

# *The Wildlifer*

The Voice of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Volume Y2K+1 Issue 1

P.O. Box 41337, Phoenix, AZ 85080

Spring 2001

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was great to see many of you at the Annual Meeting in Gallup. I look forward to working with you in the coming year. We have a lot to accomplish. To make the chapter stronger and more effective, we need the following things:

1. A strong Conservation Affairs Committee, with statewide and agency-wide perspectives on issues and trends.
2. A review and update of our position statements and resolutions.
3. A more effective communications network that allows us to share conservation issues and information in a timely manner, pools our knowledge and strength when necessary, and pass on information on jobs, training, and meetings.

Some of the things the board will be working on this year are to:

1. **Build a strong and active Conservation Affairs and Resolutions Committees.** We are looking for representatives from every agency and area throughout the state. These representatives will compile summaries of the top 3 conservation issues and trends in their area, which will be available on our web page. We will **compile a statewide summary of the Current State of Conservation Affairs in Arizona**, and use this summary to identify areas that require new position statements, resolutions, or Conservation Strategies in coordination with the Resolutions Committee. We hope to have a **working Summer Meeting** to identify the top three conservation issues to work on initially, and develop action plans.
2. **Improve communications and member involvement** by continuing to update our **web page**, and developing a **chapter email list** for members to distribute timely information on issues training, workshops, meetings and awards. This email list will allow us to send "wildlife alerts" on issues that may need immediate attention, such as sending a letter to your congressperson. If you know of an issue that other members should know about, send it to [AZTWS@aol.com](mailto:AZTWS@aol.com), labeled "wildlife alert," and it will be forwarded to the membership.
3. Focus on our chapter history. The state and student chapters will be involved with the national effort to "Celebrate our Wildlife Conservation Heritage" (COWCH), a program to document the history of the

wildlife management profession by those who made it happen. The chapter will conduct video interviews with important figures in Arizona wildlife management.

4. Finish or continue work on ongoing projects such as the Memorial Garden and Genetics workshop.

**You can make a difference too.** You can help the chapter by doing one or more of the following:

1. **Volunteer to represent your agency or area on the Conservation Affairs Committee.** Contact me at [mboenit@fs.fed.us](mailto:mboenit@fs.fed.us).
2. **Write a summary on up to three conservation issues** that you think are most important. If you don't have time to write a summary, let us know what you think the issues are. Send your comments to Sheridan Stone. Please use the following format:
3. **Join us at the Summer Meeting**, and help us determine which issues are priorities and help us develop an action plan. The dates and locations will be listed in the next newsletter.
4. **Review the position statements and resolutions on the web page** ([aztws.org](http://aztws.org)), and consider if there is a need for new ones. Let [NORRIS DODD](mailto:doddbenda@cybertrails.com) know your ideas ([doddbenda@cybertrails.com](mailto:doddbenda@cybertrails.com)). Volunteer to help write one.
5. **Visit our web site. Submit photos and project descriptions** for your projects to include on the web. Contact [MIKE HERDER](mailto:MIKE.HERDER).
6. Submit ideas on folks to interview for the chapter history, or volunteer to **conduct interviews**. Contact me.
7. **Consider running for office** next year, or helping out on a committee. Contact [TAD THEIMER](mailto:TAD.THEIMER).

I was excited to see the number of folks that are willing to help reinvigorate the Conservation Affairs Committee. We are still looking for representatives, especially from US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Park Service. We want your ideas and perspectives! Please contact me or Sheridan.

-- Mary Ann

**IN THIS ISSUE**

President's Message	Page 1
History Notes	1
The Board	2
Meetings of Interest	3
Tentative 34 <sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Meeting Schedule	3
Candidates	4
Ballot	5

**A History of Arizona Chapter President's**

Since the charter of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society in 1968, there have been 33 people who have stepped forward to be President for a year. Yes, the Arizona Chapter is 33 years old. This is older than some biologists now working in Arizona. Likely, there are a few working professionals that were around in the early years, but we won't attempt to name them. As Chapter Historian, I thought it would be good to look back to see who has had the courage and tenacity to be a leader.

