

The Wildlifer

The Voice of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Volume Y2K+3 Issue 1

P.O. Box 41337, Phoenix, AZ 85080

Winter 2003-2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yes, only two Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society (AZTWS) newsletters this year! But that certainly does not mean the Executive Board and AZTWS has not been busy. The Board's largest work item has certainly been the Joint Annual Meeting in February 2004 in Safford. We have been hard at work with the planning of the meeting. We have a really good mix of wildlife and fisheries papers, workshops, poster papers, and after-hours activities. The plenary session will address issues we face daily in our professional lives- climate and drought. The plenary session is titled **Managing Fish and Wildlife in the face of Climatic Variability**. We are also offering an **Endangered Species Act - Section 10 Workshop: Tools for Non-federal Landowners**, on Thursday, February 5, 2004, from 1 to 5pm. Early registration indicates this workshop will be popular, and we may need to add a morning session. We hope these tight budgetary times will still allow your participation in the Joint Annual Meeting, the premiere professional meeting for biologists in New Mexico and Arizona. The latest information on the Joint Annual Meeting will be posted on our web page at:

http://www.aztws.org/meetings_and_events.htm.

The National TWS has selected Tucson and the AZTWS to host the national TWS symposium in 2007.

Thanks to all who assisted in the bid effort. The Board has chosen Drs. **Paul Krausman** and **Bill Mannan** to co-chair the Arrangements Committee. So, if you are in Arizona beginning in 2006, be thinking of how you can help the Arrangements Committee. There are more than 10 subcommittees, and plenty of work to go around. Let's show TWS what Arizona has to offer biologically and professionally.

Another significant achievement was the dedication of the Memorial Garden this past October. The Garden was 10 years in the making, and honors those Arizona Wildlifers that lost their life in service.

Those instrumental the last couple years in completing the Garden include: **Lisa Anderson**, **Bill Werner**, **Tad Theimer**, and **Richard Ockenfels**. The Arizona Game and Fish Department has been an invaluable partner, without which the Garden would have been difficult, if not impossible to complete. Director **Duane Shroufe** was a constant supporter of the project. Department employee **Jim White** was absolutely essential in the final steps, doing most of the physical labor. We would also like to thank the American Fisheries Society and the Arizona Game Rangers Lodge for their valuable assistance. Please visit the Garden if you are at the tour at:

http://www.aztws.org/Memorial_Garden.htm.

Engraved bricks are still available, with proceeds going to Garden maintenance.

Please take time to review the proposed bylaw changes. Anything that can help "voter turnout" for AZTWS elections is a good thing. The number of ballots returned is appalling.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the people that have helped the chapter this year. Now I'm going to name names, so inevitably someone will be left off, and for that I apologize. First, there are the people that serve year-in and year-out, regardless of changes in the Executive Board, and these are the

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Committee Chairs: **Frank Baucom**, **Norris Dodd**,

Richard Ockenfels, **Jon Hanna**, **Sheridan Stone**, and **Brian Wakeling**. The Joint Annual Meeting is a huge workload, and these people helped tremendously: **Carol Chambers** (Program), **Reed Sanderson** (Vendors), **Tad Theimer** (Volunteers), **Joanne Roberts** (Raffle/Auction), **Tom Hildebrandt** (AV), **Diane Drobka** (Publicity), and **Larry Jones** and **Mike Holloran** (Local Arrangements). I know everyone is busy, but helping out just a little makes a huge difference. So, even the people that sent comments in on various issues are greatly appreciated. They took the time. **Carol Chambers** should also be noted again for her work with the web page. It looks great so give it a look when you get the chance (<http://www.aztws.org>). Lastly, thanks to the Executive Board for not only serving, but pitching in during this busy year. Not only did they do their own jobs, they have taken on a lot for the Joint Annual Meeting: **Bill Werner** (President-elect, Awards), **Duane Aubuchon** (Recording Secretary, Photo Contest), **Joan Scott** (Corresponding Secretary, Poster Session), **Sheridan Stone** (Treasurer, Plenary Session), **Annalaura Averill-Murray** (Board Member, Registration, Student Paper Award), and **Bill Mannan** (Board Member, Technical Sessions). Thank you all for making this year enjoyable for me and productive for the chapter

Have a great Holiday, and hope to see you in Safford.

– Doug Duncan



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EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Executive Board

POTENTIAL BYLAWS CHANGE

Voter “turnout” is historically low for chapter elections, often running about 15 percent. The addition of post cards for the last election increased that to about 25 percent. The executive board would like to see elections decided by a greater proportion of the membership. Allowing for voting methods other than paper ballots is likely to increase the number of members voting. Other than paying dues, voting is the only way for chapter members to be directly involved in chapter affairs.

Alternative voting methods the board has discussed include using the internet and e-mail. The specifics of how this could be done has not been discussed, and would be explored further if the bylaws change passes.

