment the way it should be.



Kay Ko Oak Creek School

# Members in the Field **Turkey Times Three!**

1st annual all-ladies turkey hunt

by Amanda Moors

or years I have been teaching hunting classes at the Becoming **Outdoors**an Woman workshops. As an extension of teaching those hunting classes, I have been taking some of the ladies out hunting. We started out with squirrel hunts on the San Carlos and now have moved into bigger animals. This was the first year I took a group of ladies turkey hunting. We decided to go to NM since they have over the counter turkey



about. Lo and behold as we come around a corner in the dirt road we spot a couple toms strutting in front of a group of hens. Woohoo!! Can we really be so lucky? Well, we had our calls with us and so just for fun we started calling to them from inside the car. One gobbler headed our immediately wav but got a little spooked when he was faced with my Jeep in the middle of the road. But he just went back to his hens and we kept calling and making them gobble back. We played with them for about half an hour before mov-

Debbie (left), Amanda (center) and Bonnie (right) posing with Debbie's gobbler

tags there. I haven't spent much time in NM and everyone was relying on me to find them turkeys, so I was a bit worried about finding some good turkey hunting spots. Luckily there were several generous people that shared some great turkey hunting locations with me.

I went out a month before the hunt and scouted out some spots and was feeling comfortable that we could get on some turkeys. They were gobbling pretty good already in March. We were also very privileged to have a friend of mine offer us his house to stay in during the hunt. Wow, I couldn't believe how things were coming together for this hunt!

There were to be 5 of us hunting. I was the only one of the group who had successfully hunted turkey before and many of the ladies had never even tried hunting turkeys before. Barbara had previously only squirrel hunted and Bonnie had never hunted anything at all. So this was her first-ever hunt and just a few weeks before this she was out with her husband buying a shotgun, pattering it, getting all her camo and other gear. Debbie and Kathy are experienced hunters but have never taken a turkey.

The season opened on a Wednesday, so Tuesday evening I went with Debbie and Bonnie to scout a spot that a friend told me

ing up the road. As we drove I could still see them just downhill from the road. We continued on past them and went scouting some other areas. On our way back, just before dark, I stopped the Jeep at a spot where we could walk into the area where I thought the turkeys had headed.

On the topo map, it looked like a good canyon for roosting and for listening for birds after dark. So we walked in and suddenly I realized there were turkeys right in front of us. We froze and watched the tom strutting and the hens moving around for maybe 10 minutes before they flew into some roost trees just in front of us, while some flew across the canyon to roost. We waited until dark and then I went back to get some turkey decoys from the Jeep. We set up the decoys and planned out our sitting locations so we could come in there in the dark in the morning.

Opening morning we awoke to find it raining lightly outside. It was a pleasant hike in the rain to our spot. We set up as quietly as we could and waited for the turkeys to start talking on the roost. The gobbler sounded off along with several hens calling in the trees nearby. I called with some light yelping before they flew down, but after they were on the ground I increased the volume and frequency of my yelps.

The turkeys headed right to us and I had set it up so Debbie would have the shot. Bonnie and I sat farther back and hoped to call a tom over for Debbie to shoot. The hens headed our way and walked right up to the decoys, but the toms stayed back behind a couple oak trees strutting in a nice patch of grass. Debbie didn't have a clear shot. The toms strutted in front of her for about half an hour before the hens started moving away. The toms followed but not before one came around the group of trees Debbie was set up in. We had already planned that if the tom came around that way that I would take the shot since there would be no way for Debbie to get turned to face him. As the tom was behind some small trees I put my gun up and took the safety off. He came out in the open and was peering around looking for me. I took the shot and he dropped in his tracks at 25 yards. I jumped up to go grab him since he was flopping around. Bird #1 was on the ground less than an hour into our hunt!! He was a nice tom with a 9 1/2 inch beard. Wow, what a morning!

We could still hear gobblers calling around us, so after we took some photos of my bird, we went out after some more birds. We called in a hen to within 10 yards or so, but she was by herself. We were hearing gobblers all day even though it was very windy. Late in the afternoon we decided to take a break and pluck my bird.

We had just hung it in a tree when a gobbler sounded off up the ridge from us. So we grabbed our gear and went after him, to no avail. We came back down and plucked the bird and then drove out to some other areas. We didn't see a lot of sign so we headed back toward "Pluck Canyon". On the way we saw some turkeys strutting in the road near a tank. There were at least 3 jakes and one tom along with several hens in that group. The jakes and gobbler answered my calls with gusto, but they just wouldn't come back down the ridge to where we were. I could periodically see them strutting and calling only 100 yards or so up the ridge. But the hens stayed up there and so did they. Eventually we went on past them and tried to get set-up where they were heading. As we were walking in there I spotted a hen close-by. We crouched down and I held the decoy in front of me. That hen made a beeline for the decoy and came within 5 yards before deciding it was nothing and continuing on through the saddle. We set-up there hoping the hen would be followed by some toms, but no luck.

