

Arizona Wildlife News

Spring 2009

www.azwildlife.org



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



Images by
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2009



BOW Deluxe: February 6-8

\$375, which includes instruction, program materials, resort style lodging and meals. This workshop will showcase the wonders of our Sonoran Desert.

Traditional BOW: April 3-5 & August 14-16

\$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 outdoor experience. Classes include hiking, fishing, hunting, shooting, outdoor cooking, GPS, wilderness survival, rappelling, birding, map and compass, camping, archery and many more!



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

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Discover Arizona

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

Discover You!

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.

On the Cover: This issue of the Arizona Wildlife News we once again dig into the archives of the *Arizona Wildlife Sportsman*. This one is from April 1958. L R Mazer is the artist. 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 editor@azwildlife.org. 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 Editor:

I read with great interest the Walkington article on canine snake training. I had my black lab trained a couple of decades ago, using moistened ground, a defanged rattler and a shock collar. He was a bright partner and it only took one "demonstration". That training saved my life since we frequently hiked the desert. On one trip, his warning prevented my getting bitten miles from a vehicle. His large framed photo decorated my office waiting room for many years after his passing. I love receiving the AWN. Cory Kreuzer's grin says it all. Keep up the good work.

JOHN W. NELSON
Vice President - Safari Club International

Packages from Home

Xplor the Outdoors with Jim and Patti Solomon, a radio show heard Sunday mornings from 7-9 on AM 1060 The Fan in Phoenix, Arizona and streamed LIVE around the globe on www.xplorthedoor.com, joined with Sportsman's Warehouse in support of the mission of Packages From Home, through a drive collecting new and gently used fishing equipment for troops serving in combat zones. Anyone who has experienced the joy of fishing and the unparalleled release and relaxation affiliated with it, now has a unique chance to provide that "peace of mind" to those who need it most.

The drive will run from March 1, 2009 to June 1, 2009 at all Sportsman's Warehouse locations around the country. Monetary donations will also be accepted at www.Packagesfromhome.org to help send the donated equipment overseas.

Packages From Home thanks Xplor the Outdoors Radio Show and Sportsman's Warehouse for their support of our brave American troops in combat zones. Please show them your support by visiting Sportsman's Warehouse locations nationwide with your donations, and by listening to Xplor the Outdoors for further information. Thank you and remember to support our troops!

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 possible.

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.



Mule Deer Tree
Photo by Linda Dightmon



Correction!

In the last issue of the Arizona Wildlife Views (Winter 08/19) we misspelled the writer for the article titled "Passing it On".

The byline should have read:

Holly Dickinson

WHADDA' YA' KNOW?

1. What is biodiversity?
2. How large is the Sonoran Desert?
3. Are Colorado River Toads poisonous?
4. What is tequila made from?
5. What famous conservationist canoed the Delta of the Colorado River in 1922?
6. How much can a Bighorn Sheep drink?

(Answers on page 8)

From The President

Ryna Rock

Disturbia



I am finally publicly admitting to being a disturbed person. There are those who know me well who are probably saying, "At last, after all these years, Ryna is finally going to own up!" I view myself as a fairly calm, even-tempered person, mostly patient, but what I have been hearing and seeing over these last several years brings me to a disturbed state of mind. Who or what is the cause of this disturbance?? It could have many faces, many identities; it emanates from all walks of life, all economic levels; it never sleeps, and gets stronger every day. It is—the guy or gal next door! It is—your brother-in-law or father! It is—your kid's friend or your own buddy! You get the picture.

The crime?? A complete lack of conscience when they get out of doors! Would you throw beer cans down where you drink them in your living room? Would you dig a teaspoon's worth of dirt out of your garden at home, then use it as a toilet and throw the teaspoon of dirt back on it and count that good? Would you drive your quad right through your carefully tended lawn or vegetable garden, spinning circles for the fun of it if you had watered it that day? Would you climb into a car with a friend who was totally blitzed, take along a few of the neighborhood kids to show them how it's done, and go cruise the neighborhood for a while—maybe take a few guns along in case you see something? How about getting the quad out in the middle of the night, grabbing a spotlight, and chasing the neighborhood cats and cutting through your neighbor's yards for a few laughs? It might be fun to bag up all your garbage for a weekend and leave it by your neighbor's back door, or better yet, don't bag it and throw it around his yard! These all sound ridiculous and so they are, and so are the shenanigans that I have seen and others are constantly telling me about that they have witnessed in our great Arizona outdoors. It is enough to drive me "round the bend"!

Irresponsible outdoor activity is officially on the rise. We must do all we can to combat it. For this reason the Arizona Wildlife Federation is focusing on "Living the Conservation Ethic" in 2009. It is imperative that hunters and anglers lead the way in educating others about conservation ethics, uphold those precepts in their lives, and be willing to confront irresponsible behavior when they come in contact with it. We must make it clear that IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS IS UNACCEPTABLE. Some of the ways we at the AWF are educating others is through the Becoming An Outdoor Woman Program, and through our outreach efforts at special events, activities, and projects. I know many other sportsmen/women and conservation/environmental groups and agencies are speaking out and educating on this critical issue as well, but we must not only all continue this work, but redouble our efforts in the face of the literal avalanche of illegal and irresponsible behavior that is occurring all over our state.

We must not confuse being ethical with being legal. To be legal is easier, as the law can always be bent a little this way or that, or even outright ignored if one feels they can get away with it—if no one is watching—if you ignore your conscience. What is being legal or being ethical? Simply put, we must be guided by our conscience first, and regulations second. Think carefully about the potential impact of your actions on the resource, on others sharing the outdoors with you, on the residents of the area—both human and wildlife, on the safety factor, etc. For your edification, I am including the Hunter and Angler Code of Ethics here:

1. Please adhere to and Promote Ethical, Fair Chase Hunting and Fishing
2. Respect Fish, Wildlife and Natural Environments
3. Elevate Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Conservation
4. Respect Private Property

5. Hunt and Fish Courteously and Safely
6. Show Consideration for All Outdoor Users
7. Know, Uphold and Advance the Law
8. Be Proficient in Outdoor, Hunting and Fish Skills
9. Be Knowledgeable About Wildlife
10. Assist Others in Becoming Ethical Hunters and Anglers

You can see they would apply to any outdoor activity with just a slight change of wording here or there, as in "10. Assist Others in Becoming Ethical Off-Highway Users", or "5. Ride Roads and Trails Courteously and Safely", and so on. We are all intelligent enough to figure out how it applies to our particular brand of outdoor recreation.

This charge carries over even to the stand we take on legislation and regulation regarding the use of public lands, wildlife and other natural resources. Ann Causey, a professor of humanities and environmental studies at Arizona's Prescott College put it this way, "Moral hunters (or anglers, or OHV'ers, or hikers, etc.) do not mindlessly follow rules and lobby for regulations, which serve only their interests. Rather, they follow their consciences, sometimes setting their own interests aside." Aldo Leopold, whose 100th Anniversary of his Southwest legacy is this year, stated it a little differently, but same idea, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." Insightful words from both, words that demand our conscience be in good working order both in the field and in the decision-making chambers.

Do you consider yourself an ethical hunter, angler, camper, biker, off-roader, hiker, sightseer? For some of us the test of our conscience comes not when others are watching us, but when we are on

Continued on Page 21



Historical Tales

*Taken from the AGPA's January 1951, Arizona Wildlife Sportsman
and July 1941, Arizona Wildlife and Sportsman*

AN OPEN LETTER ADDRESSED TO ALL MOTHERS AND DADS

by MAX LAYTON

This column this month is addressed to the dear dads and the dear mothers of all our dear offspring. When I sat down at my desk to write my monthly AGPA column for Arizona Wildlife-Sportsman, I pondered: What is the most important subject to be covered at this time? I came up with this answer: The future thinking and actions of our children.

So for the next month-after having paved the way with the dads and the mothers-I am going to write a piece intended specifically to be read by our youngsters. And the editors have said they will see to it that it gets a place in the magazine the children cannot miss-because they believe, as I do, that Arizona Wildlife-Sportsman should be a magazine for the whole family, not just for Dad and "the boys" with whom he hunts or fishes.

I have been visiting the locals in the northwestern part of the state. Everywhere I have run into complaints about illegal killing of wildlife, and even tame life.

I was told of does and of fawns, and of spike elk, being found dead in the woods-shot by trigger-happy "hunters" without principle or conscience. Their acts of vandalism have cut deep into our brood stock-the producers of tomorrow's game. At a meeting of the Mohave County GPA a rancher-sportsman reported the killing by "hunters" of one of his cows.

These are things that make the blood of the true outdoors sportsman boil. But about the people who commit such acts of vandalism little now can be done-it is too late-except to enforce the game laws vigorously and to the letter, and to wait for the vandals to die.