When I compiled the list, I discovered some interesting facts. We have had AGFD, USFWS, USFS, BLM, NAU, and UA biologists/professors step up and lead. We have the Doug Morrison Award, which honors our 2<sup>nd</sup> President. We have had only 3 women step forward, with Tice Supplee (AGFD) breaking the barrier in 1982, as she has done so often, then followed by Sherry Barrett (USFWS) in 1989. Next year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> female President takes office, Mary Ann Benoit (USFS). Twice during the first 33 years, a President has vacated office. In 1977, Don Turner finished Ron Smith's term while Ron was in New England, and Bill Kepner (the only 2-year President) finished out Bruce Jones' year after Bruce transferred to Washington, D.C. Following is the many Presidents of the Arizona Chapter:

Year	President	Year	President
1968	Dan Schadle AGFD	1984	Richard Ockenfels AGFD
1969	Doug Morrison USFS	1985	Bruce Jones BLM (Bill Kepner)
1970	Tom Taylor AGFD	1986	Bill Kepner USFWS
1971	Dick Endress AGFD	1987	Paul Krausman UA
1972	Win Green USFS	1988	Norris Dodd AGFD
1973	Bud Bristow AGFD	1989	Sherry Barrett USFWS
1974	Dave Brown AGFD	1990	Ray Lee AGFD
1975	John Carr AGFD	1991	Dave Walker AGFD
1976	Ron Burraychak	1992	Gary Bateman

(unknown)	NAU
1977 Ron Smith (Don Turner) AGFD	1993 Charles Pregler BLM
1978 Don Seibert USFWS	1994 Brian Wakeling AGFD
1979 Frank Baucom USFWS	1995 Bill Mannan UA
1980 Bob Barsch AGFD	1996 Rick Miller AGFD
1981 Norm Smith UA	1997 Ron Engel-Wilson AGFD
1982 Vashti "Tice" Supplee AGFD	1998 Bill Austin USFWS
1983 Greg Goodwin USFS	1999 Reed Sanderson UA

The current President is Bill Burger (AGFD). At the AFS/TWS Annual Meeting this winter, Bill will complete his term and hand over the reins to Mary Ann. Who will follow these dedicated individuals in continuing to make the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society one of the nation's best. These 34 people followed those from 1962-1967 (Arizona-New Mexico Section of The Wildlife Society), who lead in the formative years in the Southwest. Who will lead us into the future, for the next 33 years?

– Richard A. Ockenfels

**EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Executive Board**

*President* Bill Burger  
480-981-9400 x223 bburger@gf.state.az.us

*President-Elect* Mary Ann Benoit  
520-354-2580 maryabenoit@worldnet.att.net

*Treasurer* Tom Hildebrandt  
480-981-9400 x221 thildebrandt@gf.state.az.us

*Recording Secretary* Mike Herder  
435-688-3239 michael\_herder@blm.gov

*Corresponding Secretary* Susanna Henry  
520-783-7861 *probably* Susanna\_Henry@fws.gov

*Board Members*

1-year term  
Bob Vahle  
520-367-4281 bvahle@gf.state.az.us

2-year term

Carol Chambers  
520-523-0014 [carol.chambers@nau.edu](mailto:carol.chambers@nau.edu)

### Committee Chairs

*Continuing Education Fund* Jon Hanna  
480-981-9309 ext. 218 [jhanna@gf.state.az.us](mailto:jhanna@gf.state.az.us)

*Newsletter* Brian Wakeling  
602-789-3385 [bwakeling@gf.state.az.us](mailto:bwakeling@gf.state.az.us)

*Membership* Frank Baucom  
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*Awards* Mary Ann Benoit  
520-354-2580 [maryabenoit@worldnet.att.net](mailto:maryabenoit@worldnet.att.net)

*Nominations* Mary Ann Benoit  
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520-636-0577 [hgshaw@futureone.com](mailto:hgshaw@futureone.com)  
Clait Braun  
520- 529-0365 [sg-wtp@juno.com](mailto:sg-wtp@juno.com)

*Memorial Garden* Lisa Andersen  
602-789-3302 [landersen@gf.state.az.us](mailto:landersen@gf.state.az.us)

### UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Garry, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Contact Dr. Rick Baydack at 204-474-6776 or [baydack@ms.umanitoba.ca](mailto:baydack@ms.umanitoba.ca).