The second morning of the hunt we headed right back to that saddle where the hen had crossed and set up in the pre-dawn darkness. I tried to call him over to us and it turns out the hen came in close to Bonnie, but the gobbler stayed lower down the ridge out of view. He didn't call much at all once he was on the ground.

The birds seemed much quieter this morning and the odds of getting a bird that morning seemed to be falling away quickly. We headed down into a drainage where I had heard some calling earlier in the morning and hoped a flock might move through there later in the morning. After sitting there and calling for an hour or more, we decided to go back to the Jeep for lunch. Probably 15 minutes after getting up to leave we hear a gobbler heading down the ridge right toward where we had been set-up! Ack!! What do they say? Patience kills more gobblers than anything? Guess we hadn't been patient enough.

We decide to just sit down where we are and hope he will come in. We know there are still gobblers to the left somewhere and I figure Bonnie can set up for them while Debbie can get what comes in from the other direction. I do some light calling and I hear two gobblers call closeby in the drainage to my left. They will either follow the path the hens took or come in behind us a little. Bonnie and I shift to try and cover both angles. I call a little more and expect to see the gobblers at any second. Suddenly I hear a shot from behind me and realize that Debbie must have seen one! Yippee! We turn toward Debbie and she says, "Mine is down, there are two more, shoot one!"

Bonnie turns around and is trying to get a steady off-hand shot at one of them. The two other toms start attacking the one that is down and I try and coach Bonnie through the shot. "Wait until you are steady and have a clear shot." She doesn't have anything under her gun to support it and decides it's not steady enough to take the shot. The gobblers see some of our movement and decide to leave their fallen comrade and head for cover.

Wow, talk about excitement!! We had three gobblers running into us. From where Bonnie and I were we couldn't see them cross behind the pile of downed trees. Luckily, Debbie happened to look that way and see their heads just over the pile of trees. She turned and took a great shot through a tiny opening. The birds were just 15-20 yards away when she shot. With a little more experience, I think Bonnie would have been comfortable with taking a shot at one of the remaining birds, but she had only ever shot her gun with a rest and just wasn't sure how well she could aim and fire it without one. This was her first hunt ever and I was really impressed with the calm she showed during that moment. I imagine some other hunters might have just started shooting with birds that close. But she showed real poise and discipline at a very exciting time. I think that will serve her well during her future hunts. So we almost had a double on the 2nd morning, but we were happy enough to have gotten one since that morning had been relatively guiet and hard to get on birds. It was about 11:30 am when Debbie shot her turkey. Debbie is an experienced hunter who has taken deer, javelina, and small game, but this was her first turkey! Do you think she is excited?



That afternoon we checked out a new area and sat a tank. There was a lot of turkey sign, but the turkeys didn't come into the tank while we were there. We did get to enjoy the birds and squirrels around the water and also a light snowstorm.

We spent all-day everyday of the hunt out there hunting. We generally left the house at 4 am and didn't get back until 8:30 pm. That didn't leave much time to eat and sleep before getting up at 3 am again! I had actually planned to only hunt mornings and evenings and just go back to the house and relax during the midday. However, these ladies were dedicated and whenever there was a choice to be made about continuing to hunt or taking a break, they always opted for hunting. Over the next couple days we had all kinds of close encounters with turkeys, but just couldn't make it happen.

The night before the last morning of the hunt, we roosted at least three gobblers in "Pluck Canyon". So on the last morning I took Bonnie with me to set up on one side of the canyon and sent Kathy across the canyon to sit in a blind some of ladies had made previously. As Bonnie and I hiked uphill in the dark, we realized there was a flashlight shining at us from the woods in front of us. Then we realized there must be another hunter in there and they were set up right where we were headed. Ugh....Oh well, there wasn't much to do about it, so we just set up where we were and hoped for the best. We were thankful the guy signaled us, rather than waiting for us to walk up there on top of him. The gobblers we had roosted were fairly quiet on the roost, but a couple others further up the canyon (closer to the other hunters) were calling loudly. I did some calling to try and get the gobblers to come my way but it sounded like they were going up the canyon. Suddenly, we heard a shot from across the canyon where Kathy was supposed to be set up. I fumbled through my pack to get the radio and turn it on. We waited several anxious minutes before we heard "I got him!". Woo-hoo!!! I was elated! We packed up our stuff and headed over to help her out.

