

The Wildlifer

The Voice of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a trying summer of drought and fire throughout the state, the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society (AZ-TWS) is focusing on a number of issues. First, thanks to the efforts of DEBBIE LUTCH and her organizing committee, AZ-TWS will be sponsoring a small workshop in Flagstaff this October (see page 4) to bring together wildlife managers, fire specialists, and restoration ecologists to develop a better understanding of the unique perspectives of each of these groups. The workshop is intended to be region specific, focusing on the ponderosa pine forests of north-central Arizona. If it is successful, we are interested in sponsoring similar workshops in other regions of the state. More information about this workshop can be found later in this newsletter. Meanwhile, work continues on the development of a chapter resolution on OHV use on public lands and the Board has been asked to write a letter in support of evaluating forage enhancement plots as a potential recovery action for the critically endangered Sonoran pronghorn.

Don't forget that we are accepting nominations for individuals or organizations for AZ-TWS awards. The awards AZ-TWS presents are briefly described in this newsletter (see page 5) and are also available on our website. Nominating someone is now as easy as sending an e-mail to me (Tad.Theimer@nau.edu) with the nominees name and the award for which you want them considered. We will contact you later about supporting letters. Along the same lines, we are soliciting nominations for 2003 AZ-TWS officer positions (again, see page 5) and self-nominations are always welcome (and less painful than the arm-twisting that will result if we don't get any).

Finally, this past June, another successful summer meeting was held at the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Vincent Ranch. After a delicious meal catered by Jaques' Fine French Cuisine, the 300

attendees danced and drank the night away thanks to the driving rhythms of the bluegrass band Hot Biscuit and the kind donation of libations by Mogollon Brewing Company. Now I bet you wished you had attended! Okay, so that's not exactly what the meeting was like, but maybe next year. Still, thanks to the organizing efforts of DUANE AUBUCHON and BRIAN DYKSTRA, the attendees were treated to a beautiful summer night under a star-filled sky followed by a field trip to nearby areas of National Forest to view forest restoration at the wildland-urban interface and OHV management. How unaware we all were of how drastically the nearby area would be altered in just a few weeks! The younger generation was well represented by JOHNNIE and WILLIAM MORGART and the canine contingent by TIMBERS and MAX. It was a great program and we thank BRIAN DYKSTRA and DAVE MAURER for taking time out of their busy schedules to provide this informative field trip. Thanks also to FRANK BAUCOM and BOB VAHLE for their participation in the morning board meeting, and to all those board members who attended, DOUG DUNCAN, JOHN MORGART, DUANE AUBUCHON and LAURIE AVERRILL-MURRAY. Mark your calendars now for next year's June summer meeting!

– Tad Theimer

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	Page 1
In Memorium	2
Southwest Section News	2
Executive Board	3
Meetings of Interest	3
Forest Restoration Workshop; Common Ground	4
Nominations for Chapter Awards	5
Nominations for Chapter Offices	5
First Call for Papers, Joint Annual Meeting in Gallup	5



IN MEMORIAM

The wildlife profession lost one of its own recently. Dr. Lyle K. Sowls passed away on May 16, 2002. Dr. Sowls was a long time wildlife professor and Fish and Wildlife Service Cooperative Research Unit Leader at the University of Arizona. The following is excerpted from Dr. Sowls obituary:

Dr. Lyle K. Sowls, a wildlife biologist was born on a Wisconsin dairy farm to Norwegian immigrants, William and Rosella Sowls, in February 1916. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, and by his wife Grace who died in 1972. He is survived by his wife Mary of Tucson, two sisters, two children, two grandchildren, and six step-children.

During WWII, Lyle was a first Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific. He held B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin. Aldo Leopold, his teacher, mentor, and friend, profoundly influenced him. Dr. Sowls was a professor of wildlife biology at the UofA and leader of the Arizona Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit from 1951 to 1986. His book "Prairie Ducks" won the Wildlife Society's book of the year award. He received the McCullough Memorial Award for Arizona Conservationist of the Year from the Arizona Wildlife Federation.

In 1962-1963, Lyle was a Fulbright scholar in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and in 1967 he worked in the Philippines as a United Nations consultant. One of his favorite places was the Chaco of Paraguay where he studied white-lipped peccaries. He was a recognized authority on peccaries. Lyle was proud of two things at the end of his life: the accomplishments of his students and his work helping establish the Reserva dos Caltatus of the Instituto Florestal in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

He used to say, "When I kick the bucket, tell people I had a wonderful life." The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations should be sent to Lyle's favorite conservation charities, the National Resources Defense Council or the World Wildlife Fund. A memorial service will be held in the fall.

The Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society next hosts the Annual Meeting in 2004. In recognition of Dr. Sowls contributions to wildlife in Arizona, and the vast number of students he helped train, AZTWS plans on dedicating the 2004 meeting to Dr. Sowls. Tentative plans also include centering the plenary session on the life and accomplishments of Dr. Sowls.