To facilitate voting by methods other mailing paper ballots, a change in the bylaws is necessary. The following passage is the bylaws section regarding balloting.

Section 2 - Balloting - Written ballots shall be distributed to the members, received, and counted by the Nominating and Elections Committee. For ballot-counting purposes, the President shall appoint a replacement for any member of the Nominating and Elections Committee who has been nominated for an office by the membership.

As you can see, **written** ballots must be distributed. It is the board’s opinion that this precludes anything other than paper ballots. Therefore, the board suggests the two following changes:

Strike **Written** from the first line and capitalize **Ballots**;

After **distributed**, insert **or noticed**.

The new section would be:

Section 2 - Balloting - Ballots shall be distributed or noticed to the members, received, and counted by the Nominating and Elections Committee. For ballot-counting purposes, the President shall appoint a replacement for any member of the Nominating and Elections Committee who has been nominated for an office by the membership.

Comments will be accepted for this proposed bylaws revision. The actual bylaws change, if advanced by the board, will be noticed in the chapter newsletter and the Wildlife Alert system, and be voted on at the Annual Meeting on February 5, 2004.

DRAFT**RESOLUTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, ARIZONA CHAPTER
FOR
RESPONSIBLE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES
ON
ARIZONA FEDERAL AND STATE LANDS**

Whereas, the use of Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs), such as 4-wheel drive trucks, sport utility vehicles (SUVs), sand buggies and rails, all terrain vehicles (ATVs), motorcycles, and snowmobiles has more than doubled in Arizona since 1977 and continues to out-pace Arizona's population growth (which has increased by more than 65 percent and now exceeds 5 million people with projections to reach 6 million in 2010); and

Whereas, the 1990 Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Study estimated the number of OHVs to exceed over 550,000 vehicles in Arizona and 884,00 people in Arizona actively participating in OHV activities each year; and with sales of OHVs, particularly 4 Wheel drive trucks, SUVs, and ATVs significantly increasing in the last five years with projections for increasingly higher sales of OHVs in the next ten years; and

Whereas, though many OHV users may operate their vehicles in environmentally responsible ways many users do so irresponsibly, which can significantly degrade and damage key natural resources such as soils, water quality, vegetation, and wildlife habitat values; and where numerous published research studies have documented the adverse resource impacts that can be caused by OHVs and the creation of excessive "wildcat" road and trails densities; and

Whereas, evidence of OHV impacts and damage to soils, vegetation, waterways, and wildlife habitats on Arizona's federal and state lands has become increasingly prevalent throughout the state including the creation of high densities of new "wildcat" roads and trails which then become permanent scars and sources of increased impact on the landscape along with the potential spread of "noxious weeds"; and

Whereas, public concern for the proper use and management of OHVs on federal public land was first acknowledged through the passage of Executive Order No. 1164 in 1972 (as amended in 1977 and 1987) for the purpose of establishing federal policies and procedures that would ensure that; 1) the use of off-highway vehicles on federal public lands would be controlled and directed to protect the resources of those lands; 2) safety of all users of those lands was promoted; and 3) conflicts among the various use of those lands were minimized; and

Whereas, federal land managed by the U.S. Forest Service (10.9 million acres) and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (13.8 million acres), which comprises 44% of Arizona's land area including significant natural resources, requires management for "multiple use" objectives including the protection and enhancement of soils, water, vegetation, and wildlife habitat along with providing recreational opportunities such as OHV use without impairment to the land's natural resources; and

Whereas, Arizona State Trust Land, which comprises 13% (9.4 million acres) of Arizona's land base including areas of significant ecological value and habitat for wildlife and fish, receives OHV recreational use by hunters and fishermen with valid Arizona hunting/fishing licenses during open seasons and other publics through the purchase of recreational permits, and

Whereas, inconsistent agency terminology, regulations, management, and enforcement related to OHV use on federal and state lands has often led to public confusion and misunderstanding of OHV guidelines; adverse impacts to sensitive wildlife and fish habitats, and agency difficulty in enforcing OHV regulations to prevent natural resource damage; and

Whereas, proposed management guidelines and alternatives to improve management consistency and resource protection in relation to cross country travel and OHV use on federal U.S. Forest Service lands on the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab, Prescott, and Tonto National Forests (Draft – EIS Evaluating Cross Country Travel by OHVs on Arizona Forest Lands) are of critical need and timely importance in addressing the escalating OHV management issue in Arizona; and

Whereas, the OHV industry, particularly the manufacturers of 4-wheel drive trucks, SUVs and ATVs continue to market their products through the media in a manner that often displays irresponsible use of OHVs, such as driving through streams, wetlands, meadows, and up mountain hillsides.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Arizona Chapter supports and encourages a national emphasis and revision of Executive Order No. 1164 to intensify and improve management direction and guideline standardization for all federal land OHV programs, and a statewide emphasis on OHV management through the development of an inter-agency task force to evaluate and provide planning guidance for OHV management and regulations in Arizona; and

