

ARIZONA WILDLIFE

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ARIZONA WILDLIFE NEWS

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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.

Front cover:

The front cover is courtesy of Curt Fonger. Curt definitely heard this beauty warning him to stay away and then saw him while hiking. He attributes the great clarity of the entire snake to it being right out in the open.

The back cover announces our 2015 Arizona Wildlife Trophies book, make sure to order one now! 480-644-0077

Special thanks to Ryan Kreuzer for the cover design & layout.

If you have a photo you would like to submit for our cover, please contact Kimberlee at awf@azwildlife.org

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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.

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President's Corner

By Brad Powell

Summer is here and we have concluded another successful annual meeting. I have been reflecting about Arizona's wildlife and its wildlands. Every day

brings a new story about Executive orders, reduced budgets, rescinded rules and one new controversy or another. When I think about wildlife and its habitats, I think of families, enjoyment, wild country and adventure. This disparity of visions is perplexing to me but it is a reality that many of us face. I don't mean to downplay the serious challenges that we face to sustain and increase our wildlife populations in the future, but to focus my thoughts on what we can do and not get distracted by naysayers singing about what we can't do.

Our partner, the National Wildlife Federation, has just developed a new Strategic Plan that I had the pleasure of working on, along with 5 other state affiliate leaders. This new plan is a remarkable piece of work outlining an aggressive plan to reverse the declines in nearly one-third of our nations wildlife species; populations of songbirds, pollinators, amphibians, fish and mussels are in significant decline. We are losing millions of acres of habitat, fighting off threats to privatize Federal public lands and Arizona citizens are losing their connection with nature. This strategic agenda for wildlife calls for the State affiliates and the staff of the National Wildlife Federation to join together and to work other conservation groups to accomplish this common vision.

In the next 4 years, the plan has the following 5 metrics of success. As you can see, these are challenging goals but I look forward to helping the Arizona Wildlife Federation play a role in accomplishing them.

1. Ensure a majority of Americans and policymakers are aware of our nation's wildlife crisis by activating 11 million people and joining forces with 2,500 partner organizations as part of America's conservation army;
2. Put 25% of America's at-risk wildlife species on a path to recovery, protect and better manage habitat and wildlife on 300 million acres of public and tribal land, and restore and enhance the resilience of 40 million acres of critical private land and water habitat by securing at least \$2 billion in additional annual conservation funding and advancing 21st century wildlife management practices in partnership with state and federal wildlife agencies;
3. Rebuild America's conservation ethic by engaging 25 million young people across 20,000 schools in environmental education and recurring outdoor experiences;
4. Increase the relevance of wildlife conservation nationwide by partnering on local water, wildlife habitat, and environmental justice projects in 1,000 diverse urban and rural communities; and
5. Defend America's democratic public trust resources (public

lands, waterways, and wildlife) for current and future generations from threats of divestiture, reduced access, or privatization.

One other item on my mind is the executive order instructing the Department of the Interior to review the recent (last 20 years) national monuments over 100,000 acres and to make recommendations to change or revoke them. This review targets 4 National Monuments in Arizona (Grand Canyon-Parashant, Vermilion Cliffs, Sonoran Desert and Ironwood Forest). While there is nothing inherently wrong with a review the Presidents statements at the time "The Antiquities Act does not give the federal government unlimited power to lock up millions of acres of land and water, and it's time that we ended this abusive practice" seem to bias the outcome significantly. While each of has our own ideas about National Monuments and the Antiquities act, I for one hope that the review is sincere, takes into account the need to protect key habitats and acknowledges the benefits as well as the concerns before any adjustments are made to the Monuments. The key idea that I wanted to share was the need to make your voice heard. The public comment period is open:

You may mail your written comments to:
Monument Review
MS-1530
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Online comments may be submitted via regulations.gov by searching for "DOI-2017-0002-2001".

Note that all comments – including any personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time.

Comments relating to National Monuments must be submitted **before July 10,2017**.

Letters to the Editor

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 possible.

Send your 'snail mail' to:
AWF Mail Pouch
Arizona Wildlife Federation
PO Box 51510, Mesa, AZ 85208

Send your e-mail to: editor@azwildlife.org

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Region II - Tom Mackin Regional Director

March 2017-May 2017

March 2 – Participated in the AZGFD Fall Hunt Recommendation meeting in Flagstaff

March 2 – Spoke with a reporter from the Arizona Daily Sun regarding the rollback of the ban on lead ammunition and fishing tackle on USFWS lands

March 8 – Participated in a planning meeting for a Hunter Education class scheduled for Flagstaff in July

March 9 – Attended the monthly 4FRI Comprehensive Implementation Work Group (CIWG) meeting to discuss plans for numerous spring, seep and wetland improvements as part of the 4FRI ecological restoration goals

March 9 – Participated in the monthly NWF Sportsman's Caucus conference call where we discussed important sportsman's issues with NWF staff

March 11 – Attended the quarterly AWF Board meeting at the Tucson AZGFD Regional office

March 14 – Participated in the monthly 4FRI SHG Steering Committee call, discussing FS and SHG plans as well as topics for the March SHG meeting

March 15 – Participated in the NWF Public Lands Caucus conference call discussing possible resolutions, plans for a D.C. Fly In and other related topics

March 15 – Attended the monthly Northern Arizona Shooting Foundation Board meeting, discussing plans for our seasonal full reopening, youth activities and financial information

March 16 – Participated in the monthly NWF Conservation Funding call

March 17 – Met with the Director and Assistant Director of AZGFD to discuss mutual issues and concerns

March 22 – Attended the monthly 4FRI Stakeholders Group meeting in Flagstaff, discussing plans for additional opportunities to accelerate restoration activities

March 26 – Attended the AZGFD EXPO, assisting with tabling at the AWF booth

March 28 – Attended the monthly AZSFWC meeting in Mesa, discussing the proposed budget, the Right to Hunt and Fish campaign and other topics

March 29 – Attended two training sessions for prospective Arboretum volunteers, covering Forest Health and various aspects of aspen cycles

March 30 – Met with representatives of Trout Unlimited to pick up a Trout In The Classroom kit from a teacher who is leaving Flagstaff

March 31 – With several other FoNAF volunteers we made repairs to an area commemorating the training site for the Apollo Missions, damaged by illegal OHV's

April 3 – Met with AZGFD representatives to discuss improvements on the Forest Service road providing access to the Northern Arizona Shooting range

April 4 – Attended the Williams-Flagstaff Local Habitat Partnership Committee meeting in to discuss the funded opportunities from the last cycle as well as additional funding opportunities going forward

April 5 – Visited 4 AZGFD wildlife water trick tanks to check on water levels and game usage

April 6 – Met with students from NAU to shoot a publicity video about the NASR

April 8 – Traveled to the NE end of the Pat Springs Water Pipeline in GMU7E to start replacing drains in the pipeline to prepare for moving water later this spring

April 9 – Traveled to an AZGFD trick tank in GMU5BN to check on its status and verify water levels in storage

April 10 – Visited 3 more AZGFD trick tanks, checking on condition, water levels and game usage

April 12 – Met with officials from Forest Service and AZGFD to discuss the condition of the access road for the shooting range and what can be done to improve the road surface

April 12 – Participated in the monthly 4FRI Steering Committee conference call to discuss agenda items for future stakeholder group meetings

April 13 – Met with co-chair of the 4FRI SHG to discuss some 4FRI issues, participated in the monthly NWF Sportsman's Caucus conference call and visited 3 aspen enclosure in preparation for work activities in 2 days.

