

The Wildlifer

The Voice of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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Presidents Message

FIRE and INVOLVEMENT – how do these relate?

Hello from northern Arizona! This year we have received only 3 of the 'normal' 8 inches of precipitation since January and are facing another drought year. I know the rest of the state is also feeling the drought. If the fire year turns out as predicted, many of our AzTWS members will be busy dealing with suppression and fire effects. Fire is a natural process in many of our Southwest ecosystems, but there are times when it requires our involvement. Likewise in our organization, the ways things are done require getting more people involved.

Like most of us, I never feel I have enough time for my job. Nor was I seeking a "spotlight" position as president. I am much more comfortable behind the scenes or as a member of a decision-making group. But that was before John Koprowski served as our President last year. He has done an amazing job of getting "old" people like me recycled into the Chapter and new people like Nate Gwinn and Liz Kalies involved. Nate Gwinn, UofA student, has taken on our newsletter (our thanks to Brian Wakeling for many years of managing this task). Liz Kalies, NAU student, will be taking over our web site management. John's approach is one I intend to use (so be warned!). It involves asking, persuading, convincing, influencing, giving, and encouraging until you change someone's mind and they agree how great it would be to work with the Chapter. And it IS great to be involved! I've met many people throughout the state and in many agencies that I would not have met without participating in AzTWS. As a result, I am aware of

more issues and research questions and am able to take these back to my job at NAU to enhance what I do. Giving to the Chapter is a mutualistic relationship where you give some and get lots back!

Here's an example. We had many volunteers help make our first annual meeting held in Flagstaff, Arizona a success. We had 410 registrants from many agencies and organizations. Over 120 graduate and undergraduate students participated in the meeting, 30% of the total attendance! Our undergraduate university students from NAU were assisted by UofA and NMSU in organizing and running the conference, looking for auction items, and even entertaining. I was impressed by how much they took on and accomplished. I also believe we had such great participation from the Student Chapters because John led our Board to give a \$500 scholarship for each student chapter traveling to Flagstaff to help with costs.

Students are our future. Encourage students of any age to learn more about wildlife and get involved. Spend time discovering with children how lizards live. Ask university students to volunteer to help with your project. Give interns experiences they'll never forget – whether it is netting bats in northern Arizona, saving frogs in southern mountains, or surveying eagles on a national forest.

Here are some other ideas to get you more involved:

- Chair the Conservation Affairs Committee: Do you have conservation concerns needing an outlet for expression? OHV use, endangered or threatened species, climate change, forest management, water management, others?
- Run for office for 2007-07: President Elect, Board Member, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary.
- Help us with new newsletter columns by writing your thoughts for: Student Perspective, Retiree Perspective, Arizona Wildlife News (interesting research or management projects).
- Help with the 2007 TWS national meeting in Tucson (contact Paul Krausman or Bill Mannan).
- Nominate someone for an award!

So Mike, Kathy, Robert, Christina, Bill, Ann, Dave, Mary, Steve, Janet, Bruce, Karen, Joe, Susie, and **YOUR NAME HERE**, whatever you can do...

Get involved

Get more involved

Get other professionals involved

Get students and interns involved

And use the Koprowski Approach – ask for help and involvement! Ask again. And again if necessary!

Support our future – the students, entry level biologists, and others interested in joining our profession. Give time, money, or encouragement to pursue travel scholarships, research opportunities, take a potential or currently underpaid and hard-working wildlifer to lunch... Get fired up (you knew this lame pun was coming), do something, and send me your ideas!

--Carol

Meeting info

Annual Meeting 2006 – Flagstaff

This year we changed our annual meeting location from the AZ/NM border to Flagstaff. The conference appeared to be quite a success, with 410 attending (highest registration ever in my memory!). Here's the breakdown of who came: 99 from New Mexico, 37 of these were students; 310 from Arizona, 91 were students. By affiliation, we had 123 registrants from 9 state agencies in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah (109 were from Arizona Game and Fish Department). We had equally high numbers (122 registrants) from 16 federal agencies in the Southwest. Many were from Forest Service (50 registrants) and Fish and Wildlife Service (26). We had 25 registrants from private agencies and consulting firms, 8 registrants from 4 Tribes, and 130 from 14 schools and universities from the states of Arizona, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas.

John Koprowski, our recent past President (and currently a Board Member for the Chapter), and the Arizona Chapter started what we hope to be a tradition this year of providing \$500 travel grants and a hotel room to each out-of-town university attending the conference. Because the meeting was a longer drive than in the past, we felt it important to encourage attendance from New Mexico State University and University of Arizona. Reports from the student chapters are that the money came in handy! Funds helped pay for van rentals and lunches. Students were able to attend the Lunch with a Professional and arrange lunches with students from other universities and professionals.

Diversity in our annual meetings helps make the meetings strong and builds linkages among individuals, public and private organizations. We hope the upcoming meeting in New Mexico will be equally well attended!