There are folk, though, with whom we can work, and successfully. They are tomorrow's sportsmen-today's children. The child who likes you will imitate you-your actions, your expressed thoughts, your ideals.

The past two summers the GPA's within the 3-G Boy Scout Council have carried on training programs at Scout

camp, with outdoorsmen of the caliber the great outdoors of Arizona normally and naturally should and will produce, being invited to rub shoulders with the kids, talk to them, participate with them in their activities of camping, hiking, fishing, hunting and target shooting.

It is a fertile field for promotion of character emulation. As members of an organization dedicated to sportsmanship and same conservation, we owe our youngsters the opportunity to acquire the characteristics of sportsmanship through the very best medium of character building-association with sportsmen. And who better can measure up to the standard than their dads and their mothers, and the friends of their dads and their mothers?

At the same time, let us not forget the youngsters from "the other side of the tracks". These are the children whose parents, themselves, have not had an opportunity to learn the principles and the satisfactions of outdoor sportsmanship as we know it in our great Southwest. The obligation is not alone to our own flesh and blood. It is an obligation also to those youngsters-present in almost every community-who will not have, through their own parents, an opportunity to know the ways and the codes of the outdoors.

If we do the job right, every GPA will have a junior sportsmen's club in every community it serves. The sportsmen, if they be sportsmen, will take the kids fishing, teach them to shoot, teach them gun safety. They will take them on trips into the deserts, and the mountains, and show them the homes of the game and the fish, and of the trees and the flowers.

Trouble, you say? Yes, but it's worth it. The records do not show that a crime ever was conceived by a man who was fishing. Your local GPA officers are busy people. If they haven't as yet had time or the chance to start a deal like this for the youngsters, why don't you help them? Will you?

Sportsmanship

One joyous invigorating mountain sunrise,
I started out hunting with adequate
supplies:

Through the dew-jeweled grass to a small
open glade,
Were a bunch of wild turkeys, feeding
unafraid.

Silently I took careful aim and then, "Click!"
They vanished into the sense forest so
quick

I'd have sworn was imagined, likely as not,
If it had not been for that one perfect shot.

Just over the slope I discovered two deer,
Inspecting me closely, without seeming
fear:

As I took aim they both bounded from sight,
But I stood rejoicing with all of my might.

Through the long sunny days I wandered
about,
Stalking the wild things I managed to route:
Once it was quail which, limped as it plead.
Yet I drew a bead on a monarch's plumed
head.

Again it was grouse, that shy little bird.
But I got a shot as they suddenly whirred
Practically from under my unknowing feet;
"Danger!" I thought I heard a bluejay
repeat.

High up on a limb an angry squirrel
chattered,
And a chipmunk blinked as though nothing
mattered;
I longed for a bear cub with his hovering
mom.
To gaily frolic, thus ignoring my qualm.

Just as the sun yawned, preparing for
sleep,
I trudged wearily home with all I could reap;
Many years later, when I've grown quite
old.

I'll have the whole story, which my Kodak
has told!

By Freddie Kay Phelps, Springerville, AZ



By John Underwood



Streams and Game Trails

The Dangers of Nature-Deficit Disorder

Studies show the outdoors is vital to children's health. I have finished reading a book by Author Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods, Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*. His book gets into the why as well as proposes ideas on how to reverse the troubling trend of children becoming disconnected with nature.

Mr. Louv speaking at a luncheon at Ducks Unlimited National Headquarters in Memphis, recently stated "Some parents do not have a lot of experience with the outdoors, and they don't know where to start." "Remember that nearby nature is as important a wilderness nature." I recommend his book to those of you who are concerned about your youngsters or others that may need some well-placed direction.

Note: The Arizona Wildlife Federation, through the Becoming an Outdoors Woman program, which is offered three times a year, addresses to some extent this looming problem. Contact us for more information: 480-644-0077 or www.azwildlife.org

Once in a while during my wandering around the web, I unintentionally come across items that I thought you out there might be interested in. If so, give them a look.

Free Gear Give-Away Every Month! Boating season is coming!

The leading skeg replacement system and protection system, Blackfinä Skeg is giving away a FREE Skeg each month. Simply visit the Blackfinä Skeg web site at www.blackfinskeg.com and register in the give away. There is no purchase necessary. Each month a random winner will be selected and notified via email.

The Blackfin™ Skeg not only can repair a broken skeg, but it can also protect a skeg from being damaged. Available in three sizes, the new revolutionary Blackfin™ Skeg protects outboard engines like never before. Additionally, in the event of damage to your original stock skeg the Blackfin™ Skeg can be used to easily and inexpensively repair the damage as long as one third or more of the original skeg is still intact.

The added protection and enhanced performance of the Blackfin Skeg make this new product a must have for any boating enthusiast. They are available at Cabela's, and larger marine stores or conveniently online at: <http://www.blackfinskeg.com>

The suggested retail price is \$82.95. For additional information on Blackfin™ Skeg call 334-612-0859 Re: The Outdoors

Five Reasons To Take A Close Look At Your Boat Propeller

Selecting the right propeller for your boat's motor is sometimes as much art as it is science. That's because every boater uses their boat in different ways and under different conditions.

The January 2009 issue of *Seaworthy* from Boat U.S. Marine Insurance recently looked at why you may want to take a closer look at your prop this winter and ask yourself these five questions:

1. Is your boat slow to come onto plane? Pitch is the theoretical distance a prop makes though the water in one revolution. If a prop has too much pitch the boat will have a lousy "hole shot" — meaning its ability to get on plane quickly will suffer, similar to trying to start a car from a stop in third gear.

Your tachometer can also indicate potential problems with pitch. Assuming you have a clean, well-maintained boat, your boat's engine should reach within 100-200 revolutions per minute of its rated wide open throttle (WOT). If not, a prop shop may need to adjust pitch.

2. Does your engine over-rev and boat seem slow? If there is too little pitch in the prop, the engine will over-rev and go past it's redline at WOT. A prop shop can also add more pitch or recommend a new prop. Both under and over-revving can seriously damage an engine.

3. Did you run over a log, hit a sandbar or stump? You may have forgotten about that little bump that happened last summer, but your prop hasn't and it could affect performance when you launch in the spring. One prop shop proprietor reported to *Seaworthy* that 80% of the damaged propellers that come in to his repair facility look healthy at first glance — until they are reviewed with computerized repair equipment.

4. Do you want to go faster? The first place to look is the prop. Stainless-steel props, with thinner and stronger blades, allow slightly more speed. However, the trade-off is that they are also more costly to purchase and repair, and should you strike a submerged object a stainless prop has the potential to cause greater lower unit damage than an aluminum prop.

5. Using too much fuel? It's a good idea to monitor fuel flow, either with a fuel flow meter or by doing the math. When fuel economy starts to suffer the first thing to check is for propeller damage as a dinged prop can easily rob you up to 10% in fuel costs.

About *Seaworthy*:

Published four times a year by Boat U.S. Marine Insurance, *Seaworthy's* pages are filled with case studies that provide insight into how to avoid accidents, breakdowns, injuries and the "unexpected" circumstances that can jeopardize the safety of your boat and guests.

New Online Game Tests Boat Handling Skills

A new online "DockIt!" game is the latest of six, free games available at BoatUS.com/games that will keep your passion for boating alive all winter long. DockIt! allows users to select one of three boats, each vessel with its own unique handling characteristics. Players use the arrow buttons on a standard computer keyboard to safely maneuver the boat into a slip - no special gaming equipment is required. *I haven't docked yet, but getting closer.*

Get Noticed With The New LaserLyte Pistol Bayonet

LaserLyte® and Ka-Bar® Knives introduce the Pistol Bayonet, a razor-sharp, 2.75 inch Ka-Bar blade that fits on any medium to large pistol with rail.

New Features Added to NRAhuntersrights.org

If you've ever searched in vain for a hunting law in a state you want to hunt, or have you confused about what's fact and what's fiction when it comes to lead

ammunition, www.NRAhuntersrights.org has added two new features to give hunters quick and easy access to both sets of information.

The first new feature is an interactive map of the United States providing direct links to the hunting laws in all 50 states. Just click on the tab "State Hunting Laws" at the top of the Hunters' Rights homepage and then click on the state you want to hunt to find current rules and regulations.

Also new to the site is a list of answers to the most frequently asked questions about the health concerns associated with consuming game harvested with traditional lead ammunition. This FAQ, located in the top right corner of the homepage, will set the record straight on the lead issue and help to dispel any myths about lead. This section will be updated often as new research and information on lead ammunition becomes available

If you like free gear, each month NRA will pick one name at random from an e-mail drawing and send that person a free gift. Simply send an e-mail to www.NRAhuntersrights.org and put Gift Giveaway in the subject line. If your name is selected they will contact you at the end of each month and ship your gift to you.