When we got there she was motioning that there were birds

nearby so we started getting into hunting mode again. We could hear several hens and gobbler making all kinds of calls nearby. We tried to call them down to us, but had no luck. I took Bonnie and tried to loop around to get above them. We didn't get too far before realizing there were two more gobblers coming uphill toward us. We setup to get a shot at one of them, but it seemed like those other hunters moved in and the birds stopped coming our way. We started to wonder about which calls were birds and which were hunters, so we went further east and tried to work a gobbler in the bottom of a canyon there. Again it seemed like we heard some hunters calling nearby and then the gobbler stopped calling. That was disappointing since it was the last morning and we had just spent several days in there without any other hunters. Oh well, everyone

has the right to be there, so we just packed it up and went back to help Kathy skin her bird. It had been a great morning with birds gobbling better than the last few days. It was too bad we had to leave that morning, they were gobbling good!

I think Kathy's bird was the biggest of the three we had taken during this hunt. It had about 1 inch spurs and looked like it was bigger bodied. My guess is it weighed around 20-21 lbs. Kathy said the bird came right into the jake decoy she had set up. Kathy didn't have any calls with her, but had imitated a hen yelp with her voice a few times before this gobbler came in. This gobbler was all alone, but it strutted around the decoy before she took the shot. This was Kathy's first turkey and wow, what a fine trophy!

Well, we certainly had a great hunt. Unfortunately, Barbara wasn't feeling well and had to leave early and hardly got to hunt. But of the remaining four, three of us got gobblers and one had passed on a shot at one at 15-20 yards. So I would say this was a very successful hunt!! The ladies showed some real dedication by hunting all day, everyday in rain, snow, heat and wind. I was very impressed with all of them and can't wait to do it again next year!

Bonnie (in set up) Kathy, Amanda and Debbie



## **"POW"** Promoting Outdoor Women

By Jim Unmacht

didn't have to try to hard to get my wife into the "outdoors". She took a canoeing class in college and spent a week in the Boundary Waters canoeing and fishing, so that part was easy.

I did have to talk her into deer hunting some 25 years ago in Minnesota, and told her I'd buy "her" a new shotgun to go with the electric socks I promised. I also promised her she wouldn't be too far from the house so she could go back home and warm up if necessary. That opening weekend of below zero weather had her but a couple hundred yards from the front door, electric socks on high, and "her" new shotgun ready for that first buck.

About 6 am as it was getting light, that 20 gauge got an opportunity. A mile away I heard the shot, and wondered if it was her? Naw, couldn't be, I was in the good spot. As I got too cold, I headed her way and found she had missed the buck of a lifetime! It was a long shot, but she scared the heck out of that monster! It leapt 20 feet up a hill the other way after her first shot. We spent a good bit of the day trailing it, one to make sure it wasn't hit, and two, to see if we could get another look at it. After a couple miles of tracking it in the snow with no blood, we went home exhausted. Neither of us harvested a buck that year, and it would be her last hunt for many years.

Leap forward to the winter of 2008. By then my wife had outfished me on numerous occasions, and learned to enjoy and appreciate the outdoors to an even greater extent than when I first met her. She hadn't hunted since that frigid day in the North Country, however she had taken some shooting classes at BOW, which assisted in her agreement to give hunting another "shot". On a whim, I suggested to her I was going to put her in for the upcoming cow elk draw....and she agreed! Since I am drawing a bull tag about once every 7 years, and we ran out of elk meat a couple years ago after our son's harvest, I'm thinking if I can get her into harvesting elk every year, we can cut down on our beef consumption!

March comes, and guess what, both she and our son draw tags in 3A/3C. I don't of course. The open areas are split up for the hunts, but they're pretty close, so we were looking forward to the fall. Thinking we'd need another freezer, but holding off on the purchase for the time being.

The Juniors hunt comes and we had a great hunt, in the midst of elk for two days. The only problem was, they were all bulls! The few cows we saw were always behind a tree, just out of range, or on queue, would have a bull step in front of them. Son, Jimmy, didn't pull the trigger, which meant we didn't need another freezer.

Hunting Eve arrives and we leave the Valley early to pick up the trailer, find the camp and check on some key spots we learned about. It's just the two of us, no dogs and no kids...but no readily available help either. (if this pans out, I'm hoping we're not far from a road!)

Our scouting had us excited! Of interest though, there were few camps. We found a great site, and we were the only ones camping along the entire several mile stretch of road. Pretty unique (but strange) compared to our past Arizona hunting experiences.