Now, Therefore Be It Further Resolved that the Arizona Chapter encourages OHV manufactures and retailers to promote responsible marketing and use of OHVs; and

Now, Therefore Be It Further Resolved that the Arizona Chapter encourages expanded funding of the 1989 Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund in Arizona for increased habitat protection, information and education, and OHV law enforcement to keep up with the exponential growth of OHV use in Arizona; and

Now, Therefore Be It Further Resolved that the Arizona Chapter urges all state and federal land management agencies in Arizona to develop and enforce standardized management guidelines and regulations including consistent OHV definitions, signage, and designation of areas open and closed to OHV use; and

Now, Therefore Be It Further Resolved that the Arizona Chapter strongly supports an alternative proposed for Arizona's Forest Plan Amendments developed through the Environmental Impact Statement and public comment process that will provide for consistent OHV management and regulation across all national forests in Arizona and which implements a "closed to cross country travel unless signed open and permitted" approach to OHV management; and

Lastly, Therefore Be It Further Resolved that the Arizona Chapter strongly encourages the use of interagency and interdisciplinary teams including professional wildlife biologists to plan and design OHV route and trails systems which avoid OHV use in sensitive areas (e.g., streams- riparian habitats, archaeological sites, key wildlife areas, etc.) to mitigate resource impacts.

PRESIDENT ELECT – John Koprowski

John is in the Wildlife and Fisheries Resources program in the School of Renewable Natural Resources at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Prior to his arrival at the U of A, he was on the faculty at Willamette University where he taught courses in General Ecology, Behavioral Ecology, Biological Diversity, Conservation Biology, Vertebrate Zoology, Evolutionary Biology, and Field Zoology. Courses John teaches at the U of A include: Applications of Behavioral Ecology to Conservation Biology, Natural Resources Ecology, Management and Conservation of Small Mammals, Biogeography and Conservation of Sky Islands, and Wildlife Management-Mammalian Species. His research interests are focused on the conservation and behavioral ecology of vertebrates, most recently the ecology of rare tree squirrels and an uncommon social carnivore, the coati.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY – Larry Jones

Larry Jones is Assistant Wildlife Program Manager for the Coronado National Forest in the Supervisor's Office in Tucson. Larry recently moved to this position from Safford where he was the wildlife staff on the Safford Ranger District. Before that he was with the Research Branch of the Forest Service in Washington State for nearly 20 years. Larry has a broad background, having worked on carnivores, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, and birds. He was Vice President and President for the Society of Northwestern Vertebrate Biology (publisher of the Northwestern Naturalist) and has organized several annual meetings.

RECORDING SECRETARY – Annalaura Averill-Murray

Annalaura (Laurie) is a Habitat Specialist with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Tucson Office. In this position, she reviews and comments on project proposals and planning efforts to ensure that the needs of fish, wildlife, and their habitats are considered and addressed. Laurie received her M.S. from the School of Renewable Natural Resources at the University of Arizona where she studied neotropical migratory birds along the lower Colorado River. She has worked for the Arizona Game and Fish Department for six years, first as a Nongame Specialist with both the Phoenix and Tucson offices, and then in her current position in the Project Evaluation (Habitat) Program. Laurie has been a board member for the AZ-TWS for the past two years.

BOARD MEMBER – Bob Lemons

Bob Lemons is a Wildlife Manager for Arizona Game and Fish Department stationed in Tucson. Bob Lemons graduated from Central High School in Phoenix in 1973 with a scholarship for Industrial Arts then worked as a heavy equipment mechanic and fabricator on tractor-trailers. In 1976, he attended Arizona State University and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Biology in 1981. In 1982, Bob began working for the AZ Game and Fish Department conducting fish management in the Mesa region. The following year he transferred to Yuma to work on a catfish study. In 1984, Bob moved to Page to become the district Wildlife Manager for Unit 12B. Bob remained as a Wildlife Manager in Page for 16 years then transferred to Tucson to his current position as the Wildlife Manager for Unit 37A.

BOARD MEMBER – Jeff Pebworth

Jeff is Wildlife Program Manager for Arizona Game and Fish for Region III with headquarters in Kingman. In that position Jeff oversees a diverse program including species from the Mohave Desert to ponderosa pine habitats. Jeff was a Regional Wildlife Biologist with the Washington Department of Natural Resources during 1995-2001 where he focused on Landscape Management Planning and Forest Management and was actively involved with lynx and grizzly bear conservation issues. He also served as a District Wildlife Biologist with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, 1990-1995. Here he focused primarily on monitoring and management of Game populations and oversight of several wildlife areas in Northeastern Utah. Prior to that, he was a Research Biologist with Wildlife International Ltd., Easton Maryland. 1987-1990. He has been active in the Wildlife Society since 1980.

THE WILDLIFER MEMORIAL GARDEN