Winchester Ammunition Adds To Super-Target Family

Clay target shooters will have a new

shotgun shell to try in 2009. Winchester® Ammunition is adding a 12-gauge, 2¾-inch, 1-ounce load to the Super-Target line. This shotshell is designed to give outstanding clay-busting performance in sporting clays, trap and skeet-at a highly competitive, value price.

Winchester has recognized a shift in customer demand from the 1 1/8 oz. to lighter 1 oz. loads", said Brad Criner, Winchester Ammunition's Shotshell Product Manager. "Our new product offering is a light load with consistent patterns and very little recoil."

For more information about Winchester and its complete line of products, visit www.winchester.com.

Punkin Center Lodge

Located in Punkin Center off Hwy 188. They allow pets for a nominal fee, the rooms are spotlessly clean with 2 double beds, microwave, refrigerator and satellite TV. Bar & Grill next door, however for dinner, across the street is the place. You might want to check it out should you be in the area.

Remember; get those youngsters outdoors with you and you will experience the thrill of a lifetime.

Until next time, Be Safe and Enjoy the Great Arizona Outdoors.

When you check out at Bashas' donate one percent of your bill to AWF by using the AWF ID number:
29173

Bashas'
Thanks
A MILLION
FOR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

(Questions on page 4)

WHADDA' YA' KNOW?
Answers

1. Simply put, variety of life on earth.
2. Approximately 100,000 square miles
3. They have extremely potent, defensive toxins that are released from several glands.
4. Fermented liquid from the cooked heads of the Agave tequilana.
5. Aldo Leopold, accompanied by his brother.
6. Up to 20 percent of their body weight



There's A Season

By Jim Walkington

Like the Pete Seger song, Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything there's a Season) there is a seasonal timeline that desert animals follow. Desert reptiles, especially rattlesnakes, are no exception to this cyclic ebb and flow.

For example, in the Sonoran desert around Phoenix, rattlesnakes **do not** hibernate in the true sense of the word. They don't disappear underground for five or six months not to be seen again until Spring. In Arizona, in the winter months, when the weather turns cold or rainy, they *will* seek a sheltered area and wait for better times. Some researchers have described Arizona rattlesnake dens that contain hundreds of rattlesnakes and claim that these snakes return year after year to the same spot. However, when the weather turns warmer—one or two winter days in or near the 80s—the hungry snakes can be out hunting for food. Even in the Winter, a daytime temperature of between 80 and 90 degrees will almost guarantee that snakes are active and may be encountered by humans or dogs. Veterinarians in the Arizona towns of New River, Anthem, and Carefree have treated rattlesnake bites in dogs in December and January.

Arizona rattlesnakes mate in the early spring—March or April. Then, approximately five-and-a-half months later, the baby snakes are born. Depending on when mating takes place, baby rattlesnakes can arrive anytime from late August to October. The female rattlesnake retains the eggs inside her body and the baby snakes are born live.

Each baby rattlesnake is born coiled within its own glistening membrane sac. In the wild, the youngsters have to wiggle out of the sac and immediately begin hunting for their first meal, usually a small lizard.

Baby rattlesnakes enter the world equipped with fangs and venom—everything they need to subdue prey and feed themselves. Each baby, approximately 10-11 inches long and darker in color than the mother, is on their own at birth. The number of babies in a rattlesnake litter ranges from five to over twenty, depending on the age and size of the mother. Baby rattlesnakes do not have rattles. They have a nub on their tail called a pre-button. The baby must shed their skin several times before they have enough rattle segments to make noise.

Baby rattlesnakes have venom that is more toxic than that of the adults. This makes sense when one considers that the favorite prey of the baby snakes is lizards and a more toxic substance is necessary to quickly kill a struggling lizard.

The good news is that a baby rattlesnake has a small amount of venom compared to an adult. The rule of thumb is: the larger the snake the more venom they are capable of producing.

According to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona has fourteen different species of rattlesnakes, more

than anywhere in the world.

Rattlesnakes are found in every US state except Maine, Alaska, and Hawaii. Their range extends from below sea level—Death Valley to above 10,000 feet. One rattlesnake, the Mexican Dusky Rattlesnake was reported collected on Mt Orizaba at an elevation of 14,500 feet.

The preferred temperature range for rattlesnakes is between 80-90° F. Experiments done on rattlesnakes in the early 1960s and 70s proved that rattlesnakes have a higher survival rate when exposed to extreme cold than when they are subjected to extreme heat.

Researchers placed several species of rattlesnakes, including desert sidewinders, in sun exposed enclosures and waited to see what would happen. When the snakes couldn't get out of the direct sun and the temperature was above 100° F., the snakes were dead in 20 minutes. When the temperature was above 110° F., they succumbed in 10 minutes or less.ⁱⁱ But, when rattlesnakes were placed in a chilled environment and almost frozen, most of these snakes recovered with no apparent ill effects when allowed to defrost gradually.

One way to put the above information to practical use is to apply it to your animals—especially your dogs. Many people who live in the desert areas of Arizona don't think of having their dogs protected against rattlesnake bites until they see the first snake in the spring or until after the dog is bitten.

Dogs can be trained to stay away from rattlesnakes. The training process goes by various titles: snake proofing, snake training, snake breaking, or snake aversion training.

There are two major schools of thought when snake proofing dogs, one school places the defanged or muzzled snake on the ground and allows the dog to find the reptile. The dog then receives a correction from an electronic training collar. The other training contingent confines the rattlesnakes in a cage or container, allows the dog to find the snake then corrects the canine with an electronic training collar.

There has been no research done to see which method works best. I have been snake proofing dogs for seven years using the snake in a cage method, and my opinion is that that both methods work equally well if done correctly. Dog owners need to do their homework, call the trainer, and ask questions.

Here are some sample questions:

Do you use live rattlesnakes?

How do you provide for everyone's safety?

How long have you been in business?

Have you ever had a dog injured during training?

How are your training sessions arranged; group, or one-to-one?

Continued on Page 21

BOW Happenings!



I am delighted to report that for the first time we were able to fill this workshop. A timely article by John Stanley at *The Arizona Republic* put us over the top. I was a little concerned that 40 participants might be too many for this venue but the staff at Saguaro Lake Ranch did an excellent job. Meal times were busy but not crowded and the food was awesome. We were able to keep the intimacy that BOW Deluxe offers.

Despite doom and gloom from the local forecasters, the weather was great except for maybe an hour of the last session on Sunday morning. I went out with the Predator Calling class and we managed to call up a coyote in the hail!

I want to extend a special thank you to one of my favorite couples. Don and Kathy Greene of Tucson. Don helped with Boating 102 and Kathy taught Archery. These dedicated instructors hauled all the archery equipment and trailered their bass boat for the classes. I have to mention Kathy's performance as the announcer at wildlife bingo. She was uhhhh...unforgettable! Yes, it is one of those, you-really-had-to-be-there moments. Another couple we would not want to do without is Kenny Stephens and Ryna Rock. The sitting AWF president and her husband were a huge help. They brought their boat from Camp Verde and Kenny helped teach Boating 102. Ryna was everywhere, doing whatever needed to be done.

A big welcome goes out for some new instructors. Bill Larson is our new fishing instructor and Dave and June Esparza taught Boating 101. They are from the AZ Game and Fish. Jamaica Smith and Pam Hessey of the Arizona Falconers Association were also there with their hawks. The Phoenix Varmint Callers were there in force, with 5 members to take out our group of 10 participants. The weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of that class. It is still fun to go out in the desert and make noise! Welcome back second year instructors; Lisa Bunch, Jim Neff, Jean Groen and Don Wells.

This program could not exist without the volunteer core instructor. These are the dedicated experts who teach year after year! For the second year in a row, our fly-fishing crew braved rain and cold to teach their class. Thanks to Donna Walkuski, Marian Tallon, Sara Yeager and Brian Mazoyer. Next year. Sunshine! Andree Tarby with Audubon Arizona found 27

species for her new birders. Mark Hullinger was there teaching Desert Survival. Barb Kennedy and her class prepared the Saturday evening meal. All Dutch oven. All delicious. Colleen Muniuk-Sperry taught a group of aspiring photographers the secrets of F-stops and apertures. I am proud to say that Tice Supplee, biologist, hunter and now bird lady (Director of Bird Conservation, Arizona Audubon) is one of our core instructors. My good friend, Amanda Moors, came and taught Geocaching and Hunting Desert Critters. She also brought home rendered prickly pear juice and prepared her famous Prickly Pear Margaritas! Lastly, I need to thank my first cousin and right hand, Kimberlee Kreuzer, for her hard work. Cuz, we couldn't do it without you.

It takes all of these people working together in a positive and fun manner to provide that atmosphere that makes a workshop a success. That atmosphere becomes contagious and grows until everyone can feel it. Bad moods go away and like magic, smiles are everywhere. We are getting ready to do it all over again at Friendly Pines, April 4-6.