April 14 – Visited 4 AZGFD trick tanks and installed new signage regarding the drinker names, who to contact if problems arise and to remind folks about not camping within ¼ mile of wildlife waters

April 15 – With several other FoNAF volunteers we visited 7 aspen enclosures and made repairs from winter and wind damage

April 17 – Met with the Wildlife Manager for GMU 9 and made repairs or adjustments to 4 trick tanks

April 18 – Made a site visit and dropped off materials for a trick tank rebuild in GMU7E

April 19 – With another volunteer we visited three trick tanks in GMU9 and made repairs to the collectors, drinkers and perimeter fences

April 20 – With other representatives from FoNAF, we met with the Regional Forester and staff and made a presentation on FoNAF responsibilities, aspen protection and other miscellaneous tasks

April 21 – With other FoNAF volunteers we made repairs to 4 aspen enclosures that suffered winter snowfall or downed tree damage

April 22 – Conducted additional "prep" work on the FS TT in GMU7E

April 23 – Led a tour at the Arboretum, discussing ponderosa pine, 4FRI, aspen decline and other related topics

April 24 – More prep work on the GMU7 trick tank

April 25 – Attended the AZSFWC Board meeting in Phoenix and met with AZGFD Development folks discussing materials used on trick tank rebuilds

April 26 – Worked on fence repairs at the Arboretum to improve wildlife passage

April 27 – Visited and AWE site, Picture Canyon, and discussed removal of an unnecessary fence that currently is a wildlife and human hazard

April 28 – With 10 other FoNAF volunteers we completed the rebuild



of the GMU7E trick tank, originally built in 1978 (see Before and After photos)

April 29 – Completed cleanup at the trick tank rebuild site, took scrap materials to recycler and added signage about Gate Closure, No Camping within ¼ Mile, etc

May 1 – Led tours at the Arboretum and met with another AWWE representative to discuss AWWE Summer events

May 2 – Visited Pat Springs Pipeline to start distribution of waters

May 3 – Continued distribution activities on the Pat Springs Pipeline

May 4 – Continued repair and adjustment activities in GMU9 at 4 water developments

May 5 – With FoNAF volunteers we made repairs to 2 aspen exclosures, 2 wetland/riparian exclosures and 1 log worm fence at a historical cabin site

May 6 – Attended a timber harvesting equipment/Fire Wise demonstration organized by the and the Greater Flagstaff Forest Protection group

May 8 – Attended to quarterly AWWE meeting to discuss our new brochure, tentative summer events and additional website enhancements

May 9 – Met with several other members of the 4FRI Stakeholder group discussing planned USFS activities and participated in the monthly 4FRI Steering Committee planning call

May 11 – With USFS Hydrologists and Wildlife biologists, we visited 4 riparian exclosures on the edge of the Mogollon Rim and made repairs to fences damaged by falling trees over the winter

May 12 – With FoNAF we made repairs to another aspen exclosure that suffered fallen tree damage

May 13 – With FoNAF and FS personnel, we cleaned up old wire, T-post, stays and trash from a former Experimental Nursery

May 14 – Made repairs to a broken pipe on the Pat Springs Pipeline

May 15 – Continued with water distribution on the Pat Springs Pipeline, filling 4 more storage tanks and associated drinker troughs

May 16 – Met with FS Silviculturist to discuss activity plans, funding issues and possible NFF grant opportunities

May 16 – Attended an open house to discuss proposals for solving the bison problem at the GCNP

May 17 – Participated in the monthly NWF Public Lands Caucus call

May 18 – Attended the monthly 4FRI Comprehensive Implementation Work Group (CIWG) meeting , discussed various planned ecological restoration activities within the first EIS

May 18 – Participated in the NWF Conservation Funding Caucus

Conference call

May 19 – With other FoNAF volunteers and FS staff we worked on modifications to a FS allotment fence, removing the existing woven sheep wire and making it a more wildlife friendly 4 wire fence, primarily benefiting pronghorn

May 19 – Assisted with an AZGFD Hunter Education On-Line Final exam, required for young hunters under 14 who wish to hunt big game

May 20 – Assisted with an AZGFD Hunter Education Field Day, including a mock hunt, simulated fence crossing with weapons, matching ammo/weapons identification exercise and live fire with .22 caliber rifles in various shooting positions

May 20 – Assisted with a tour of an Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience wetland, highlighting wildlife and waterfowl identification and importance of maintaining adequate habitat for numerous species

May 22 – Continued water distribution and repairs on the Pat Springs Pipeline, providing much needed water for wildlife in a 200 square mile area

May 23 – Attended the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation monthly Board meeting, discussing various wildlife and habitat topics of interest to the 32 member organizations

May 24 – Attended the monthly 4FRI Stakeholder Group(SHG) meeting and discussed the new Vision17 program for establishing a new plan to increase restoration activities including additional timber sales and harvesting opportunities

May 24 – With additional volunteers from the 4FRI SHG and FS staff we continued with fence modifications on a FS allotment fence to improve pronghorn travel corridors

May 25 – Attended a Public Lands Discussion group with various management agency representatives, sharing concerns, issues and goals

May 26 - Continued water distribution and repairs on the Pat Springs Pipeline, providing much needed water for wildlife in a 200 square mile area

May 27 – With additional FoNAF volunteers we continued work on several existing aspen exclosures, improving security to reduce browsing

May 30 – With FS staff and other volunteers we visited several aspen sites that have been infected with oyster scale and we discussed treatment options and other methods for control of these parasites and other diseases



Mike's Trick Tank 'Before'



Mike's Trick Tank 'After'

Region III - Loyd Barnett Regional Director



Burros – A year ago the burro population in the Black Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA) was several times the approved management level (AML) — 1700-2000 existing vs. 478 AML. At last report burros were still procreating, with a reproductive rate of up to 20 percent per year, potentially doubling every 4-5 years. The 4 year experimental project by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) was approved in March. It provides for testing a contraceptive approach, capturing for the initial treatment, followed by opportunistic darting for annual boosters to maintain effectiveness. However, with only up to 100 jennies to be tested, it will only slightly slow the rate of growth of the herd, along with its soil and vegetative impacts and conflicts with the native desert bighorn sheep. The practicality of fertility control as a means of reducing population increases has not been validated, and multi-year small tests can be used as an argument for delay of what is needed — large scale physical removal.

Land Management – The Prescott National Forest is planning and evaluating the Chino Landscape Restoration Project in the northwest portion of the Forest. This process looks at a large area – about 484 thousand acres – and will prioritize needed vegetative treatments to achieve desired ecological conditions on specific smaller areas. Prescribed burning and tree thinning are the most common treatments. The AWF is a participating stakeholder and has provided input. We recommended early emphasis on treatments in the grasslands and juniper grasslands as a part of the Central Arizona Grasslands Conservation Strategy. Within those we recommended prioritizing areas most in need of treatment to provide connectivity and facilitate movement for pronghorn antelope.