In any event, "we" were ready for the hunt. Our neighbor



Tony had helped pinpoint a possible spot for the first morning. We were there well before sun up, and no other vehicles were seen nor heard. We parked about a half mile from where we wanted to set up for the morning. We headed into the oaks and brush down an old road and were soon in Ponderosas spared by the Rodeo/Chediski fire from years earlier. As we hiked up a hill in the predawn light, the woods were alive with sound....turkeys! Dozens of them cackling and yelping all around us. It was pretty incredible. As the starlit sky began to lighten...turkey silhouettes began appearing in the sky. We had seen flocks of turkeys before, and heard a few in the trees too, but nothing like this chorus. This was something you'd witness from a National Geographic special, maybe aptly called the Turkeys of the Trees...or some such catchy title.

We found our glassing point and got set up as the wings hit the air. In waves, the turkeys took off, heading for some unknown feeding ground. As the last group took flight, the woods went quiet, at least for the time being.

It was a great morning, but cold. Dawn broke and the welcomed sun warmed our bones. We were at the edge of a Ponderosa Oasis surrounded by oak trees. Beyond us for a half mile in circumference was the charred remains from the Rodeo/Chediski fire. Burned trees by the hundreds everywhere. About 3/4 mile away was a water hole at the end of a draw. A great setting...if there were more than turkeys around here. So far nothing, other then three trucks driving to the waterhole, one driving within a quarter mile of us, and a Ranger driving up to the base of "our" hill. It took awhile for all to see the blaze orange coat I hung up on a branch near us. The guys in the quad must've been blind not seeing me jumping up and down waving the blaze orange. They even paused to relieve themselves before driving closer to us and finally stopping. They were dressed like they were hunting, but looked like they were missing a clue. They finally turned around and left us. So far no shots and no elk.

As we were commiserating on the lack of animals, I picked up the phone and decided to dial a friend. As I'm about to ask John Koleszar what happened to all the elk in 3C...a dozen of them came running off the hill to the north of us at about 400 yards. On they came down the hill. I dropped the phone and the call, and started cow calling at them. A raghorn bull, several spikes and some cows...they stopped at 300 yards across a valley and on the side of another hill. My spouse/hunter was shaking. I was pretty excited myself and told her to dial in. She muttered something back at me... I ranged a cow at 275 yards standing broadside...she didn't pull the trigger. I didn't know what she was doing! She couldn't separate the spikes and the cows.

The wait continued...finally a shot, I saw she shot low, and half the animals took off. I blew the call again and they slowed. She shot again, couldn't tell where it hit, but the herd was gone after that report. We packed up and headed to the last spot I had seen the cow she was dialing in on. Some rough country, and pretty amazing how those animals can negotiate and move so quickly in a myriad of fallen trees and obstacles. We found the fresh sign, but it was free of blood, and the elk were gone. My hunter had cleanly missed again.

We headed out and figured we'd scout some more country and come back in the morning if we didn't have success that afternoon. We had a great tour of the area and took in the patchwork burn of the fire. We saw very few hunters, and even fewer elk. For the evening stand, we headed back to our "secret spot", but it was quiet. As we decided to pack up and leave, coyotes started howling around us, but no other activity. We would regroup for the morning.

We were up really early, and knew we needed to get to our spot before one of the other hunters found it ahead of us. At 5 am we were parked and hiking in, there was no traffic anywhere. Our spot was reserved for us. It was turkey free that second morning, why, who knows? Not one bird in the pines. The sky was clear however, and the stars were brilliant! As we found our lookout and settled in, we sat back for an astronomical show. The previous day Orion was no where to be found. This morning, he was right above us, with this sword pointing the way. In fact, as we watched the sky, shooting stars were in abundance. The shooting stars sparking away from Orion's sword had to be a harbinger of things to come!

As we watched the show, we had some kind of animal walking around our hill, it sounded like a larger animal, maybe an elk, but doubtful, more likely a horse, but we never saw it, nor did we ever confirm what it was. As the light of the day dawned, coyotes started singing again. This time two very large two coyotes (or were they wolves?) came trotting up the valley towards us in fine fur. They were coyotes, and I suggested maybe we should take them, but my hunter discouraged me, reminding me she was hunting elk, and as dawn was arriving, we needed to concentrate on the task at hand. We watched the coyotes for probably 10 minutes until they moved out of the valley.