Linda Dightmon



The Dutch Oven class prepare the Saturday evening meal

Conservation Districts

The Coconino Natural Resource Conservation District by Ty Rock

Let's explore Coconino NRCD, one of the largest, most active NRCD's, encompassing approximately half of Coconino County. The size goes back to the union, in 1965, of San Francisco Peaks Soil Conservation District (SCD) and Sitgreaves Mountain SCD, into Coconino SCD. San Francisco Peaks SCD was created in February 1942 and Sitgreaves Mountain, in June 1946. In 1972, after conversion of the state's soil conservation districts (SCD's) into NRCD's, the "Coconino" was born. It contains about 5,351,106 acres, or 8,360 square miles, within its boundaries. Range is the leading land use, making up about 2.6 million acres. This District is extremely diverse in its topography, with elevations ranging from 2,400 feet at the floor of the Grand Canyon to 12,620 feet at Mount Humphrey Peak's summit, north of Flagstaff; highest point in the state. From its northwest to its southeast boundaries, the Coconino NRCD spans the Colorado Plateau, from Grand Canyon to Mogollon Rim.

Like other NRCD's I've highlighted, Coconino NRCD has expansive and extensive partnerships with federal, state, county and city agencies, Indian Nations, corporate and private entities, and all are part of the natural resource and conservation mix in this NRCD. District direction is toward resource conservation through education and management principles for good stewardship. The "Coconino" is heavily involved in conservation driven programs such as EQIP, WHIP, noxious/invasive species weed and plant control, and in youth and adult public education on a broad spectrum of conservation issues.

Coconino NRCD has several hallmark elements to its credit. First is sponsorship and support for the non-profit Willow Bend Environmental Education Center. This Ed Center in Flagstaff's Sawmill Park, features an extensive campus consisting of an instructional building (completely self-sustainable), hands-on, low-water native gardens, alternatively fueled vehicle, weather reporting station and software, and other venues of instruction that assist the public in making mindful choices for themselves, communities and the planet. The Center's classroom building receives wide acclaim for its passive solar, straw bale construction featuring a grid-tied, photovoltaic electrical system, rainwater harvesting system, on-demand water heating, energy star equipment and energy saving lighting. Instructional gardens, featuring a small pond and plants native to the Colorado Plateau, have received the National Wildlife Federation's certification as "Backyard Wildlife Habitat", and the Governor's Award for Environmental Education. Supported by volunteer teachers, Willow Bend has brought environmental education to more than 25,000 people in Coconino County. Instructional venues include all grade levels at area schools, family science & community events, teacher workshops, classroom programs at the center and exhibits for adults and children.

The second hallmark element is support and on-the-ground work for the restoration of Picture Canyon. Picture Canyon, located within the Flagstaff city limits, is a unique, arboreal canyon, containing thousands of prehistoric petroglyphs. Inside this canyon, the perennial stream, Rio De Flag, is supplied by Flagstaff's water treatment facilities. Forming a rare natural waterfall in Northern Arizona and eventually flowing into the Little Colorado River, this stream forms prized wetlands that are intrin-

sically valuable to a wide variety of wildlife. A recent survey recorded about 140 prehistoric, rock art panels, making this one of the most valuable Northern Sinagua rock art sites in the Southwest. Since its partial excavation, by Harold Colton, in the early part of the 20th century, this beautiful canyon had been abused by watercourse channeling and dumping of construction debris, wrecked vehicles, extraneous trash and vandalism. In the mid 1990's long range planning by various agencies, concerned citizens, and environmental groups, like the Coconino NRCD, brought designation as a Critical Conservation Area in an attempt to restore the canyon to its original splendor. In 2005 a Picture Canyon core group was formed to escalate restoration and set aside this extraordinary area for the enjoyment of future generations. Tons of debris, car bodies and trash were removed and the on-going fight to save this area became greatly enhanced by an, approximately, one third of a million dollar grant, for restoration of the water channel, creation of ponds and other enhancements. Picture Canyon has achieved State Register of Historic Places status and is to be submitted for the National Register.

Hallmark number three is Coconino NRCD's participation in the Northern Arizona Native Seed Alliance. This organization consists of entities such as the "Coconino", the Flagstaff Arboretum, ranchers, Arizona Game & Fish Department, the Museum of Northern Arizona, other agencies, etc., and is dedicated to filling demands for native, restoration seeding. Wildland fires and eradication of noxious/invasive, non-native species, have created demand for local, native seeds. Past experience shows that the closer the seed source to the restoration site, the higher probability of success. Non-local or non-native types of seed raise failure risks, and high cost is, of course, restrictive. The list of desired native, seed species, for all mixes is as many as fifty, with about a dozen having been produced in reasonable quantities. Some seed types cost as much as \$100 per pound and demand is measured in tons. NANSAs wants to produce native seed locally. If successful, seeding could be made affordable for private ranches, and large agencies will see more success with native species over more acreage. Progress continues, with offers by three individuals to grow native seed on irrigated lands, as well as a tentative agreement by two others. The Flagstaff Arboretum has partnered with the "Coconino" for use of greenhouse facilities for local, native seed plugs, with the eventual goal of testing various types for viability in the local environment. This is now underway at the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Last, but not least for the "Coconino", is hosting, through the Willow Bend education center, the 2008 Canon International Envirothon. This is an environmental competition between high school students from the United States and Canada with the center point being human, recreational impact on the environment, pertaining to wildlife, soils, water and forestry. Fifty-two teams of 5-7 students competed. Hands-on testing determined the winners, affording each winning team accolades and scholarships.

Obviously, the Coconino NRCD is a viable, engaged, forward-looking organization. In this writer's conversation with leading players in the "Coconino", it was clear that these are dedicated people in an organization truly committed to conservation of the environment in all aspects.

Kid's Korner

By Karen Schedler

What's living in your back yard? (Besides your pets and livestock, that is.) What plants and critters can you find there? And why should we care? Our native wildlife biologists refer to the critters as *fauna* and plants as *flora*. Both are truly interesting – if we just take the time to notice and appreciate them.

So, take a look at your own back yard and see if you can figure out if you have any plants or animals, including insects and arachnids. (*Remember to be careful* when looking in tiny spaces and in between rocks! Some members of the fauna side of things will defend themselves by stinging or biting if they feel threatened. As you probably already know when exploring, never put your hands or feet where your eyes haven't been!)

Once you find a critter, try to answer these questions: Why is it there? What does it eat and where does that food come from? Where does it spend its days and nights? Does it stay here all year or does it migrate? Does it live alone or in groups? Is its habitat above ground or below? Is there a time of day when it is most active? Why might that be?

Oh, wildlife (and bugs and arachnids) can tell us quite a story! But, what about plants? With the rather wet winter we've had, we can find all kinds of plants popping up everywhere. (Well, maybe not yet for those of you still scraping snow off your driveways – but those of us in the desert areas, we are seeing green plants everywhere. Some are welcome some are not.)

So, as I survey my yard, I'm seeing all kinds of plants. I have some native grasses I've planted, but there are also some invaders that I pull since I don't want them around – they take away water and nutrients in the soil from the plants I do want to keep. But I usually leave a few "weeds" around since the birds like to chomp on their tender green leaves this time of year. (The way I look at things, weeds are "misplaced plants." They're not bad – they just outcompete native plants and I can at least try to control them within my own little piece of the earth.)

I also notice that the desert seems to LOVE the color yellow this time of year. Most of my early-blooming plants are that color: brittle bush, desert marigolds, sweet acacia. Why is that? Looks like a mystery I need to explore.

So, I'm offering a challenge to our younger readers – and even invite the parents to join us: for just one month, starting March 1 or April 1 (depending upon where you live and whether the snow has melted!), keep a daily journal or calendar noting the plants you find in your yard. Maybe you'd like to start with just one or two and follow their progress. What date did you first notice the plant coming up through the soil? How fast does it grow? Does it produce a flower? Seed or seeds? How are the seeds dispersed (scattered)? What animal life does it seem to attract (including insects)? When it eventually turns brown and dries (which may be a month or more down the road), does it break off at the ground level and blow away or does it stay put?

A fun website to checkout is the National Phenology Network at <http://www.usanpn.org/?q=node/3>. Phenology refers to seasonal changes in plants and animals – e.g., when a flower germinates, develops leaves, produces flowers, etc. Currently, each of us can be a citizen scientist by participating in Project Bud Burst. That's right: YOU can offer data and evidence about a plant species to scientists and researchers! And, in 2010, they will launch a new program related to wildlife. So, let's practice our observation and recording skills now with plants (they don't move around like wildlife does) and, at the same time, be extra eyes and ears for the researchers who simply cannot be everywhere at once.

Let us know what you may be observing. We'd like to share your stories in future editions. Send any photos, observations; comments, and questions to our editor, editor@azwildlife.org, and you just might see those in a future issue.