Verde River and Watershed - Over the years a number of citizen organizations have developed with the Verde River and/or its watershed as the focus, with varying emphases – some focusing on increasing scientific understanding and dissemination to the public, others on an advocacy role regarding water uses and developments. The Verde River Basin Partnership (VRBP), of which the AWF was a charter member, formed in 2006 as a result of the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 (PL 109-110). The land exchange was intended to consolidate ownership within the large checkerboard area in the northwest portion of the Prescott National Forest. The land exchange has not occurred. However the VRBP flourished for a number of years, obtaining

funding for a number of scientific studies and producing a number of reports and educational documents, culminating in the 138 page “Verde River Basin Water-Resources Primer”, available at <http://vrbp.org/our-publications>. In January 2017, the VRBP merged with the Friends of Verde River Greenway. This makes it appear much more Verde Valley centric than the VRBP. Although the formal Verde River Greenway is totally within the Verde Valley, the Friends group includes an interest in the entire Verde River **and** its tributaries.

A recent conference on the Verde River, State of the Watershed was attended by 200 people, including numerous local government officials, business owners, agency representatives, and interested citizens. A spirit of optimism on the future of the Verde River was evident. A number of generally coordinated initiatives are taking place to ensure the future of the river. The economic importance of a healthy river, accessible to the public is becoming increasingly recognized by the business community, as well as much of the general populace, resulting in numerous fund raising and awareness events. Financial incentives and assistance in achieving more efficient agricultural irrigation are beginning to leave a little more water in the river during the low flow season. The value of the river for recreational use and tourism is also apparent. The City of Clarkdale has initiated a river kayaking opportunity area with access leases for put in and takeout from Freeport-McMoRan, the landowner and successor to Phelps Dodge. Although accommodating approximately 8,000 kayakers a year in the three mile stretch, and passing near a residential area, the river and its riparian area show very little evidence of this use.



Verde Kayak Line
Photo by Doug VonGausig

Region IV - Val Morrill Regional Director

I have spent the first half of 2017 focused on my 3 favorite things for AWF: education, education and education!

First and foremost has been the opportunity working with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), General Motors, the students, parents and staff at Yuma AZ's George Washington Carver Elementary School, and many others on the Eco-Schools project. NWF sponsors the Eco-School program in the US. It is a student -driven initiative embracing up to 7 environmental pathways to enhance both environmental stewardship on campus and educational achievement. The pathways mirror industry standards exposing students to real-world problem solving.

In the words of Carver Principal Deb Drysdale, Eco-Schools engendered a "school wide culture change". The Consumption and Waste pathway completely reversed the ratio of waste to recycled streams. Tree plantings for passive solar reduced energy consumption. The entire 5th grade presented their findings for certifying the campus as Schoolyard Habitat to community leaders, district administrators, the press, and fellow students.

Perhaps most profound was the Sustainable Food pathway impact on the physical and cognitive gains, particularly for students with disabilities. All of these



As Region 5 Director/VP of Conservation I participated in the National Wildlife Federations "Public Land Caucus" phone calls for the past many months. This Caucus focused on keeping our public lands public and keeping that message in front of our elected representatives and senators.

I also participated in this year's Western Rivers Day at the Arizona Legislature on February 1st. At this event, we had face-to-face meetings with important legislative leaders, key resource committee chairs and co-chairs, other legislators, and agency heads. We spoke about Arizona's rivers and the communities, economies, habitats, birds, and other wildlife that depend on them

I attended and participated in the Catalina Bighorn Working Committee's celebration of the close of the project on March 4th at the Westward Look Resort. Over 300 members of the public attended to hear about the project's success and to view bighorn

actions plus many more have culminated in Carver School becoming the first school in Arizona to attain the Eco-School Silver Award.



Secondly, it is truly exciting that AWF has partnered with NWF on the Certified Wildlife Habitat program. I have had many formal and informal opportunities to educate Arizonans about it, through workshops, presentations, tabling events and one-on-one conversations. It is so easy to do, and so important for wildlife. Let me know how I can help you and yours accomplish certification for your own home, be it a forest retreat or an urban apartment balcony.

Lastly, I was again blessed to teach sessions for both January and April Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) workshops. BOW continues to be one of AWF's most successful ventures enabling adult women to reach their full potential in enjoying the outdoors on their own terms. I think about the single mom I met at the last BOW who came to learn how to be empowered taking her young sons camping safely, sustainably and enjoyably. Now that says it all. How can you top that!

Region V - Glen Dickens Regional Director

sheep on Pusch Ridge. Myself and Trica Hawkins, AWF Director at Large, were both 5-year members of the committee.

As Region 5 Director/VP of Conservation, I worked with our affiliates in the states of New Mexico, Texas and Region 1 Director Bob Vahle regarding a draft resolution regarding the proposed Border Wall and potential wildlife impacts and mitigation.

Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Project Final Report

4th Translocation; On November 22, the Arizona Game and Fish Department accomplished the fourth translocation of this reintroduction effort when 20 bighorn sheep were released into the Santa Catalina Mountains. The group included 15 ewes and five rams that were captured the previous day in the Plomosa Mountains near Quartzsite, Arizona. The animals ranged in age from one to older than five years. Six of the animals, one ram and five ewes, were fitted with GPS collars. This is different from the previous three releases in the Catalinas in which nearly every

animal was collared. There is no longer a need to have this population of bighorn sheep collared because the field research is coming to an end. It is standard practice for the Department to collar 30 percent of translocated animals.

End of Active Management:

The goal of this reintroduction project was to establish a self-sustaining population of bighorn sheep in the Catalina Mountains that coexists with an equally healthy native predator population in a naturally functioning ecosystem. Predation by mountain lions has been shown to be a limiting factor in restoration efforts of bighorn sheep, so until now, mountain lions that have preyed on bighorn sheep have been pursued, and on some occasions removed. With the population of desert bighorn sheep in the Catalinas now at a level that has historically been sustainable (85), active predator management has ended. While the predator management plan was originally conceived to be a four-year undertaking, the success of the reintroduction program overall has allowed the curtailment of predator management early.

Current Population Status As of November 30, 2016, 39 collared sheep are known to be alive, and there are approximately 85 animals that make up this population in the Catalina Mountains. Uncollared bighorn sheep include those released without collars, those from the 2013 release whose collars have dropped off, and those born in the Santa Catalina Mountains.

New Southeast Arizona Jaguar Sighting Confirmed

Wildlife officials have evidence of another rare jaguar sighting in the United States, giving conservationists hope that the endangered cat is re-establishing itself here. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a photo on March 1st from a trail camera that was taken in November 2016 and recently retrieved. It shows the spotted cat wandering through the Dos Cabezas

Mountains in Arizona about 60 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border. Fish and Wildlife spokesman Jeff Humphrey, says it's the farthest north of the border that a jaguar has been seen in decades. "The significance is that we're getting a clearer understanding of where jaguars occur in the borderline area," Humphrey said. It's been decades since a jaguar was spotted in that mountain range, he said. Officials say they can't tell the jaguar's gender or age from the photo. The two other jaguars that have been recently spotted were both male, and Arizona Game and Fish officials have said a female jaguar hasn't been spotted for over 50 years.

Rosemont Mine

The Coronado National Forest is expected to issue of Final Record of Decision approving the proposed Rosemont Mine next month, but the \$1.9 billion project cannot move forward until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues a Clean Water Act permit. The Forest Service announced its plans in a Federal Register notice published on Monday, May 8. Toronto-based Hudbay Minerals is seeking permits to construct the third-largest open pit copper mine in the United States in the Santa Rita Mountains on the Coronado National Forest southeast of Tucson.