By now it was after 7 am and the woods were quiet. So far no OHV's, no pick ups, but no elk yet either. We glassed and listened. A couple shots miles away, but nothing close. As my hunter surveyed the horizons around us, she happened to look up, and thought to herself, those tree stumps weren't there before...when she realized they weren't tree stumps! Glancing to the north, in almost the same spot as the first day, we saw elk heads on the skyline. Elk fever commenced. We sat and watched them, 6 walked slowly down the hill, right for us. They halted about 350 yards out, not seeing us, not smelling us, but surveying the area. They moved in closer, and started heading east to go behind us. I cow called and they stopped, this time nervous. I tried to quietly tell my hunter to move over and get ready, she did, and they took off, not far, but blowing that plan.

Cow calling again they stopped, then moved back on to the hill where we dealt with them the day before. They stayed there, one cow broadside, 285 yards..."Shoot!"...I yelled, as quietly as possible of course...but her scope wouldn't focus, my hunter couldn't dial in. She moved over to a stump, got set again, and just as the elk started to move, fired...and the cow fell! We quickly gathered up our essentials and headed to the animal. Another shot and she had just harvested her first big game animal and her first elk!

After the appropriate hugs, thanks, and photographs, the work began in earnest. The sun was high so we needed to cool the meat as soon as possible, and assess the next steps, as we were going to have to pack the animal off the hill. After a couple hours of work skinning, quartering and field work, we found a juniper to hide our game bags in the shade. We loaded up with what we could carry on the first trip and headed towards the truck. After about a half mile hike and finally reaching the road, we decided to drop there, get the truck and drive around

the section and come back in the way our OHV friends had done the day before. lt would take more driving time, but we could get within a couple hundred yards and save a heckuva lot of packing time.

We made it to camp for an early afternoon lunch and libation. Thereafter



the work commenced again with cleaning and deboning the carcass and prepping it for the trip home. Once home we'd make our final cuts, grind burger, make sausage and dry some jerky. A lot of work, but all part of the process.

My outdoorswoman spouse has now harvested as many elk as me! We ready for the 2009 draw and we had hoped she would have a good chance of ending this year with more elk than me, but alas, no tags. While we remained tied on the elk harvest statistics, it's OK, as not only am I proud of her, but her elk tastes awfully darn good!

## AWF Round Up



## **Two New Affiliates!**

The



Wildlife Federation is proud to announce a new affiliate, the Arizona Council Trout U n I i m i t e d . Concerving, protecting and restoring North America's cold water fisheries and

Arizona

their watersheds.

2009 marks the 50th anniversary of Trout Unlimited. Founded 50 years ago in 1959, TU was created by a group of Michigan fishermen who wanted to protect their local waters. Throughout 2009, TU chapters and councils will commemorate the 50th anniversary with many celebrations around the country. From local stream clean-ups to banquets and other events, TU volunteers and staff will commemorate 50 years of protecting cold, clean, fishable water.

We look forward to our association with ACTU and their work.

### AZGFD EXPO

Arizona Game and Fish Expo 2009 saw over 30,000 folks attend durthe ing two Your davs. Arizona Wildlife Federation was well represented handing out literature and information on who we are and what we do.

S p e c i a l thanks, goes to the volunteer AWF member's who made this



## Chris Fonoti at the Expo

possible. Ryna Rock, Ken Alexander, Chris Fonoti, John Underwood, Brad Powell and Linda Dightmon who also passed out information on the Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) camps and programs. We are looking forward to an even bigger and better 2010 Expo.

### The Arizona Wildlife Federation is proud to announce a new affiliate, Arizona Falconers Association.

The purpose of the Arizona Falconers' Association is to provide communication and interaction among interested members; to promote the ethical and legal pursuit of falconry as a recognized field sport; to promote the use of sound biological principles and information in the management of raptor

populations and falconry; and to encourage programs of public e d u c a t i o n, scientific study and habitat conservation which advance the



welfare of falconry and birds of prey. Welcome Falconers!

### Letter to the editor: The Arizona Republic

In his April 10 letter, Mack Lake, wrote about the perceived injustice of the Game & Fish Department sponsoring an outdoor skills program that excluded men.

Most disturbing is not what he wrote, but what he deliberately did not reveal. He did not tell the reader he had been the recipient of a lengthy and comprehensive letter explaining the origins of the Becoming An Outdoors Woman (BOW) Program, the intent of the Program, and that it is sponsored not by the Game & Fish Department, but by the Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF).

He chose to not disclose he was told he could attend a workshop, and would be subject to the same stipulations any attendee would, and pay the same fees other attendees did. Omitting facts - misrepresenting others - that's not really being truthful.

I know this because I wrote him that letter in response to a combative and agenda driven email he sent me accusing the AWF (and me) of sex discrimination, violating our non-profit status, and of breaking the law.