Arizona has some of the greatest flora and fauna on the planet! What mystery will **you** uncover?



Spotlight! Kids That Kare

Meet Maci!

"Conservation is hard work but can also be fun! Walking around the forest rolling up wire was very challenging. There was one area where there were a lot of small pieces that could not be rolled on the roller, so we had to gather them up by hand. Even though I was exhausted, I had a lot of fun playing with the other kids who came to help and camped with us. I was really happy once we got back to camp because the Arizona Antelope Foundation cooked us a steak dinner and my dad made cobbler. YUM!!!! Mostly I was happy because I was helping the Antelope."

Maci Stewart -age 9- Gilbert, AZ

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!

New Junior Members

Wyatt Ingalls
Kolby Peoples
Sharleen Gunn

Dear Dr. Sgro:

Color can inspire the imagination in the mind. It can paint a world of creativity or describe a mountain of thought. What would you say if you heard that a group of seventh graders had the ingenuity to decorate the seventh grade pod with plants without using school water, recycling, and learning all at the same time? In this passage, I will try to convince you that it will only benefit us to add plants to the seventh grade pod.

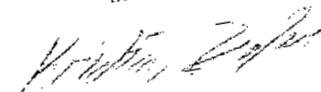
As you well know, the school can't afford to water all the grass, much less a pod full of plants. In its stead, we have devised a system to water the plants. We could water the plants without much of a cost if we used old plastic water bottles, filled them with water. It would water the plants and help the environment.

I greatly regret that botany is not one of the main things we learn in life. With this project we would learn a lot. We would learn how plants get their water as we research how much water every plant needs so we can try to choose the one with the least amount needed. It would all add to the experience.

I understand why you don't have plants in the pod right now. Too much money, too complicated, too time consuming (and as principal I am almost certain you already have too many demands on your time as it is). But this is a great opportunity for some seventh grade students and to add some personality to our pod.

To add plants to the pod would strike a spark in seventh grade minds and open a whole new world of possibilities in this paradise of color we imagine with our spirit. I hope that I have helped enlighten you of the benefits for our plan and convinced you to let us work together to achieve our goal.

Sincerely,



Kristin Sigler

is a copy of our initial proposal stapled to this letter.



Desert Oasis Team of Students from left to right:
Tallon, Amber, Jake, Kristen, Chelsey, Sierra, Mehgan,
Julynda, Ryan, Magdalena

Thunder Mountain Middle School 7th grade students just say no to the ugly planter box outside their classrooms! I met with these ambitious environmentalists at their D.O.T.S (Desert Oasis Team of Students) meeting. Above is a letter that one of the students wrote to the principal of the school and acquired a \$200 grant for the work. I must say I was very impressed with their planning and organization. I will keep you updated with their progress. They will be planting soon.
Kimberlee Kreuzer

Anderson Mesa Wetlands

REQUIREMENT:

Maintain access to water by livestock and wildlife without major visual impairments

OBJECTIVE:

Protect wetlands and adjacent upland areas throughout Anderson Mesa

Special Conditions:

Winter conditions of ice, snow and wind
Wetting and drying of clay soils causes shrinking and frost heaving
Some portions may be in standing water in wet years
Elk crossing fences creates additional stress

Funding:

National Forest Foundation with matching funds from
Arizona Game & Fish Department
Arizona Antelope Foundation
Arizona Bowhunters Foundation
Arizona Wildlife Federation
Mesa Varmint Callers
Wildlife Conservation Advisory Council

Perry Lake

April 2008

Special Conditions of Contract:

1/4" cable used as top wire
Separate specifications for upland and wetland fence portions
Additional wood posts in wetland portion (every 3rd post)
Longer steel posts in wetland portion (8 feet)
Additional wood posts in upland portion (every 200 feet)



Driving steel post into
hole drilled in rock

Project Participation:

Coconino National Forest

Fence location and on-the-ground marking
Archaeological survey and clearance on majority of project.
Determination of compliance with FS fence standards

AWF

Contract preparation, advertisement and award
Coordinate funding
Refresh & maintain on-the-ground marking
Refined fence construction specifications
Contracted archaeological survey for portion
Payment for completed work

Restoration 2006-2008

Exclosure	Acres	Miles Fence	WL Crossings	Cost in \$
Perry Lake	70	1.56	11	\$22,120
Tony's Tank	50	1.03	9	\$14,694
Corner Lake	70	1.31	8	\$22,703
Boot Lake	170	2.09	13	\$29,698
West Breezy Lake	30	0.84	6	\$9,705
Prime Lake	65	0.87	6	\$6,906
Post Lake	110	1.56	10	\$12,038
Deep Lake	230	2.71	20	\$43,260
Ducksnest Lake	190	2.12	15	\$29,980
Indian Tank Lake	70	1.47	12	\$20,849
Indian Lake	120	1.91	16	\$31,140
Totals	1175	17.47	126	\$243,093

2006 Project Results

Perry Lake
 Tony's Tank
 Corner Lake
 Boot Lake
 West Breezy Lake
 Total of approximately 7 miles
 Average cost of nearly \$15 thousand



Overall Statistics

10 Wetlands protected and enhanced to date
 Almost 1,200 acres included
 Over 20 miles of new improved fencing installed
 Over 30 miles of unnecessary or ineffective fencing removed
 Total costs to date almost \$250,000



Wildlife Crossings

Elk jump over top wire (cable)
 Goat bar (antelope crossing) on bottom wire
 Constructed of 2" PVC Pipe over wire
 At locations identified as being used or meeting crossing criteria
 Approximately 7 crossings per mile

To Bait or Not to Bait

The Great Baiting Debate

The Arizona Game & Fish Commission is considering making it illegal for hunters to use salt or food to attract game animals. The proposed rule states: "An individual shall not take big game with the aid of edible or ingestible substances, including salt or salt based products, placed for the purpose of attracting a big game animal to a specific location." The Commission is expected to vote on the new rule at its April 17 meeting. In the meantime, the public may submit written comments to Rulemaking@azgfd.gov.

AWF board members Larry Audsley and John Koleszar have mixed feelings about this issue and felt it merited examination in a pro-con format. What follows are the best efforts of each to make a convincing argument for their positions, which were determined based on a coin toss.

Bait Not

by John Koleszar

My name is Bubba, and I am in favor of baiting. Me and my kids love to sit in our blinds and watch the animals come into view so we can shoot them. We set up our coolers and have beer, pretzels and all kinds of slim jims from animals we have shot in the past. Nothing better than relaxing and shooting with the family...

The public's interpretation of "baiting" generally evokes this type of thought process. Sadly, I know that whitetail hunters who spend many hours glassing and in tree stands will take umbrage with that statement... but the public will hear what it wants to hear.

For years now hunters have known that we hunt with the approval of the non-hunting public. Image is everything in this new world, and the image of "fair chase" will always trump the "baiters". Do the odds increase with baiting?... certainly. Does baiting present a better opportunity at a more timely shot?... sometimes yes. We need to face the cold hard truths that public perception will bear mightily (sorry for the pun) in the future of hunting. I know of many people who cringe when they see an animal being shot. I have also watched non-hunting folks view Texas style hunts with feeders and mega blinds. The reaction is always the same.... That's not fair!

The old image of a Neanderthal type guy with a huge gut swigging beer and a dead deer from the back of his truck has drawn the sneers of many non-hunting people. How many years have we been told to take photos with no blood or tongues hanging out? How many times have we been told to act with class in the handling of our trophies? If we want to continue in the hunting heritage, it might behoove us to take a long hard look at baiting. Left to our own devices, humans have altered the odds in hunting dramatically with technology. We can go further, faster and to more precise positions than our predecessors would have ever dreamed possible.

We no longer have to be great woodsmen, we simply need to be technicians who know how to start an engine, work a GPS and shoot with weaponry that would stun anyone from 40

years ago. Our society has become one of instant gratification. We have kids who perceive hunting as something they can do on their video games. Patience and time-honored traditions of the hunt are becoming a thing of the past. The slippery slope of losing the favor of the non-hunting public is one that baiting would seem to grease.

Bait

by Larry Audsley

Since I've never hunted deer over bait and probably never will, I have no practical reason to oppose outlawing the practice. But the reasons being offered for a ban raise important questions about the proper scope of a game commission's regulatory intervention, its priorities and the reasoning behind its decisions. These issues should concern all sportsmen and wildlife advocates.

A game agency's mission to protect, enhance and restore wildlife populations is generally accepted by everyone. Game agencies fare best when they stick to that mission. They enter rougher waters whenever they appear to exceed it.