Coronado Forest Supervisor Kerwin Dewberry told the *Arizona Daily Star* a little less than a year ago that he wasn't necessarily going to wait for a Corps decision before making his own. Dewberry said he would want to see the Corps' analysis of the mine, adding: "I'm not saying I won't wait. I'm saying my decision is not contingent on their decision." The Army Corps' Los Angeles district office last July 2016 recommended denying the permit for the Rosemont mine. The Corps' San Francisco regional office is reviewing the permit and has repeatedly stated it has no timetable for making a final decision.



AWF 2017 Annual Meeting - Photo by Betty Dickens

ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

2016-17 Year in Review

This past year we participated in numerous activities and events. We partnered with the Arizona Game & Fish Department (AZGFD), U.S. Forest Service, Arizona Antelope Foundation, Trout Unlimited, TRCP, WRAN, Audubon and many other conservation organizations during the year on various activities.

A key part of the AWF's work this year was working with State and Federal legislators to defeat bad legislation and to support good legislation (unfortunately the bad seems to outweigh the good these days). AWF volunteers met with numerous Federal and State legislators, providing them information on national and state issues such as the Public Land takeover, State Water Bills, Responsible Energy Development, Clean Water Act restoration, Lees Ferry management plans and the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument. In addition, AWF Board members traveled to DC in support of the sportsmen alternative to the Grand Canyon National Monument and in support of keeping Federal public lands public.

The AWF led an effort to develop a sportsmen alternative to the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument. Our position was opposition to the National Monument but if a Monument was going to move forward our proposal was a reduced size that would be similar to the Salazar mineral withdrawal. Our active engagement at the County, State and Federal level was somewhat controversial but ultimately played a significant role in the Monument process. The Administration chose to not designate a National Monument in Arizona.

The AWF continues to lead efforts to raise the visibility and level of concern about the States efforts to take over the Federal Public lands. We testified to the study committee that is reviewing the issue. We met with numerous legislators to express our concern about this effort. We published Opinion Editorials and Letters to the Editor expressing our position on this bad idea.

The Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program, (BOW), sponsored by AWF, graduated over 230 women this past year. Women from all walks of life enjoy the opportunities offered at our workshops to participate in a multitude of outdoor skills classes. AWF was at the AZGFD Expo at the end of March, talking to as many of the 40,000+ attendees as we could; handing out educational materials on conservation, outdoors ethics and responsibilities, the BOW Program, and wildlife & habitat concerns.

We participated at the State legislature discussing the importance of water in our arid SW. Working with Sarah Luna (AWF Director at Large), we partnered with Arizona

Audubon, Trout Unlimited and other conservation groups as key leaders of the Western Rivers Action Network.

Our strong relationships with the numerous State and Federal agencies are a must for working on critical issues. We participated in the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI), which affects nearly 2 million acres and developed comments on the Tonto Forest Plan revision (over 2 million acres). Two Tucson Board members continued to participate on the Catalina Bighorn Advisory Committee in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department during its 5th year. Twenty more desert bighorns were released on the Catalina's on November 22nd, this latest release brings the number of bighorn transplanted to 112 and as of this writing it is believed the resident population is now at the minimum management objective of 85 animals.

Arizona Wildlife News, our quarterly magazine, is a sought-after publication. We continued to provide in-depth coverage of critical issues. We utilized the AWF E-News Bulletin/Alert, providing updates between magazine issues and active alert system on important issues that require our member's engagement.

The Arizona Wildlife Trophy Book passed a significant milestone publishing its 50th anniversary- 10th edition. Of 500 printed some 300 have sold to date. A special 50th anniversary leather bound edition has been printed and is available. Also in June of 2016, the AWF and the Arizona Antelope Foundation teamed up to formally recognize the 2015 Trophy Book Annual Award Winners at the annual AAF fund raising banquet. The event went very well and 54 award recipients and their families and friends attended.

We have continued to develop our relationship with NWF and other State affiliates. We signed a cooperative agreement to help sponsor the "Certified Wildlife Habitat" program in Arizona this year. We attended the NWF national meeting in Colorado, participated in the Affiliate leader meeting in Alabama, served on the NWF strategic planning team as one of the six affiliate representatives, actively participated in numerous NWF issue caucuses. We participated in the NWF annual "Fly In" on behalf of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We also developed a wilderness wildlife resolution that will be considered at the 2017 NWF annual meeting.

During the year, we once again traveled to various Regions for our quarterly meetings, held this year at the Sipes wildlife area, Yuma, Phoenix and Flagstaff. We had great attendance at all of these locations

Recovering America's Wildlife

FRONT LINE DEFENSE AGAINST THE WILDLIFE CRISIS

By LAUREN ANDERSON



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Many wildlife species across America are in decline. Today, one third of bird species in North America are in need of urgent conservation action, over 40 percent of freshwater fish species are at risk in North America, and over 40 percent of amphibian species (frogs, toads, salamanders) are threatened or declining in the US. The need for action is immediate.

State Fish and Wildlife Agencies are our nation's front line defense system against declining wildlife populations. These critical agencies provide the expertise, labor, and leadership for many on-the-ground efforts to conserve wildlife. These efforts include management of threatened and endangered species in addition to proactive conservation practices that prevent species from needing emergency room measures, like listing under the Endangered Species Act.

However, these agencies are severely underfunded. Proactive wildlife management can save American tax payers money by preventing species from becoming listed

under the Endangered Species Act, but this is not possible without initial investments in state conservation efforts. As an example of this type of investment, the federal State and Tribal Wildlife Grants provide critical funds that allow all wildlife, not just species that are traditionally hunted and fished, to be managed in a cost effective and proactive manner at the state level, with strategies driven by each state's unique conservation needs.

These grants allow State Fish and Wildlife Agencies to implement their State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans act as blueprints for protecting each state's "species of greatest conservation concern"- also considered species at risk of decline. State Fish and Wildlife Agencies have identified 12,000 species nationwide in greatest need of proactive conservation action. Species that have suffered dramatic population declines but are not listed under the Endangered Species Act include the monarch butterfly, eastern meadowlark, and Northern leopard frog.

Funding wildlife diversity programs like the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants enables state agencies to perform species

restoration and habitat management, as well as understand why they are declining and what other actions might help them.

A THREAT TO WILDLIFE IS A THREAT TO THE OUTDOOR ECONOMY

Today, the outdoor recreation industry contributes \$887 billion to our national economy annually, creates 7.6 million direct jobs, and generates \$124.5 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenue. Hunters, anglers, birders, hikers, campers, and backyard wildlife watchers have created a rapidly growing outdoors consumer base that depends on healthy wildlife populations, and the rising wildlife crisis poses a threat to this vibrant industry. Proactive conservation efforts and hands-on wildlife management can help stabilize the outdoor economy and reduce the risk that species will become listed under the Endangered Species Act. This will help local businesses that depend on access to wildlife and wild places. In addition, this will help other companies that use natural resources by providing regulatory certainty and reducing risk.

As an example of how local and state economies depend on healthy wildlife, last year's massive die-off of mountain whitefish resulted in the closure of a 183 mile section of Yellowstone River, costing one county in Montana between \$360,000 and \$524,000. Small river towns like Livingston, Montana, depend on the state's \$343-million dollar fishing industry and river recreation, and without healthy fish and rivers local economies suffer.