Mr. Lake, I think you are on a "mission", but I'm not sure what kind.

The AWF is proud of the BOW Arizona Program and graduates 250 women a year from this nationally recognized outdoor skills program through 3 workshop events annually. We maintain a staff of skilled volunteer instructors, many of whom are Game & Fish Department employees. To find out more about the AWF and BOW, visit www.azwildlife.org. The next class is Aug. 14-16.

> Ryna Rock President, AZ Wildlife Federation

## Agency News



### First Cowboy Mounted Shooting Action Arena in the World Available for Public Use

May 18th, 2009

The first public use Cowboy Mounted Action Shooting Action arena (also refured to as action shooting or mounted shooting) has opened at the Arizona Game and Fish Ben Avery Shooting Facility.

The Arizona Game and Fish Ben Avery Shooting Facility is located at Carefree Highway and Interstate 17 just north of Phoenix, Arizona. The first Cowboy Action Shooting competition featuring mounted-shooting was held on March 28. The Western Riders on Horseback organization used single-action revolvers with blanks while riding on horseback. Competitors are required to wear western attire.

### About the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center

The Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center was founded in May 1983. The Arizona Game and Fish Department was the first government agency to include the component of wildlife rehabilitation into its program.

Our function is to care for sick and injured native wildlife. From the beginning, the Wildlife Center 's mission has been carried out with a small budget from the state's Heritage Fund. With more than 155 animals housed at the facility, plus a large increase in animals during the spring and summer, this fund is quickly used.

### How to Get Involved

With only one paid Arizona Game and Fish employee and a staff of volunteers, we are always looking for new faces to join our team. If you have time to give, we are looking for volunteers 18 years old and up. If you enjoy teaching, animal husbandry, maintenance or office work, we have a spot for you. Come and see our facility, and learn about what we do and how you can help.

Become a Wildlife Center supporter by doing what you already do each time you shop. Go to "I Give" at igive.com and shop at more than 350 of your favorite stores through the Internet, including Cabela's, Tommy Hilfiger, Barnes and Noble, Bass Pro Shops and many others. For more information about how you can become a supporter, go to the Wildlife Center Auxiliary Web site at azwildlifecenter.net.

## Special hunt tags raise funds for wildlife conservation; offer hunt of a lifetime

### Big Game Super Raffle offers all 10 big game species

For as little as five dollars you can get a chance at a great hunt. For \$25, that highly sought-after tag for desert bighorn sheep or a bull elk may be yours.

The Arizona Big Game Super Raffle now has 10 special big game tags up for raffle to raise money for wildlife conservation in Arizona. The deadline to purchase tickets by mail is July 3 (postmarks don't count). The deadline to purchase tickets online is July 12.

The big game tags up for raffle include one each for pronghorn antelope, black bear, buffalo, Coues whitetail, desert bighorn sheep, elk, javelina, mule deer, turkey (Gould's or Merriam's), and now mountain lion. In addition, there will be a Swarovski optics package raffled, which will pay for the administration costs of the Super Raffle.

What makes these tags so special? The season dates for each hunt will be 365 days starting Aug. 15 and there are very few limitations on hunting areas.

Launched in 2006 by a consortium of sportsmen's/conservation groups in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission as a way to raise money for wildlife conservation, the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle returns all ticket proceeds to the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Every dollar raised for each species will go directly toward the management of that particular species.

Last year's raffle raised \$478,860.

Raffle tickets cost between \$5 and \$25, depending on species, and a ticket for all 11 raffles is only \$150. Tickets can be purchased by mail using the downloadable order form and making a check payable to AZBGSR. Mail the form and payment to AZBGSR, P.O. Box 61713, Phoenix, AZ 85082. You can also buy tickets online at <u>www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com</u>. The site is a verified Authorize.Net merchant site and accepts VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover cards.

The public drawing is Saturday, July 18. The time and location will be announced soon.

Special big game tags are granted to qualifying nonprofit organizations, dedicated to wildlife conservation, by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission through a public application process each year per A.R.S. § 17-346 and R12-4-120.

Wildlife conservation and management of game animals by the Arizona Game and Fish Department is made possible by funding generated from the sale of hunting licenses, hunt permit-tags, and matching funds from federal excise taxes hunters pay on guns, ammunition and related equipment.