SOUTHWEST SECTION NEWS

On June 22-23, the TWS Council met for their bi-annual Strategic Planning retreat. TWS has a \$ 1.8 million budget, and it is essential that we use your money for the highest priority goals and objectives. Previous reviews of the Plan by Council have led to the hiring of the Program Director, the Policy Director, and the Managing Editor; the first Annual Meeting; the establishment of Working Groups; and the revision of the Bulletin. By the way, 67% of the TWS budget goes to publishing the JWM and the WSB, and to support the Annual Meeting.

Other work of Council at our retreat included an update by our Position Statement Review Committee, which is reviewing all 29 TWS Position Statements and ones currently under development such as those on ungulate confinement operations and on economic growth. The Certification Review Board has suggested some changes, and we will have a symposium on that topic at the Annual Meeting in Bismark. I chair the \$3 million Endowment Campaign, which will also kick off in Bismark. Council just completed a member survey on publications, and members are very interested in electronic submission and review of JWM and WSB articles. This fall, when you pay your dues, you will have the option for \$20 of having access to the last 20 years of JWM in a searchable database. We are also looking at ways to insure "peer edited" papers are not referenced as "peer reviewed" - as we've had problems with the former papers being quoted as "science" by the Secretary of Interior and in court cases. We have a new category of "International Affiliates" hopefully to offer an option to international folks other than forming a chapter, as we have now unsuccessfully tried three times in Mexico. We also had considerable discussion of improving efficiency and cost effectiveness of TWS operations. We've decided to look into combining the JWM and WSB offices to merge reviewer databases and other resources and to hire a professional convention consulting firm to take over many of the duties of volunteers at our Annual Meeting.

The 2003 meeting will be in Burlington, VT, and the 2004 meeting will be in Calgary, Canada. The Third TWS International Wildlife Management Congress will be in Christchurch, New Zealand on December 1-5, 2003, co-hosted with Landcare Research and the Australasian Wildlife Management Society.

- Bob Brown
Southwestern Section Representative

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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST**2002**

Oct. 16-18 *Mountain Caribou in 21st Century Ecosystems*, Revelstoke, B.C., Canada. Contact Jackie Morris, 250-837-9311 or cmi@revelstoke.net.

Oct. 22-23 *Arizona Quail Symposium*, Phoenix, AZ. Contact Mike Rabe at 602-789-3353 or mrabe@gf.state.az.us.

Oct. 22-24 *Bird Strike Committee – USA-Canada Meeting*, Hyatt Regency, Sacramento, CA. Contact Richard Dolbeer at 419-625-0242 or richard.a.dolbeer@usda.gov.

Oct. 23-24 *Seeking Common Ground in Fire, Wildlife, and Forest Restoration Management*, Flagstaff, AZ. Contact Tad Theimer at tad.theimer@nau.edu.

Oct. 24-27 *International Conference on Neotropical Raptors and Harpy Eagle Symposium*, Panama City, Panama. Contact 208-362-3717 or tpf@peregrinefund.org.

Nov. 6-9 *32nd Annual North American Symposium on Bat Research*, Burlington, VT. Contact Roy Horst at hortgr@potdham.edu.

Nov. 6-10 *North American Sea Duck Conference and Workshop*, Victoria, BC. Contact Dan Esler at seaducks@sfu.ca.

Nov. 6-10 *Waterbird Society 26th Annual Conference*, Radisson Hotel, La Crosse, WI. Contact Betty Anne Schreiber at schreibere@aol.com.

Nov. 17-20 *Defenders of Wildlife 4th Annual Conference, Carnivores 2002: From the Mountains to the Sea*, Doubletree Hotel, Monterey, CA. Contact Yvonne Borresen at 202-789-2844-315 or carnivores2002@defenders.org.

Dec. 2-4 *Workshop on establishing and increasing numerically small subpopulations of grizzly bears in linkage zones*, Sandpoint, ID. Contact Sterling Miller at 406-721-6705 or millers@nwf.org.

Dec. 9-13 *The Fourth Conference on Statistics in Ecology and Environmental Monitoring (SEEM4)*, New Zealand. Contact igoodwin@maths.otago.ac.nz.

SEEKING COMMON GROUND IN FIRE, WILDLIFE AND FOREST RESTORATION MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society
FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA

October 23 - 24, 2002

PURPOSE: To bring together professionals in fire management, restoration ecology, and wildlife management to develop recommendations for how best to reduce threats of fire danger, meet the needs of wildlife, and restore ponderosa pine forests to a healthy condition. The goal is for this to be a small, interactive, region-specific conference, where professionals working in the ponderosa pine forests in and around Flagstaff, AZ can share concerns and expertise and create a plan achieving the objectives of all. Some of the specific questions to be addressed include:

- 1) Are there areas where fire prevention concerns should have priority over wildlife concerns or vice versa? If so, where?
- 2) Can we agree on a common definition of the wildland-urban interface, and how should management within that zone differ from other areas?
- 3) How best can we monitor the effects of restoration treatments on wildlife and how does this fit with adaptive management?
- 4) What management plan best allows us to meet the objectives of fire managers, wildlife managers and restoration ecologists?