CREATING AMERICA'S CONSERVATION LEGACY

While State and Tribal Wildlife Grants have facilitated successful conservation efforts across the country, the

wildlife crisis requires a more substantial source of dedicated funding that State fish and wildlife agencies can rely on from year to year – funding that will enable them to create a conservation legacy that benefits all Americans. Today, wildlife from every corner of the US face threats in the form of habitat loss or fragmentation, competition from non-native species, and stressors related to extreme weather.



Blackfooted Ferret -photo by USFW

into the pipeline for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Wildlife and the habitat they depend on power the growing outdoor economy and allow Americans from all walks of life to experience the wonder of nature.

Please thank your Members of Congress if they supported robust funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program this year, and ask them to create a dedicated fund to support state fish and wildlife Agencies in their efforts to Recover America's Wildlife.

Please Take Our Survey

One of the benefits of a Arizona Wildlife Federation member is our quarterly newsletter. It is currently being mailed to each of our members. Many organizations are sending their newsletter via e-mail and distributing the saved money to other areas of conservation. Our current cost of the newsletter is over \$10,000/year. We could reduce this cost by sending e-mail newsletters and reduce the amount being mailed with a possibility of one annual mailing.

There are mixed reviews on whether or not our readers would prefer we continue to produce the printed version so we thought that we would check in with you and get your opinion. We would like to know your preference in receiving our quarterly newsletter, *Arizona Wildlife News*.

Visit <http://azwildlife.org/ht/d/DoSurvey/i/374187> and take a quick survey to let us know your preference on receiving our quarterly Arizona Wildlife Newsletter. Mail or E-mail? You may also call the office and let us know at 480-644-0077. Your opinion counts!



Lisa Langell



by Linda Dightmon

It is an honor to be able to be a part of someone's photographic journey. . . Lisa Langell

It was Paul Wolterbeek that introduced BOW and Lisa. Paul is the marketing manager for the Boyce Thompson Abertorium. He has sent us instructors in the past and history shows that a volunteer instructor from Paul will be a good one. Lisa's first BOW was at Saguaro Lake Ranch in January of 2013. That workshop had the fortunate timing to be in the middle of FIVE consecutive days of measurable rain. It was the wettest workshop that I have experienced in my 17 years with the program.

She came prepared with backup plans and a can-do attitude. First impressions were an award-winning smile and a hearty handshake. That smile proved to be the window to an enthusiastic, energetic and flexible individual. All qualities imperative for a BOW instructor.

During the time frame of the photography class, mother nature cooperated. The sun appeared briefly through the heavy cloud cover and Lisa seized the moment. She brought her class outside and had them shooting away taking advantage of the enchanting light quality. The Bulldog cliffs usually bathed in sunshine or shadow were peeking through layers of clouds and sun. End result was a cover shot for this magazine from one of Lisa's students. The entire photography class raved about her teaching style and my suspicions were confirmed. This one is a keeper!

Lisa began her photo career at the tender age of 8 with a Kodak instamatic. At 14, she had a Cannon A-1 when she took a birding trip her aunt Josephine. The Canadian spring trip yielded 100 species in one day. Lisa was hooked on wildlife photography. It was 2011, a couple of years before we met Lisa that she dropped photography as a hobby and set it up a part time business. In 2015 she went all in, leaving a career as an educational psychologist and plunged head first going full time with her business. www.langellphotography.com

" Though the income level is different, the rewards have been plentiful and I absolutely do not regret my decision. It has been an amazing, fulfilling journey," She says in a May 2017 interview.

Her resume includes published work in *Arizona Highways*, *Ranger Rick*, *Phoenix Home & Garden*, *Arizona Wildlife Views* and our own publication, *Arizona Wildlife News*. She has donated more than one cover for our little quarterly. Lisa's work has earned her honors and awards from the National Wildlife Federation, North American Nature Photography Association, Professional Photographer's Association, and *Arizona Highways*. She also sits on the board of directors for the North American Nature Photography Association. Wow! We have the best volunteer instructors!

There are many great photographers out there but not every great photographer can teach. BOW ladies do not want to watch a slide show of the instructor's images. They want to make great images of their own. This is why Lisa is so popular. After 20 years of researching how people learn she is pretty darn good at teaching.

She preaches ethical field practices. Respect the animal (subject) when shooting. Do not stress or put any wildlife at risk. Do not sacrifice habitat to achieve that perfect image. But don't give up, find another way to do it. This mantra dovetails perfectly into our overall message.

Lisa is working a different angle to make her mark in the competitive world of outdoor photography. Yep, you can buy her images but there is much more in her repertoire. She offers workshops tours and one on one consulting lessons. As I write this, she is in Alaska on a remote location leading a group of photographers taking bear images.

“Photography workshops are not just about the picture. They are about the whole experience. When participants have peace, laughter, creative space, great accommodations, abundant support, and can connect better with nature, it shows in the quality of their work.”

When doing research on our instructors there is always a surprise. Lisa story is no exception. She started her own nonprofit organization ‘Picture It Clean’. <http://www.pictureit-clean.org> Tired of seeing the trash in our backcountry, she decided to do something about it. Her first Arizona endeavor was a trash pick up at Tres Rios this past spring. Over 30 people and several organizations worked all day to fill a giant City of Phoenix dumpster with tires, litter, glass, and whatever-else-other-nasty-stuff they found. Count me in next time.

“In appreciation for their labor during our organized cleanup events across the United States, I offer photography walks, instruction, tips, photo contests and prizes for our volunteers.”

Scheduled for this summer is a night shooting the stars at Boyce Thompson. This is a new moon night so no light pollution from the moon. There is also an indoor shoot scheduled for August 5th using ‘creative lighting’ at the same venue. Here, folks will be shooting botanicals using lighting techniques from household materials. Later in August is a hummingbird workshop at Madera Canyon. And still later a composition workshop at Desert Botanical Gardens. Trips to New Mexico, Florida, Ontario, Alaska, and Cuba are on the agenda for next year. Interested in attending? Go to www.langellphotography.com/Events for details.

We are blessed to have Lisa as one of our core instructors. She genuinely cares about our participants and they feel it. She is lined up to teach a class for the upcoming September workshop. It is this type of quality instruction that keeps our program strong. Twenty years and still going strong.

“I truly find absolute, pure joy in showing someone how to photograph their first bear, moose, glacier, puffin, etc. It is an honor to be able to be a part of someone’s photographic journey and help facilitate their once-in-a-lifetime experiences and images. I hope to do so for photographers for years to come.”



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Aristide (Steve) Gallizioli

July 25, 1924 - March 29, 2017

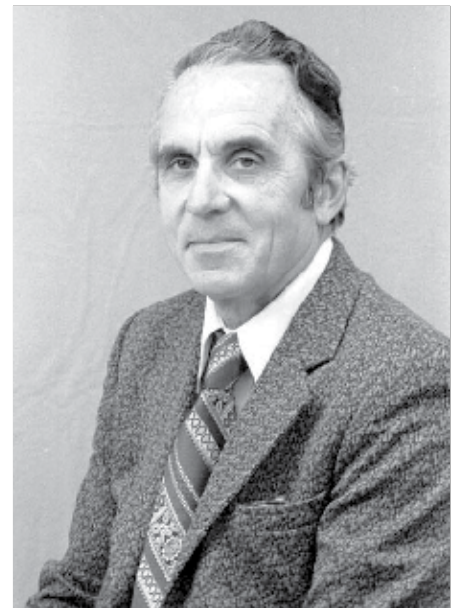


by Harley Shaw

under the G. I. Bill. His early work included wildlife surveys and management activities on the Chirichahuas, Grahams, and Huachuca mountains. He was involved in wildlife studies on Fort Huachuca during the brief period in the 1950's when the fort was decommissioned and managed by Arizona Game and Fish Department. This included removing bison from the Fort and shipping them to Raymond Ranch and Houserock Valley.