So, the next time you see a herd of elk near Flagstaff, or antelope in an open plains of Prescott, or if you're lucky to spot a desert bighorn sheep peering down from a cliff in the desolate desert, remember to thank a hunter – wildlife's original conservationists

## Camp Cook



## **Barbeque Beef and Biscuit Bake**

3 lbs. coarsely ground beef
½ tsp. garlic powder
1 c. barbecue sauce
1 c. beef broth
1 c. ketchup
2 c. sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
½ tsp. onion powder
1 (7.5 oz) pkg buttermilk biscuits (10)

Heat a 12-inch Dutch oven over 9 hot coals. Brown the ground beef. Pour off drippings and add barbecue sauce, ketchup, onion powder, garlic powder, and beef broth. Cook 10 minutes, until steaming. Sprinkle cheese on top and arrange biscuits on top of the cheese. Cover with lid and place 15 hot coals on top. Cook, covered, for 20 minutes, or until biscuits are golden brown and cooked through. Serves 8.

### Directions to Campsite for AWF Annual Meeting Friday, June 12 – Sunday, June 14, 2009

From Flagstaff take Hwy. 180 Northwest towards the Grand Canyon approximately 19 miles.

Just after Milepost 236, in the area of Kendrick Park, turn right onto FS 514, signs are posted on Hwy 180.

Proceed due East on FS514 for approximately 2 miles and right after the road makes a sharp 90 to the left, turn right onto a wide two track- Signs and orange flagging will be at that intersection.

Continue on this two track approximately 100 yards to camp site or camp any place off of the two track that suits your pleasure.

For planning purposes due to possible fire restrictions, plan on cooking with propane, not even charcoal. If there are no restrictions, you'll be prepared. There is also no water or organized campsites on Hwy 180 once you leave Flagstaff.

There is cell phone reception for most cell carriers at the Hwy 180/FS514 intersection.

Our work project on Sunday AM will be altering the fence along Hwy 180 from just before MP236 to the FS514 intersection on both sides of Hwy 180. This will be to facilitate pronghorn movement across Hwy 180. Please bring gloves, some tie wire and appropriate pliers. We will provide wire clips for T-posts.

## **Campsite Lima Beans**

½ onion, chopped
1 (1-lb) cans lima beans, drained
1 Tbsp. butter or margarine
1 small jar diced red pimento
1 c. sour cream

Saute onion in butter. When transparent, add lima beans and heat. When beans are hot, add pimento and sour cream and cook until heated through. Don't boil, as the sour cream will curdle.

### Cherry Chocolate Fudge Cake

2 (21-oz) cans cherry pie filling 1 (1 lb 2.25-oz) pkg chocolate fudge cake Any ingredients associated with the cake mix.

Pour pie filling into bottom of a large (12-inch) Dutch oven. Mix up the cake mix according to package directions and gently pour over the cherries. Cover and cook about 45-60 minutes—test with toothpick. Do not overcook the bottom.

### Historical Tales Continued From Page 6

This little duck recovery project, a small segment of our national conservation problem, was successful only because for the first time in the history of wildlife, the conservationists got together and demanded it. I move that temporary organization be made permanent and the same mass pressure which demanded and got restoration for migratory water fowl be applied to secure proper recognition of all conservation needs.

For the most part, the great popular forces of conservation have remained unharnessed. They are as inarticulate as an oyster and equally protesting when their shell is being cracked open and the contents removed. Conservation of wildlife is a subject about which more has been said and less done than anything in the world except the weather. Numerically, conservationists are thicker than grasshoppers in drought-stricken Kansas and, judging from the looks of this continent after our brief occupancy, they are just about as beneficial. We have lots of conservationists, but little conservation and our resources continue to disappear. Eleven million individuals pay an annual license fee to fish or hunt and there are 36,000 societies, clubs, leagues and associations whose avowed objective is conservation. Aroused and united in one cause, they have saved the ducks from a precarious emergency and could be equally effective in all the other fields of activity. As individuals and small segregated clubs, they are as useless and ineffective as an anemic spring lamb with the hookworm.

(Stay tuned, Part Two appearing in the Fall 2009 issue.)

## Membership

## Every Sportsman/Sportswoman in Arizona Should Belong To The ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

The AWF is a statewide organization that was organized as the Arizona Game Protective Association in 1923 to safe guard our privileges of hunting and fishing by insisting on sane administration of the states natural resources, thus avoiding repetition of the almost total extinction of game experienced in many eastern states. There, organized sportsmen have brought back wildlife through organized action; here, Arizona's organized sportsmen have been responsible for the maintenance, and in some cases, the increase, of the state's wildlife. Thus the A.G.P.A. and AWF's results have not been so spectacular, but have been effective.

The AWF can rightfully be a little proud of its accomplishments. But leaders in conservation are agreed that the battle is not yet won, that it will probably never be won until every person recognizes that only through the proper use of our natural resources can we maintain prosperity.