AGENDA: October 23: 1 - 3:45 PM: Individual speakers

3:45 - 4:30 PM: Panel discussion

4:30 - 7 PM: Free time for dinner downtown, hotel check-in, etc.

7 - 8 PM: Presentation on a fire, wildlife and restoration computer model

October 24: 8 - 10 AM: Recap of first day & discussion of Potential Solutions

10- 12 PM: Defining Common Ground - working group sessions

1 - 3 PM: Working group results and discussion

3 - 4:30 PM: Where to Next? Capture key issues and resolutions. Develop Action Plan

The first day's sessions will be held in downtown Flagstaff at **BEAVER STREET BREWERY'S** banquet facility. The second day's sessions will be held at the **NAU UNIVERSITY UNION** on central campus. **There is the potential for an optional field trip either the morning of Oct 23 or Oct 25. Indicate your interest below.**

SPEAKERS: Speakers and key participants will include representatives from the US Forest Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Northern Arizona University (NAU) Ecological Restoration Institute, Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and more! However, it is not the speakers that are the focus here, but the recommendations that we as a group develop through the interaction in small and large focus sessions.

REGISTRATION: Registration is first-come, first-served. We will cap registration at 50 participants. This is the first time we are attempting a workshop of this nature and small size is more conducive to working group effectiveness. The Arizona Chapter of TWS is interested in sponsoring more workshops like this if the interest is high. Cost for the workshop is \$25 for TWS members and \$50 for nonmembers.

HAVE QUESTIONS? NEED MORE INFORMATION? Please contact Tad Theimer, TWS Chapter President at tad.theimer@nau.edu or (928) 523-8374; Rick Miller at rmliller@gf.state.az.us or (928) 774-5045; or Debbie Lutch at deborah_lutch@nps.gov or (928) 774-0095.

Want to participate in this great opportunity to help all of us **SEEK AND FIND COMMON GROUND?** Fill out the registration form and send it along with your \$25 or \$50 **BY OCTOBER 4** to: Debbie Lutch, Grand Canyon National Park, 823 N San Francisco, Ste A, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001-3265. **More detailed info on lodging & logistics will be sent to registrants at a later date. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS WORKSHOP A SUCCESS! SIGN UP TODAY!**

Name: _____ Interested in a field trip? _____ If so, Oct 23 AM or Oct 25 AM?

Preferred email address (we will use this for future correspondence): _____

Preferred mailing address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Employer: _____

▪ Affiliation/Experience: ___wildlife ___fire ___forestry/forest restoration

▪ Method of Payment: ___Check ___Money Order ___Purchase Order (sorry we can't accept credit cards)

(Make checks payable to AZ Chapter of TWS. Personal or third party draft checks are preferred.)

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAPTER AWARDS

The Awards Committee is entertaining nominations for the Chapter's five awards listed below. The call for nominations will be open until December 15, 2002. All nominations should be sent to:

Doug Duncan
Awards Committee
Arizona Chapter, The Wildlife Society
P.O. Box 41337
Phoenix, AZ 85080

Nominations should include the following information about your nominee:

- Name, address, and telephone number of the nominee;
- Name, address, and telephone number of the nominator and two endorsers;
- A clear, concise statement justifying your nomination, including the nature as well as the time and place of the outstanding services, including accomplishments; and
- Additional information may be requested from the nominator.

Nominations may be for:

- 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 work standards and conduct.
- Wildlife Habitat Relationship Award (WILDHARE). Given to a professional wildlife biologist in Arizona for their contribution to understanding or applying habitat principles 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 a significant contribution to

the management and/or conservation of Arizona's wildlife and/or habitat.

Think about it and nominate a deserving individual. Don't be afraid to recognize worthy contributions.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2003 EXECUTIVE BOARD CANDIDATES

Our Chapter Bylaws REQUIRE at least two candidates for all offices. **We are currently soliciting nominations or volunteers** to run for Chapter office. The offices for which we are looking for willing men and women to run for include: President-Elect (one year in this office, which progresses to office of President for subsequent year), Treasurer (two year), Recording Secretary (one year), Corresponding Secretary (one year), and Board Member (two-year term). Contact Doug Duncan to nominate or volunteer. Serving the Chapter this way can be a rewarding experience.

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS!

**36th Joint Annual Meeting
6-8 February 2003
Gallup, New Mexico**

Individuals interested in presenting a paper or poster on management or research of fisheries and wildlife resources in the southwest are invited to submit abstracts. Those presenting papers or posters must register for the meeting. Abstracts should be short and informative and will be due **December 10, 2002**.

For more information, contact:

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