Game agencies must impose any restrictions they deem necessary to protect wildlife populations. But no one has argued that Arizona's deer are threatened by hunting over bait. The department has noted that deer baiting has been outlawed in states where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is present because baiting sites are believed to be a factor in spreading the disease. But CWD has never been found in Arizona despite years of intensive monitoring, and the department has not cited CWD concerns as a reason to outlaw baiting.

Instead the department cites higher success rates among archery hunters using baits, which they say could lead to fewer firearms permits being issued for firearms hunters. The department also argues that baiting compromises the spirit of fair chase. Both arguments beg scrutiny.

The department complains that increased archery success due to food baits may require tags to be reduced for firearms hunters. This is a case of not seeing the forest for the trees. Statewide success for firearms hunters is typically around 26%. For archery hunters, with and without baits, success averages about 7%. No one knows what the success rate is just for bait

hunters, but even in units where food baiting is most common, archery success rates are still well below those for firearms hunters.

This isn't the first time this commission has reduced bow hunting opportunities in order to increase firearms opportunities. Various rationales have been offered, usually having to do with hunter recruitment and retention, but none are convincing. Changes in the allocation of hunting opportunity between weapon types naturally arouses a suspicion that one group has the agency's ear and is successfully lobbying at the expense of the other. Such suspicions undermine trust between the agency and sportsmen.

Fair chase is a subject with gray areas. All sportsmen entertain concepts of fair chase, but may disagree about the details. Game agencies may be seen as arbitrary when they impose restrictions based on their own personnel's concept of fair chase, especially when sportsmen outside the agency have not asked them to do so.

Sportsmen experienced in hunting with both rifle and bow may have difficulty seeing how it is more sporting to take an animal with a scoped rifle at 200 yards than with a compound bow at 50 yards. Tiny sounds that escape a deer's notice at 200 yards – the rustle of clothing and gear, the scrape of a boot against gravel – can invoke terror and flight at 50 yards. At close ranges, it's hard to raise a bow and draw back an arrow before scent, sound or sight has revealed the hunter's presence.

It is hard to know whether our commissioners or the baiting-ban advocates within the department appreciate the subtle aspects of bow hunting's challenges. Of the three commissioners who hunt, none are bow hunters. And only experienced bow hunters can appreciate how many things can go wrong between seeing an animal start to approach a ground blind and placing a tag on its antler.

Game agencies aren't the sole judges of fair chase ethics. The Pope and Young Club, this nation's premier bow hunting organization, maintains a records program with strict eligibility rules designed to ensure fair chase. P&Y's website lists a number of disqualifying conditions, such as taking animals that are helpless on ice or in deep snow, and the use of electronic devices. Absent from the list is any reference to shooting an animal lured by food.

To learn whether Pope and Young might be lagging behind Arizona in ethical awareness, I called their headquarters in Minnesota and asked if the organization has ever addressed baiting. An official replied that baiting is often discussed at board meetings, but so far has not been branded unethical. Part of the problem, he explained, is that in some locales food baits are almost a necessity if one is to have any reasonable prospect of taking a deer with a bow. Where vegetation and terrain are not conducive to classic spot-and-stalk hunting, or to taking a stand along a game trail, the choice may be between allowing hunting over food baits or having little or no hunting at all. His remarks made me think of the thick pinon-juniper country below the Mogollon Rim.

Baiting opponents also worry that baiting will damage the hunter's image with the non-hunting public. They cite surveys showing public opposition to hunting with the aid of high-tech gear (69%), hunting over bait (59%) and using special scents or attractants (50%). But no one knows what the respondents believe high-tech gear to be, or how effective they believe hunting over bait or special scents might be relative to other methods. Most respondents probably know very little about

these practices but may interpret the mere fact that these issues are the subjects of ethics questions as sufficient basis for disapproval.

These same studies also show 46% of the public believes that hunting, as practiced in the U.S. today, is causing some species to become endangered, a belief wildlife experts know is untrue. Thus it may be fair to say that the public at large isn't qualified to give an informed opinion about some hunting questions. That's part of the reason why most states decided long ago to protect wildlife management from politics and mob rule by giving it to trained biologists working under independent game commissions. All this suggests that a wildlife agency should be focusing on educating the public about the realities of wildlife and hunting, instead of designing wildlife policies to accommodate public attitudes that may be rooted in ignorance.

Far from protecting the hunter's image, elevating a niche activity to high-profile discussions of fair chase may instead provide a platform for agency grandstanding at the expense of all sportsmen, including the vast majority who do not hunt over bait. Most non-hunters would be hard-pressed to give even a semi-accurate account of what goes on during a typical Arizona deer hunt. Their opinions and beliefs are shaped by what they hear and read. Parading this issue through a series of commission meetings can mislead the public into believing that baiting is a pre-dominant bow hunting technique in Arizona, which it is not.

Most hunters choose not to bait anyway. Food baits are mainly effective for whitetails, much less so for mule deer. Keeping bait replenished long enough to establish a reliable pattern of deer traffic is a tedious chore and is only practical in locations very close to one's home. Most importantly, taking a deer over food bait does not provide the hunting narrative most bow hunters want to accompany their take of a trophy animal. Except in a few places where spot and stalk methods aren't feasible, I believe most hunters will decline the option of baiting deer anyway and stick to spot-and-stalk.

Arizona Game & Fish needs to decide how far it will go in codifying its own notions of fair chase into law. Hunting has traditionally been governed by a combination of written and unwritten laws, the latter addressing such subjects as never shooting quail on the ground or ducks swimming on the water or doves roosting in a tree. Not all activities that are legal are necessarily ethical, and individual hunters must decide for themselves how they want to remember their hunts. The freedom to govern one's own choices about such matters contributes to the richness of the hunting experience.

This past November I took a whitetail deer at 334 yards with the aid of a laser rangefinder. Knowing the precise distance made this feat somewhat easier than it would have been 15 years ago when this type of equipment wasn't commonly available to hunters. Should I worry that some day rangefinders will become illegal based on agency perceptions of fair chase? More importantly, should I worry that my right to use a laser rangefinder will depend on the proclivities or prejudices of key department personnel and commissioners, or on which interest group has their ear?

Game agencies fare best when they stick to their core mission.

Members in the Field



Bulls in the Snow

by Terry Herndon

Friday was the opener and we were blessed with moisture in the pines. We had about 3 to 4 inches of snow and we thought that the hunting would be easy—we were wrong!

We had my Dad with us and he couldn't walk a lot so I took him to some areas that the elk were crossing and sat with him—Kristy (my daughter and Tom -son in law) went with Tim (future son in law) and cut some fresh sign and started tracking.

Dad and I had no luck—nothing was moving and the road hunters were in force—Tom and Kristy and Tim bumped a good 5x5 but could not get a clear shot—they also saw 4 cows while walking the ravines.

Basically what the elk were doing were staying just one bench up from the deep canyons and if you could wait out the cold and get on a good trail then you could do OK—OK was all there was at the time.

Tom decided to head down to the juniper jungle and try his luck and they did see a good bull—for 2 seconds! And that is how she works in the junipers for sure!! They also heard something that they shouldn't have and that was a bull bugle and a cow in estrus sound—could it be they were still rutting?? Naw, couldn't be, could it??

Sunday found us in an area we scouted during our many scouting trips and we knew the elk were there but this area was way up there in elevation—I really didn't think we would see any elk up there in the blue spruce and aspen but low and behold they were there!

We set out on a 3 point attack on this area—Tom went into the deep draw to the east—Tim and Kristy went down the fence line and I bailed off into the dark timber to the west—we would keep in contact by radios making sure we were all OK and if we saw anything—we all had the same report and that was that there was elk tracks all over the place!!

We were all heading to a small water fall and a water tank that was back at the end of the fence line and we had not seen anything until I hear a "boom"!—I got on the radio and started

asking questions. Kristy called me back and said that she thought Tom had shot—it was one shot so I stayed still for a few minutes to see if I could hear another—but no other shot was made. I was only about 200 yards from where the shot rang out so I thought I would try to whistle to see if Tom would respond and respond he did! He started giving me a play by play at the top of his lung and it went something like this—I shot a bull! I shot a bull! And then he started jabbering something that I couldn't hear. I told him I would be there in a couple of minutes. I found Tom and he was grinning from wall to wall or ear to ear!! Either way he had the look of a hunter that just dropped his first big game animal and it was a bull elk to boot!

Tom made an outstanding heart lung shot and the bull dropped and died with in 40 yards—I was happy to see this type of kill as it makes the tracking a lot easier for all of us!

Tom with his trophy 6x6! (check the smile out!)



FIRST LIGHT©

By John W. Nelson



There was a cool nip in the air, common for opening day of deer season in Colorado. Sitting on the

vehicle from which my hike would begin, with no wind or sounds to distract, waiting for daylight, I thought of nearly six decades of season openings. Whether the quarry is rabbits, squirrels, ducks, deer, elk or other game, the emotions and thoughts are similar in these pre-dawn hours. Soon, the contest will begin. Will centuries of instinctive survival carry the day for the animal being sought or will the hunter's stealth and intellect result in a harvest?