AWF is so concerned with the broad aspects of conservation, because it recognizes that only with the highest type of land and water use can game and fish supplies be maintained. When land begins to go downhill, game and fish are the first to follow.

The Arizona Wildlife Federation is:

1. Representing AZ's Sportsmen and Sportswomen before the Game and Fish Commission, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Sportsmen's Organizations, Etc.

 Maintaining a permanent state office in the Phoenix metro area, with six Regional Directors throughout the state, keeping abreast of factors affecting hunting, fishing, conservation issues and available for action when crises arise.

3. Disseminating information regarding hunting and fishing and conservation through press, radio, and it's own quarterly publication, Arizona Wildlife News, which goes to each Federation and Affiliate member, and selected sporting establishments.

4. Conducting frequent Executive Committee/Board meetings, and Annual Meeting/Convention, taking action on current developments affecting Hunters, Fishermen and Conservation.

5. Attempting to insure that every young Arizonan gets proper education in conservation problems and practices, through the Arizona Wildlife Education Foundation and the Arizona Wildlife Federation.

6. Informing state and national legislative bodies of problems and needs of Arizona sportsmen and women.

These and other AWF activities, require funds, of course. The only source of funds are, private individuals, corporate sponsors, affiliate organizations, fundraisers and membership. If you enjoy the outdoors, even if hunting and fishing are only secondary in your enjoyment, you'll want to help maintain our natural resources, for ourselves and our children. YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BY SUPPORTING THE ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION. By filling the following application for membership and sending it, with the dues, yearly, life, or benefactor, you will become a member of a worthwhile organization. If you are already one of our supporting members, get a friend to join up. If each member signed up just one new member, AWF would double our membership. So lets get out and get those new members and make a difference!

## **Welcome New Members**

AZ Falconers Association c/o Jamaica Smith Kingman Barbara F Alter Phoenix James Ambrose Tucson Scottsdale **Brigit Anderson** Mike Baier Chandler Robert Baum Tucson David Bertelsen Tucson Jean Biggers Tucson Suzanne Buchanan Mesa Bob Burnside Camp Verde Verde River Greenway Cottonwood Kristy Carskadon Avondale Sistine Castellini Tucson Max Castillo Cottonwood Penny Celmins Paradise V Lynda Cohen Tucson Rebecca Crone Mesa Mary Crosby Cave Creek Chris Davis Phoenix Timothy Dolley Prescott A & J Drucker Marana Kevin Eaton Tucson Kathi Erps Goodyear Anne Fairholme Mesa Cheryl Fehlner Scottsdale Donna Ferris Chandler Cyndi Fleming Smith Apache J Friends of the Verde River Greenway Clarkdale Holly Franks Surprise Rhonda Franks Prescott V Stephanie Gallagher Chandler Sheryl Glassburn Scottsdale Dianna Guyer Peoria Beth Haas Tucson Mannette Hall Katy, TX Andrea Hathaway Phoenix Gloria B Haugen Glendale Deborah-Anne Heinz Phoenix Betty Lou Helsel Prescott Carl A Herman Chandler Darla Homer Phoenix Bob Jeffery Mesa Phillip Jones Valley Farms Fran Jones-Lory Chandler

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## Welcome New Life Member

Sarah Ruhlen Suprise, AZ

AWF Members wanting a full copy of Board Minutes, contact Kim at: 480-644-0077 A summary is available at www.azwildlife.org

Are you aware that because you are a member of the Arizona Wildlife Federation YOU are eligible for a reduction in premiums for Mutual of Omaha's Long Term Care policy called "Mutual Care Plus"

Contact a fellow Arizona Wildlife Federation member, Bryant Ridgway at 602-989-1718 or 800-224-1120 x 210 for details.



Please take a moment to review the list of Life Members and past Benefactors to make sure we have not missed anyone.

AWF Members

If you want to add someone to the list or upgrade your own membership status, please use the membership form provided below.

AWF	Memb	ership A	oplicati	on						
			-			\$ 15	Junior (17 & und	er)		
Name						20	la dividual			
Address						30	Individual			
City		State	Zip			75	Individual - 3 yea	Irs		
Phone		Email				45	Family			
Check Enclosed						110	Family - 3 years			
Please bill m	Please bill my Mastercard Visa Discover					100	Patron			
						500	Life Member			
Expiration Date:						325	Distinquished Life (65+ or Disabled Ve			
						500	Benefactor			
Signature Mail To:						75	Small Business			
			Vildlife Feder	ation		500	Corporate			
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