In the mid-1950's, he transferred to Prescott and worked with Dr. Wendall Swank on mule deer. This was during the period of one of Arizona's last serious deer population irruptions, and Steve's work was fundamental in bringing deer populations back within carrying capacity. He worked with Swank in writing *Mule Deer in the Arizona Chaparral*, a publication that guided mule deer management in central Arizona for a decade or more and remains an important historical document.

Steve moved to Phoenix to help Swank create the newly formed research branch of the game department, designing studies of game species using Pittman-Robertson funds. He supervised the first long-termed quail study near Oracle, Arizona, which demonstrated that quail population variations were effected most strongly by availability of green feed in the spring. This led the Department to gradually liberalize



Steve Gallizioli was born in Riva Di Solto near Bergamo, Italy. His father had moved to the United States before Steve was born, and his mother died when he was two. Steve lived with his grandmother in Italy until he was eight, when she sent him to live with his father and stepmother in Ishpeming, Michigan. He joined the Navy in 1943, serving on a gun ship in the Pacific. After WWII, he earned a BS degree in wildlife management at Oregon State University.

He met Clelia Posilippo in California and they discovered that they had been born only three short miles apart in Italy! They married and Steve took a job as a wildlife biologist with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, becoming one of the first college-trained biologists in the department who had received a degree

quail season length and bag limits.

As a result of Steve's work, the Department was among the first to create long-termed population research, spanning decades. This included the Three Bar and North Kaibab deer studies, as well as studies of white-tailed deer and javelina.

When Swank became assistant director of the department Steve moved up to the supervisor of the research branch, and he also continued to be in charge of the Oracle quail study. He also spent as much time as possible in the field with a growing crew of research biologists and assistants. This was, perhaps, the heyday of the research branch, when the entire branch moved around the state working together on a variety of studies. Throughout his career, Steve passionately promoted clear writing and detailed reports on research activities. He often held workshops on research planning and design, and he sent out a steady stream of articles on good technical and popular writing. In addition, he wrote voluminously himself, contributing chapters to several wildlife management books, including one on white-winged doves. As a result of his own deer research plus the studies carried out when he was branch supervisor, Steve became an outspoken advocate of grazing reform, sometimes to the point of placing his career in jeopardy. Steve spent three months studying wildlife populations in Venezuela for the United Nations.

A major reorganization of the Department elevated the research branch to a full division status, and placed it under the wildlife division of the department. Steve assumed the

role of division chief. Steve was an active member of the Arizona Wildlife Federation. He retired from the Arizona Game and Fish Department in 1983, having devoted 33 years to improving game management in Arizona. He continued to be active in wildlife matters, especially with the Arizona Wildlife Federation, writing and giving talks on wildlife and range management throughout the state. His life was spent in the outdoors as a hunter, fisherman and a lover of nature.

Steve was well loved and preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Clelia Gallizioli, his daughter Susan Gallizioli, his parents, Mario Gallizioli, Maria Gallizioli and Gena Gallizioli. He is survived by his daughters, Laura Young (Paul), Debra Speakes, and Mary Ann Delawyer, along with his grandchildren, David Young, Diana Petersen, Susan Delawyer, Catherine Hernandez, Jaclyn Delawyer and 9 great grandchildren.



Steve Gallizioli

by Mark Hullinger

It is with great regret we inform you of the passing of Steve Gallizioli. Steve influenced and helped shape the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Working for many years as a wildlife biologist, Steve helped create and supervise the Research Branch. After retiring from the department, Steve joined the Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF). He served a number of elected positions on the board of directors and was a Lifetime member.

With over 30 years experience as a biologist and a Division Chief, Steve brought much wisdom and insight to the people of the AWF. In addition to his elected positions on the AWF board of directors, Steve worked tirelessly as the editor for the AZ Wildlife News for more than a decade. The AWF presented the Thomas E McCullough (professional category) award to Steve in 1985.

Steve certainly helped mentor myself and other AWF presidents and board members. It is hard to put into words what a great champion of wildlife and conservation Steve really was. His lessons and influence will exceed his lifetime. Thank you Steve.



I couldn't let this tribute to such an influential man go by without sharing one of his anecdotes. This story was one of a collection that was printed in the book "It Was a Rough Road." Published and authored by John Carr in 1994. It shows a wonderful writing style and makes me wish that I had known him.

Linda Dightmon

Gino Learns About Deer Surveys

By Steve Gallizioli

Wildlife biologists have been using fecal pellet group counts to estimate deer populations for many years. While the technique is one of the better ones for getting a handle on deer numbers it has one distinct disadvantage. It's difficult to talk about without cracking up your audience. A good example was the barber I used to go to many years ago.

An inquisitive soul, Gino had plied me with questions on my first visit several weeks before. He was particularly interested in how a kindred soul, a *paisan'* really, both of us having come from the old country, had ended up working for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. By my second visit, he already knew that I was a wildlife biologist and that I had attained that exalted position after receiving a college degree from Oregon State College (now University). A hunter and a fisherman himself, Gino was much interested in the affairs of the agency that collected his license money. Before I entered his shop, he hadn't realized there was any job other than "game warden" connected with hunting and fishing.

Gino was somewhat less than fluent in English. On my second visit, his first question after the usual preliminaries was, "Wot my biologo fren doin' dees day?"

I wasn't eager to talk about my current project, deer pellet group counts, for obvious reasons. It was a difficult subject to discuss even among Department people without ending up on the receiving end of the sarcastic jibes about the "science" of pellet picking. Perhaps, I thought, I can get around the problem by not being too specific and by resorting to euphemisms instead of more easily understood four letter words.

I proceeded to tell Gino about the deer surveys, via pellet group counts, we were doing on the Three Bar Wildlife Area near Roosevelt Lake northeast of Phoenix. But I did so without mentioning pellet groups. I talked about transects, circular plots, sample sizes and about converting the data we got into an estimate of deer per square mile. Not a word about pellet groups. Gino got part of it at least.

"You say you count da deer, huh?" Gino sounded genuinely interested. "I no unnerstan how you do dat. Mus be hard to do. Tell me, how you count dos deer?"

I hesitated a moment trying to think of words to use which might satisfy him without really telling him about pellet counts. No way, I thought. I'll just have to explain it all.

"We count pellet groups on small circular plots placed along transects extending across the area." I said. "It's really an excellent technique," I assured him, "the most reliable we've ever come up with for estimating deer numbers."

Gino frowned as he finished with the electric clippers and began snipping away with scissors and comb. Obviously he was trying to digest what I said. Finally he stepped back, scissors upraised, like a conductor about to begin the overture to *Rigoletto*, and gave me a puzzled look.

"Pell' group? You don' say." Obviously my explanation had left something out. "Wot dees pell' group, anyway? I nevair hear tell about pell' group before. Wot happen to da deer?"

Still wanting to avoid the short Anglo-Saxon word that would

clear up the mystery but leave me open to ridicule, I said: "These are fecal pellets, Gino. Wildlife researchers have found that deer defecate about thirteen times a day. By knowing the size of the circular plots, number of plots, and the number of days since the plots were last cleared of pellet groups, we can calculate the number of deer per square mile."