In the darkness, I replayed those pleasant stored memories of hunts and hunting partners of the past. The first and the best was my Dad. In Indiana during the 1940's, it was small game for which we hunted. As part of that "deprived" generation, we had no cell phones, i-pods, blackberries and the like. Even the televisions only had 5 black and white channels. There was, however, something much better as recreation, namely, hunting and fishing. While it was nothing exotic as I have done in later life (safaris and pursuing fish, fowl, and a host of four legged critters in a number of countries and over a dozen states), it created a love of the outdoors and respect for wildlife that is generally missing in today's youth.

Over the years, the adventures escalated. Most of my hunting partners are now either deceased, incapacitated or residing a thousand miles away. That is why pre-dawn in the woods is so welcome, refreshing and peaceful. On this day, I re-lived a pheasant hunt with my Dad, two months before he died unexpectedly. That recollection was followed by a dove hunt with a close friend, a Phoenix police officer, cut down in his prime by a deranged sniper. A spectacular marlin fishing trip also comes to mind. My then-accountant and I held (at least for a while) the Newport Beach Marlin Club record for 12 striped marlin landed in a single day, with all but 2 being tagged and released. Southern

Arizona coues deer hunts and Kaibab elk hunts also come to mind as does a hunt on hands and knees through massive thorn bushes to harvest a record white rhino in South Africa.

Sunrise serenely arrived and despite several miles of hiking, the bucks that I had spotted in the distance alluded me and my muzzleloader remained dormant. Each stalk over the next several days was a mini adventure. Until my final success, each was frustrated by anxious livestock, shifting winds and deceptive terrain features. With or without harvesting an animal, hunting is one of the healthiest and enriching ways I know of to recharge one's personal batteries.

Good hunting and always do your part for wildlife conservation. Hunt today because you may not be able to do so tomorrow, whether due to health or changes in the law. Introduce a youth to hunting, fishing and the shooting sports and above all, do not be afraid to stand up for your freedom to enjoy the great outdoors.

This deer, though certainly not a wall-hanger, is a hard-earned reward for yet another exciting hunt.

The author has been a life member of AWF and the NRA since the early 1980s and has served as Vice President of Safari Club International for 3 years. SCI not only acts to preserve and promote the right to hunt but through its Foundation, promotes the conservation of wildlife worldwide.



Agency News



Jan. 14, 2009

Support for Arizona's voluntary non-lead ammunition program increases in 2008



PHOENIX — Arizona's sportsmen and women are stepping up to help the recovery of endangered California condors. For the fourth consecutive year, participation in the state's voluntary non-lead ammunition program has grown.

Surveys shows that 90 percent of hunters took measures in 2008 to reduce the amount of available spent lead ammunition in the condor's core range versus 80 percent the year prior.

"We are very encouraged by the high participation rate in 2008 and the year-over-year increases since the program began," says Kathy Sullivan, the condor program biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "It clearly indicates that hunters are aware of the conservation challenges condors face, and they are willing to voluntarily take action to reduce

the available lead."

Lead poisoning has been identified as the leading cause of death in condors and the main obstacle to a self-sustaining population in Arizona. Studies show that lead shot and bullet fragments found in game carcasses and gut piles are the main source of lead in condors.

Of the 90 percent of successful big game hunters who took lead reduction efforts, 654 used non-lead ammunition during the fall hunts in the condor's core range. Another 160 hunters removed gut piles from the field or took other action to reduce the condor's access to lead.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department, and its partners the Arizona Deer Association, Arizona Elk Society, Arizona Antelope Foundation, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, and the Arizona Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, have encouraged hunters to continue sportsmen's proud tradition of wildlife conservation by using non-lead ammunition in condor range (Game Management Units 9, 10, 12A/B, and 13A/B).

The department started offering free non-lead ammunition in 2005 to hunters drawn for hunts in the condor's core range, which includes Game Management Units 12 A/B and 13A.. The free non-lead ammunition program is supported in part by the Heritage Fund, a voter-passed initiative started in 1990 to further conservation efforts in the state, including protecting endangered species, educating children about wildlife, helping urban residents to better coexist with wildlife, and creating new opportunities for outdoor recreation. Funding comes from Arizona Lottery ticket sales.

Participation in the non-lead effort has jumped more than 40 percent from its initial levels in 2005.

The condor is the largest flying land bird in North America. The birds can weigh up to 26 pounds and have a wingspan of up to 9 1/2 feet. Condors were first reintroduced in Arizona in 1996, and they now number 66 in the state. Visitors at the Grand Canyon and Vermilion Cliffs may be able to observe the birds, especially during the spring and summer.

For more information on condors and lead, visit www.azgfd.gov/condor.

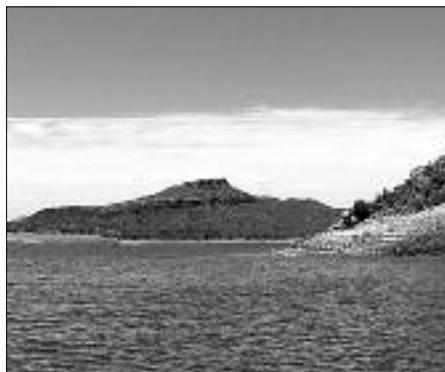
AWF Round Up

Bartlett Lake Fisheries Program

The Bartlett Fisheries Program, started in 1993, is one of the largest warm water fish habitat improvement projects within the nation's Forest System. Of the 39 sites at Bartlett Lake scheduled for habitat placement, 24 of the sites have been completed, a total of more than 25,000 structures. Installation of fish habitat structures will provide target game and prey species with cover for spawning, hiding, resting and feeding.

Cave Creek Ranger District Fisheries personnel are ultimately responsible for its completion, the project has become one of community and interagency interest and investment. Partnership program cooperators include Arizona Game and Fish department (AGFD), **Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF)**, and Anglers United. The **AWF** has

provided 31,000 hours of volunteer labor, without which the program could not be completed. Anglers United provided \$100,000 and AGFD \$75,000. *Information provided by the Cave Creek Ranger district.*



Verde River Greenbelt Clean Up
The Arizona Wildlife Federation was

the sponsoring organization with a project in the Verde Valley on February 28.

AWF advertised to all groups they have contact with and to the local groups in the Verde Valley that work on water issues and the Verde River Greenbelt. This project site was in the Verde River Greenway and involves fence removal in areas that have heavy mesquite brush and is barbed wire fence, so long, heavy shirts and gloves were a must, as well as pliers and wire cutters. The State Park Ranger, Max Castillo, had two fence post removers for use and a trailer to remove debris and posts. AWF thanks all the participating groups and Friends of the Verde River Greenway.



by Ryna Rock



Backpacking Bars

- ¾ cup flour
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup quick-cooking oatmeal
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 (4 ½ ounce) can blanched whole almonds
- ¼ cup toasted wheat germ
- ½ cup shredded coconut
- 1 Tablespoon grated orange peel

Preheat oven to 350. Mix first 5 ingredients with ½ c. brown sugar until just mixed. At medium speed, beat 2 minutes (mixture will look dry). With lightly floured hands, pat into 8 X 8 inch baking dish. In a small bowl mix eggs with ¼ c. brown sugar. Stir in almonds and coconut. Spread over mixture. Bake for 35 minutes.

River Runnin' Coffee

Use a coffee pot or empty 1-pound coffee can. Fill tin with water to within 1 inch of top of tin. Holds 12 cups of water. Put in 1 Tablespoon of coffee for each cup. Set tin on red-hot coals and forget about it until it boils. Take pot off coals and add ½ cup cold water to settle grounds, or toss in two eggshells to do the same thing. To clean inside of tin, wipe dry with a paper towel or cloth. Use no soap! To reduce soot on outside of tin, coat outside of tin with soap before putting it on the coals. Soot will then wash off, even in cold water.

Stuffed French Toast

- Texas Toast
- Milk
- Syrup
- Cream Cheese
- Salt
- Eggs
- Cinnamon

Chunk bread and cream cheese in a bowl. Mix in eggs, milk, salt, cinnamon, and syrup and let sit overnight in the refrigerator or cooler. Place in a Dutch oven and bake until done. Serve with powdered sugar and/or more syrup

From the President (From page 5)

our own, with no one to judge our ethics but our own conscience. For others the test is when we are in a group and don't want to seem "uncool" by confronting someone we know. Ever heard of the term "peer pressure"? It's not just for teenagers. For still others it is uncomfortable to confront a total stranger when we observe them in either illegal or unethical behavior. Those experiences make us feel apathy and apprehension, which are understandable feelings, but we must not let them hinder us from setting a standard that is clear to our children, our relatives, our friends, total strangers, our fellow hunters and anglers, and to the slobs within our ranks. This is serious stuff, and the very activities we love to do, along with our wildlife and wild lands are at risk.