### 2001

February 1-3 — **34<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Conference of the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of The Wildlife Society and the Arizona-New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**, Gallup, New Mexico. Contact James Biggs at 505-665-5714 or [biggsj@lanl.gov](mailto:biggsj@lanl.gov).

February 13-18 — **4<sup>th</sup> International Swan Symposium and 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Trumpeter Swan Society Conference**, Arlie Center, Warrenton, Virginia. Contact Donielle Rinninger at 540-341-3239 or [es@iapm.org](mailto:es@iapm.org).

February 16-18 — **National Bowhunting Conference**, Adam's Mark Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact Bob Warren at 706-542-6474 or [warren@smokey.forestry.uga.edu](mailto:warren@smokey.forestry.uga.edu).

February 22-24 — **Western Section of The Wildlife Society's Annual Meeting**, Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, California. Contact Barry Garrison at 916-653-1738 or [bagarris@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bagarris@dfg.ca.gov).

February 22-25 — **6<sup>th</sup> Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference**, Hotel Fort

March 2-4 — **Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society/Alberta Chapter, Annual Conference**, Banff Park Lodge, Banff, Alberta. Contact Arlen Todd at 403-297-3362 or [arlen.todd@gov.ab.ca](mailto:arlen.todd@gov.ab.ca).

April 3-7 — **The Tenth North American Arctic Goose Conference and Workshop**, Hilton Hotel, Quebec City, Canada. Contact Gilles Gauthier at 418-656-5507 or [Gauthier@bio.ulaval.ca](mailto:Gauthier@bio.ulaval.ca).

April 22-25 — **57<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference**, Sheraton Saratoga Springs, New York. Contact Art Newell at [ajnewell@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ajnewell@gw.dec.state.ny.us).

May 13-17 — **37<sup>th</sup> North American Moose Conference and Workshop**, Sugarloaf Resort, Carrabassett Valley, Maine. Contact Karen Morris at 207-941-4473.

May 21-25 — **International Association for Bear Research and Management (North American Session)**, Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Fred Lindzey at 307-766-5415.

July 20-22 — **8<sup>th</sup> International Waterfowl and Wetlands Symposium**, Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. Contact [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org).

August 1-4 — **Fourth Western States and Provinces Deer and Elk Workshop**, Holiday Inn Select, Wilsonville, OR. Contact [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us).

**We will be accepting nominations all year long.** Send a nomination letter and 2 supporting letters to [TAD THEIMER](#) for all awards except the Scrapping Bear Award. Send nominations for the Scrapping Bear Award to [BRUCE PALMER](#).

-- Mary Ann Benoit

### Awards

Five awards were presented at this year's Annual Meeting in Gallup, New Mexico. Congratulations to the recipients!

Doug Morrison Award: [STANLEY C. CUNNINGHAM](#), Arizona Game and Fish Department, Research Branch.

Professional Service Award: [CECELIA DARGAN-OVERBY](#), U.S. Forest Service, Coconino National Forest.

Conservation Award: No nominations

Roger Hungerford Student Award: [SHAULA HEDWALL](#), Northern Arizona University.

Wildlife Habitat Relationships Award – [MARY ANN BENOIT](#), U.S. Forest Service, Coconino National Forest.

Scrapping Bear Award: [BRUCE PALMER](#), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Nominations are accepted annually for 6 chapter awards:

**Doug Morrison Award.** Given in memory of Doug Morrison to an individual working in a field position that is primarily field-oriented, a wildlife biologist, resource manager, technician, or researcher.

**Professional Service Award.** Given to an Arizona biologist for outstanding contributions to management and conservation of wildlife. The individual may also be recognized for their professional work standards and conduct.

**Wildlife Habitat Relationships Award (WILDHARE).** Given to a professional wildlife biologist in Arizona for their contribution to understanding or applying habitat principals to management of an animal species or group of species.

**Conservation Award.** Given to a person, not directly employed as a wildlife biologist, or an organization or corporation which contributed to the conservation of wildlife and /or habitat in Arizona.

**Roger Hungerford Student Award.** Given to a student who, while attending a college or university, made significant contributions to the management and/or conservation of Arizona's wildlife and/or habitat.

**Scrapping Bear Award** Given to a person who has been willing to go beyond what may be seen by some as the proper political or bureaucratic limits to do what they think is right and important for wildlife and natural resources.