Gino snipped away quietly for a few more seconds while he mulled that over. I could tell from the look on his face that I still hadn't dispelled much of the fog, if any. He stopped again and gave me a blank look. I might as well have tried to explain why $E=MC^2$.

It was clear that my attempted snow job was working too well. I was also certain that Gino wasn't about to give up on me, and that I would have to clear things up with less gobbledegook. "I guess I gotta tell him or I'll never get out of this chair," I thought. Reluctantly, and perhaps desperately, I looked around to be sure no one else had entered the shop, lowered my voice to a whisper and said, "We make deer estimates by counting piles of deer shit!"

Now I know Gino had to be as familiar with that expression as with the Italian equivalent, but he reacted as if I had hit him across the face with a five day old carp. He studied me from a distance of three or four feet, his brow wrinkled in distaste, as he tried to sort out my totally unexpected remark. I could almost see the wheels going around as one emotion on his expressive countenance was replaced by others; Did I think he was a fool? Why was I pulling his leg with such a ridiculous explanation? What a lousy thing to do to a fellow *paisan'*!

Evidently my red-faced, embarrassed look slowly convinced him I must be serious. Slowly the frown disappeared and his face began to light up. He grinned, smiled, and broke into loud laughter. Waving his lethal looking scissors under my nose he managed, between guffaws, to squeak out, "You count da deer shit! DEER SHIT!"

I gave him my best Mediterranean shrug, wondering how I could get out of here before the situation got any more embarrassing.

"And you go college four year to learn count deer shit? Mamma mia, now I'm hear evertin'!"

Since Gino hadn't shaved my neck yet and I was still a prisoner in his barber chair, I continued explaining the procedure, hoping to convince him I wasn't a complete nut. I tried to stress the scientific validity of the technique by bringing out the fact that the number and location of the pellet plots was determined by a statistician who had even more book learning than me. Gino, however, apparently couldn't dispel the mental images of a college graduate on his knees counting deer do-do. He was still chuckling as he punched the cash register and accepted payment for the haircut.

Before I could escape, another customer entered the shop and Gino couldn't pass up the opportunity.

"Hey, Joe, you neva gas wot my young fran here do for livin'," he paused for one pregnant moment as Joe looked at me inquiringly. "HE COUNT DA DEER SHIT!" Gino broke up again as I slunk out the door vowing to find another barber or let my hair grow – and to never again mention deer pellet groups to anyone!

In Memory of Michael A. Johns

Michael A. Johns, 67, of Phoenix passed away on January 13, 2017. Michael served as United States Attorney for the District of Arizona from 1997-1998 and spent his entire professional career in the United States Attorney's Office. He was a Lifetime member of the Arizona Wildlife Federation and served on the Arizona Wildlife Foundation board for a number of years in the 80's & 90's. Mike worked on a project to raise \$250K to pay artist, Richard Sloan, for 42 images of the Raptors of Arizona. They were used in the book *Raptors of Arizona* and sold as lithographs. Past President, Rick Erman, remembers Mike as "a good man that loved Arizona, his cabin at Bray Creek and was an avid hunter. A Conservationist at heart, always lending a hand to do projects on the land to benefit the land and wildlife."

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Susan; and their children, Kevin, Emily Jagodzinski (Gregg) and Ryan; two grandchildren, Aiden and Allie Jagodzinski; his brothers, Richard, Tom, Steve; and his sister, Shannon Branstetter. Mike was greeted in heaven by his parents, Richard Johns, MD and Ruth Johns. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to Hospice of the Valley at hov.org, (602)530-6992 or the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, 2049 Airport Way Boise, ID 83705, wffoundation.org.



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WHADDA' YA' KNOW

(answers on page 22)

1. How many species of rattlesnakes have been identified?
2. How many species live in Arizona?
3. The age of a rattlesnake can be determined by the number of rattles on its tail. T or F
4. What is the rattle made of?
5. According to the AZ Poison Control Centers, what percentage of rattlesnake bites result in death?



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Historical Tales

Reproduced by Ryna Rock from AGPA Sportsmen's News, June 1967

Gallizioli & Levys Win American Motors Award

AGPA Sportsmen's News, June 1967

American Motor's Awards, for outstanding work in the field of conservation, were presented recently to three AGPA members. Steve Gallipoli, chief of the Research Division of the Arizona Game & Fish Department, received an award in the professional category for his nationally recognized research work on Gambels Quail.

Jim and Seymour Levy, active members of Tucson Wildlife Unlimited, received their awards in the non-professional category for their many contributions to conservation - including their work with the Masked Bobwhite Quail.

Department News and Views Mailbox

Oregon State University-Fisheries & Wildlife Dept, Jan. 1990

A fine letter from Steve Gallizioli (class of '50), now retired after 33 years with the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. Steve reports, ".....enjoyed most of that except perhaps the last four as Chief of Wildlife Management Division. Until then I managed to find excuses to be in the field periodically. The paper shuffling and meetings required of last position made it impossible to get away from my desk.....one reason I hung it up early and retired at 59."

Like most retirees, Steve is trying to catch up on fishing but can't seem to find enough time. He is now much involved with the Arizona Wildlife Federation and is also building a summer home on the Mogollon rim. Steve says, ".....I've managed a bit of traveling, including a 5 week trip to East and South Africa a couple years ago....by far the most exciting thing I've done, and it was terrific. I'm planning a tour of Australia and New Zealand next year and hope to catch a few of those humongous New Zealand trout I've been hearing about for years."

America In Crisis

Saving the Wild At a Time Like This

Arizona Wildlife News, Fall 2001

by NWF President Mark Van Putten

One means of sanity is to retain a hold on the natural world, to remain, insofar as we can, good animals... We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope. –Wallace Stegner

We recoiled in horror at the unspeakable events of September 11, 2001. Then, slowly, we began to ponder the profound impact this unparalleled human and national tragedy would have on us as individuals and as a country.

Inevitably in a time of national crisis, priorities shift. We ask ourselves what we should do “at a time like this.” At the National Wildlife Federation, we’ve asked ourselves, “Do our efforts to connect all Americans with the natural world and build awareness, understanding and support for wildlife, wild places and a healthy environment really matter ‘at a time like this’?” I believe the answer is an unequivocal, “Yes, they do.”

For while this may not be a time for business-as-usual conservation, it is a time to re-affirm the enduring relevance of a fundamental national ethic: the value of our wildlife and wild places, and the healing power of nature, in an often chaotic world. Like Aldo Leopold, most Americans would not want to live in a world without wild things. And most Americans believe that securing the future of our wildlife and wild places – including irreplaceable special places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge – must remain high on our list of national priorities.

Congress has deferred debate on energy legislation and many other contentious issues to focus on our national security, as well it should. But the fact remains that drilling in the Arctic Refuge would not provide any energy for years, and its contribution to our overall needs would be slight. Drilling would, however, defile one of the last, pristine wild places left to us. We must guard against any opportunistic efforts to weaken existing protection for this special place.

Caring Americans can take meaningful action to decrease our dependence on foreign energy supplies by emphasizing conservation, and insisting that Congress make gas-guzzling SUVs meet the same fuel efficiency standards as passenger cars. We can even make a significant difference by doing things as simple as using a gallon less of gasoline each week, or installing compact fluorescent light bulbs.