I've had my say, except to end with more Aldo Leopold. Happy Anniversary, Aldo, wherever you are!

"Voluntary adherence to an ethical code elevates the self-respect of the sportsman, but it should not be forgotten that voluntary disregard of the code degenerates and depraves him (or her)."

"A land ethic...reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity."

There's a Season (From Page 9)

Do you provide for a retest a short time after the initial training session?

The key question in the above list is, "do you use live rattlesnakes?" Rattlesnakes have their own smell, but they do not smell like a non venomous snake, such as a gopher snake

Think about it. Rattlesnakes and gopher snakes (also called Bull Snakes) are both from a different genus. It would be like someone claiming that a cow and a horse smells alike to a dog. Would you believe them?

If someone claims they are going to train your dog to stay away from rattlesnakes by using a gopher snake for the entire process, run away from that person very fast. At best, they are uninformed, at worst, a fraud.

If your dog has the potential of coming in contact with a rattlesnake, please get them trained. A trained dog has the odds in his favor of **not** being bitten.

¹ Klauber, L.M., Rattlesnakes Their Habits, Life Histories, and Influence on Mankind, University of California Press, Volume 1, 1972 p.516

² Ibid, pgs. 415-423, Volume 2

Jim Walkington divides his time between writing—three novels, four screenplays, newspaper and magazine articles—and training dogs to avoid rattlesnakes. He is the owner of Viper Voidance, a company in New River, Arizona that snake proofs dogs. He can be reached via his website at www.vipervoidance.com

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.

2. 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!

NEW MEMBERS

Jerry Arnel	Mesa	AZ
Bob Blassingame	Pinetop	AZ
Christi Bundren	Henderson	NV
Helen Burton-McCarthy	Paradise Valley	AZ
Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited	Tucson	AZ
Leonard Colpitts	Mesa	AZ
Judy Covone	Mesa	AZ
Pennie DeHoff	Tucson	AZ
Beth Dingman	Green Valley	AZ
Norris Dodd	Pinetop	AZ
Barb Faegre	Scottsdale	AZ
Michelle Grace	Phoenix	AZ
Sharleen Gunn	Phoenix	AZ
Polly Haessig	Happy Jack	AZ
Cheryl Hallman	Phoenix	AZ
Joan Hanzlik	Cheyenne	WY
Carol Holland	Happy Jack	AZ
Jill Hollon	Scottsdale	AZ
Wyatt Ingalls	Tucson	AZ
Aaron Jones	Mesa	AZ
Tom & Kathrine Lipp	Phoenix,	AZ
Rebecca Lynch	Cheyenne	WY
Crystal Maylone	Tempe	AZ
Casey McConnell	Hoonah	AK
Claudia McKay	Green Valley	AZ
Marinka Mohorcic	Phoenix	AZ
Sidney Montague	Phoenix	AZ
Valerie Morrill	Yuma	AZ
Peggy Mullaney	Tucson	AZ
Karan Parsley	Mesa	AZ
Kolby Peoples	Phoenix	AZ
Ron Phillips	Apache Junction	AZ
Katharina Rock	San Francisco	CA
Estella J Smith	Cheyenne	WY
Jill Taylor	Mesa	AZ
Donna Trythall Passey	Mesa	AZ
Frank Turkowski	Livale	TX
Bobbie Tyrrell	Happy Jack	AZ
Monique Vandeven	South Royalton	VT
Jessie Wang	Scottsdale	AZ
Bob Welch	Queen Creek	AZ
Ann Welz	Kirkland	WA
James Wendt	Phoenix	AZ
Gillian Wettstein	Tucson	AZ
Louise Wood	Prescott	AZ

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



AWF Members

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

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

AWF Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check Enclosed

Please bill my Mastercard Visa Discover

Expiration Date: / /

Signature _____

\$ 15 Junior (17 & under)

30 Individual

75 Individual - 3 years

45 Family

110 Family - 3 years

100 Patron

500 Life Member

325 Distinguished Life Member (65+ or Disabled Veteran)

500 Benefactor

75 Small Business

500 Corporate

Mail To:
Arizona Wildlife Federation
PO Box 51510
Mesa, AZ 85208

All Membership fees are tax deductible

Arizona Wildlife Federation Life Members

Alan Abel	Tucson	Chris Fonoti	Chino Valley	Don Luke	Phoenix	Dale Slocum	Phoenix
William Acheson	Flagstaff	James E. Frye	Mesa	Jerry Marquis	Page	Randy Sosin	Sedona
Patsy Apple	Phoenix	Steve Gallizioli	Fountain Hills	Christina Mathew-Bowers	Phoenix	Wendell G. Swank	Cottonwood
Jeff Augustine	Scottsdale	John Gannaway	Phoenix	Patricia A. McNeil	Payson	George L. Sypherd	Sun City West
James Baldree	Phoenix	Gilbert F. Gehant	Mesa	Duke Mertz	Chandler	Lewis N. Tenney Jr.	Heber
John Bauermeister	Scottsdale	Fred Gerhauser	Peoria	David & Victoria Morgan	Anthem	Larry Thowe	Page
David Beaty	Mesa	Donald Gerould	Sun City	Allen Nailla	Flagstaff	Robert D. Tucker	Buckeye
John R. Beck	Peoria	J. David Gibeault	Tucson	Jack Naperala	Scottsdale	Charles W. Tyree	Tucson
Donald Billick	Phoenix	Rene G Gilbert	Anthem	Mike Neilson	Queen Crk	John B. Underwood	Scottsdale
Bruce H. Bishop	Tempe	Hank Gonzales	Tucson	Fred Nobbe	Phoenix	Mark T. Vitt	Scottsdale
Clarence Bowe Jr.	Scottsdale	Kim Graber	Phoenix	Daniel & Annalee Norton	Scottsdale	Stephen T. White	Scottsdale
M.J. Bramley Jr.	Mesa	Timm J. Haas	Willcox	Donald J. Parks Jr.	Peoria	Brian H. Williams	Scottsdale
Jay Brandon	Apache Jtn	Donna J Hallman	Queen Creek	Ace H. Peterson	Prescott	Pat Willis	Payson
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Gary S. Christensen	Flagstaff	Kristan Hildebrandt	Tempe	Paul Pristo	Scottsdale	Chuck Youngker	Buckeye
Louise Coan	Tucson	Jeffery L. Hinkley	Phoenix	Robert & Marilyn Recker	Sun City		
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Don Cox	Peoria	Richard Humphrey	Tucson	Bryant & Marsha Ridgway	Casa Grnde	George Boutonnet	Salinas, CA
Al Crossman	Tempe	Bunny Huntress	Tempe	Ryna Rock	Camp Verde	Jim Breck	Alexandria, SD
Donald D Dalgleish	Scottsdale	Mike Johns	Phoenix	Kent M. Rogers	Mesa	Dale Hislop	Calgary Alberta, CN
Howard Darland	Mesa	Henry Johnson	Lake Havasu	Robert C. Schatke	Chandler	Terry Johnson	Costa Mesa, CA
Anthony Diana	Phoenix	Thomas Kalos	Paradise Villy	William H. Schmidt DDS	Tucson	Roy G. Jones	San Jose, CA
John E Dupnik	Phoenix	Peter S. Klocki	Mesa	Terry Schupp	Tempe	Glenn Napierskie	San Diego, CA
Linda Erman	Phoenix	Lee A. Kohlhase	Mesa	Lary & Betty Lou Scott	Scottsdale	John W Nelson	Montrose, CO
Rick Erman	Phoenix	Roy Kornmeyer	Kingman	Walter Scrimgeour	Prescott	Robert Stragnell	Hanover, NH
Toni Erman-Kirch	Phoenix	William Lacy	Mesa	David Seamans	Scottsdale	Jaren Vanderlinden	Amarillo, TX
Robb Evans	Flagstaff	Harvey J. Lawrence	Scottsdale	Duane Shroufe	Glendale	Tom Ward	Orange, CA
Donald Farmer	Scottsdale	Nancy L. Lewis	Phoenix	Jack H. Simon	Phoenix		
George Flener	Mesa	Long Valley Service	Happy Jack	Jim A. Slingluff	Tucson		

Arizona Wildlife Federation Benefactors

Honoring the memory of sportsmen and sportswomen through a \$500 Benefactor Membership

Louise Coen	Tucson	Don Gerould	Sun City	Frank Murphy	Mesa	Gene Tolle	Phoenix
Doug Baker	Tucson	Ivy Hanson	Carefree	Emmett Reyman	Mesa	John C. Underwood	Tempe
Milton G Evans	Flagstaff	Frank H Moore	Phoenix	Donald G Roberts	Flagstaff	Patti Ho	Chino Valley



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