But foregoing continued progress toward a healthy

environment, and the protection of our precious natural resources, is not a prudent option for a strong America – even at a time when our immediate priorities may be focused elsewhere.

Disturbing projections that Glacier National Park may soon be bereft of glaciers remind us that protecting America also requires that we move aggressively and globally to deal with the causes and consequences of climate change, which threatens the health of our natural resources and our economy alike. Likewise, we must continue to work cooperatively with other nations toward world trade agreements that respect the needs of wildlife and the environment, as well as the hopes and aspirations of people everywhere.

Stegner’s “geography of hope” is found in such resplendent American landscapes as our national parks, our prairie grasslands, the Everglades, and national wildlife refuges like the Arctic Refuge. But it also flourishes in gardens, backyards, schoolyards and green spaces across this great country. Nature is the unifying essence that nurtures and regenerates life at every level; its loss – or the loss of our connection to it – diminishes us as individuals and as a nation.

Immediately following the terrorist attacks in New York, I was struck and moved to hear of dazed and grieving New Yorkers flocking to nearby community gardens to comfort each other and reaffirm their common humanity. In the days following the tragedy, I also heard from National Wildlife Federation members and supporters, Board members and staff, many of whom described their need to escape the horrific televised images – their need for solace and sustenance. And many told of finding that comfort and renewal as they walked by a familiar stream, hiked a favorite mountain path or even sat under a tree in a local park.

Conservation is ultimately about caring, and about community. With your continued support, we can help keep it an American tradition that is passed proudly from generation to generation.

2016 Arizona Wildlife Trophies Book Awards



Cameron Lickfeldt receiving her award from John O'Dell, Arizona Wildlife Trophies Chairman



Marvin Zieser receiving his awards from John O'Dell, Arizona Wildlife Trophies Chairman

The 2016 annual Arizona Wildlife Trophies book awards were presented at the Arizona Antelope Foundation banquet on June 17 at the Embassy Suites in Tempe.

Award recipients honored at the banquet included Austin Brishky, Jerry Clay Jenkins, Robb Gary Evans, Marvin Zieser, Larry Thowe, Randy B Brown, Cameron G Lickfeldt, Bob Rimsza and Stanley A Crisher. Robin Wills Bechtel and Anton "Skip" Rimsza received certificates for their entries in the book.

Three special awards were presented. Marvin N Zieser received both the Arizona Trophy Heads and Horns and the Arizona Big Game award. Quite the accomplishment! Starting with the harvest of a Typical Mule Deer in 1985 and finishing with a Desert Bighorn Sheep in 2016. It was a 31 year adventure to earn his Arizona Big Game award. Richard H Humphrey also received a Arizona Big Game award. Richard began his journey in acquiring this award in 1977 by harvesting a Typical Mule Deer. He completed it in 2016 with his Typical Elk.

For more information on the awards program, please visit our website at azwildlife.org

Harvest Date	Pronghorn (80)	Score	Award
9/2/16	Austin Brishky	93	1ST
9/30/16	Trenton K. Brooks	84 4/8	HM
8/24/16	Roy C. Byerrum	83 6/8	
9/5/16	Jerry Clay Jenkins	82	
8/24/16	Andrew J. Leiendecker	81	

Typical Coues Deer (107)

11/25/16	Hannah Mackenzie	122 3/8	1st
12/18/16	David Knights	108 5/8	HM

Non Typical Coues Deer (115)

10/25/16	Lee M. Comaduran	138 1/8	1st
10/22/16	Jack Willey	126	HM

Non Typical Elk (365)

9/19/16	Joseph Chacon Jr.	412 3/8	1st
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Desert Sheep (162)

12/4/16	Clay Goldman	178 4/8	1st
12/16/16	Robb Gary Evans	177 5/8	HM
12/3/16	Marvin N. Zieser	173 2/8	
12/1/16	Tim B. Melton	172 2/8	
12/3/16	Hunter Hulburd	171	
12/11/16	Michael L. Wilson	162 6/8	

Rocky Mt Sheep (162)

11/1/16	Larry Thowe	188 4/8	1st
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Turkey (1 12/16)

1/12/16	Warren Adams	1 12/16	1st
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Bison (100)

4/19/16	Randy B. Brown	125 2/8	1st
7/15/16	Lyle T. Button	116 6/8	HM
10/4/16	Jerry Gollihar	109 2/8	

Javelina (14)

1/1/16	Michael Manasseri	14 12/16	1st
1/14/16	Mark D. Sipe	14 6/16	HM
1/28/17	Cameron G. Lickfeldt	14	

Black Bear (20)

6/16/16	Bob Rimsza	21 5/16	1st
6/25/16	Wesley Stark	21 2/16	HM
10/1/16	Ron J. Baron	20 3/16	

Cougar (14)

3/11/16	Stanley A. Crisher	14 7/16	1st
2/4/16	Hector Rodriguez	14	

Arizona Trophy Heads & Horns

Marvin N Zieser

Arizona Big Game Award

Richard H Humphrey

James Robert Wendt

Marvin N Zieser

Camp Cook

By Ryna Rock



Corn Meal Mush Mixture

Prepare before leaving home:

Boil: 2 1/2 cups water and 1 1/2 tsp salt

Add: 1 minced bell pepper; dash paprika; 1 minced onion; 1 tsp vegetable oil Cook 2 minutes and add 3/4 cup of corn meal mixed with 1 cup cold water. Cook over low heat about 6 minutes, stirring frequently. Pour into loaf pan and chill. Wrap in foil and store in ice chest till used.

At camp site, slice corn mixture into 1/4 in slices and spread half of them on bottom of greased dutch oven. Then add 1 cup chile con carne (no beans), 1 can whole kernel corn (drained). Top with remaining slices of corn meal. Place lid on dutch oven and heap with coals. Bake 45 minutes.

Oven size	Number of briquettes	
	Top	Bottom
10-inch	10 to 12	8 to 10
12-inch	12 to 14	10 to 12
14-inch	14 to 16	12 to 14
16-inch	16 to 18	14 to 16

WHADDA' YA' KNOW

(questions on page 21)

- 36
- 13
- False
- Keratin the same material found in human hair and fingernails.
- Less than 1% of bites result in human deaths.

Basque Green Beans

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 medium onion, chopped fine
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 clove garlic, sliced fine
- 1/2 tsp dried basil leaves
- 2 (14 1/2 oz) can green beans drained
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- 1 (14 1/2 oz) can tomatoes, diced
- 1/8 c grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp dried parsley leaves

Put olive oil in 12-in dutch oven and place on 10-12 charcoal briquettes. Cook and stir onion and garlic in oil; add remaining ingredients except cheese. Remove some of the charcoal and simmer over low heat 15-20 min. Must bring to a boil, but do not overcook. Remove from heat, sprinkle with small amount of parmesan cheese and let sit with lid on for 5 minutes before serving. Do not stir after sprinkling cheese on top. Serves 6-8.

Dutch Oven Cobbler

- 1 cake mix
- 2 large cans fruit pie filling
- ingredients on box of mix
- 1 container of whipped topping

Line dutch oven with aluminum foil. Spread pie filling in bottom of dutch oven. Mix cake according to directions on box. Spread over fruit. Cook in dutch oven for 35-45 minutes (cook using briquettes on top and bottom-about 16 briquettes total).

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Jacob Bushong	Surprise	Roberta Bierman	Gilbert
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