Special thanks to Tom Hildebrandt, Arizona Game and Fish Department, who organized the oral presentation sessions this year by uploading presentations at the right time for the right room! He and his volunteers made sure 128 presentations were ready when the speakers were and it all went off without a hitch. We appreciate his willingness to step in and take on this job in the final weeks of planning for the meeting. Tom also helped out by renting computers, projectors, and carts in Phoenix and bringing them to the meeting.

Changes! for the Joint Annual Meeting 2007 – Albuquerque Feb 6-8 (Tuesday – Thursday)

The Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) is held every February for the purposes of electing or installing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise. It is rotated every other year between Arizona and New Mexico and has traditionally been the first Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in February. The New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society will host the 2007 meeting in a new location – Albuquerque, and at a new time – midweek. The 2007 meeting will be at the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town (previously the Sheraton). The hotel is located at 800 Rio Grande Blvd, just south of I-40 on the east side of RGB. The tentative theme is "Restoring Structure and Function of Habitat in the Southwestern U.S." **The meeting will be held February 6-8, 2007. Please note this is Tuesday through Thursday.**

We would like feedback from our membership on the change of dates. Please let us know if:

NC - The change in dates will not affect your ability to attend the meeting.

IN - The change in dates increases your ability to attend the meeting.

DC - The change in dates decreases your ability to attend the meeting.

Send your response by July 31 to Michael Herder, Corresponding Secretary. You can e-mail responses to: Michael_Herder@blm.gov. Use "JAM time change" in the subject line. You can mail responses to Michael at: 345 E. Riverside Dr., St. George, UT 84790. We appreciate your feedback. Although we know some members will find it more challenging to get to Albuquerque, please comment only on the change in dates. Thanks!

Awards

Seven awards were presented at this year's Joint Annual Meeting in Flagstaff, Arizona. Congratulations to the recipients!

Special Award: **Reed Sanderson**, University of Arizona

Doug Morrison Award: **James W. Cain III**, University of Arizona

Professional Service Award: **Mark Brown**, Arizona Game and Fish Department

Conservation Award: **The Trust for Public Land**, for acquisition and protection of lands in Arizona including the Coal Mine Spring Property

Wildlife Habitat Relationships Award: **Bill Mannan**, University of Arizona

Scrapping Bear Award: **Shaula Hedwall**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Roger Hungerford Award: **Brian Jansen**, University of Arizona

Special Award. Given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the wildlife profession in Arizona.

Doug Morrison Award. Given in memory of Doug Morrison to an Arizona Biologist in a non-supervisory position who has made significant contributions to the management and conservation of wildlife in Arizona.

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

Conservation Award. Given to a person or persons not employed directly as a wildlife biologist, or an organization not directly involved in wildlife management who contribute significantly to the conservation of wildlife and/or their habitat in Arizona.

Wildlife Habitat Relationships 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.

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.

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

Take time this year to recognize a colleague or student who has contributed to the wildlife profession by nominating them for an award. Send a nominating letter and 2 supporting letters to Stu Tuttle. For more information about the awards, visit the AZTWS web site at <http://www.aztws.org/awards.htm>.

Thanks for your help!!

Bob Fink, Arizona Game and Fish Department, accepted the task of managing registrations and was tested due to the unexpectedly high attendance and especially the large number of walk-in registrations that were able to be accommodated. Always smiling and ever game for a challenge, Bob's efforts were instrumental in the success of the meeting. Should he not be careful, such laudatory efforts will result in continued service to the Chapter!

Reed Sanderson claims to have retired from the USDA Forest Service but led the Program Committee for the 2006 JAM diligently in addition to helping with numerous other tasks associated with the meeting. Such altruism has long characterized Reed's dedication to AZTWS and he was honored at the JAM with the President's Recognition Award for his various and sundry contributions to our chapter over the years.

--John Koprowski

A Message from Paul Krausman

Greetings:

The changes within The Wildlife Society that have been discussed over the past few years have been made or are in the process of being made. Dr. Michael Hutchins is the new Executive Director (many of you met him at our annual meeting), the revision of the Societies publications are underway, and there are new staff members in Bethesda, Maryland to assist TWS members. One of the first changes you will see is the revised Wildlife Monographs. Wildlife Monographs 161 (Temporal, spatial, and environmental influences on the demographics of grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem) by C. Schwartz et al. is nearly ready for distribution. Enjoy! The new face of The Journal of Wildlife Management and The Wildlife Professional will be on your doorsteps in 2007. For those that would rather read the latest about wildlife on-line, that option will be available soon. Exciting times. If you are not a member of The Wildlife Society, now is the time to join!

I hope many of you will be able to attend the Societies 13th Annual Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, 23-27 September 2006 so you can see the task ahead of us as the Arizona Chapter of TWS prepares to host the 14th Annual Conference of TWS in Tucson, Arizona, 22-26 September 2007. Save the date as it will be an exciting meeting where Arizona's wildlife community will be on display. Bill Mannan and I are Co-chairs for the Conference and are, and have been, in the process of making arrangements for a successful meeting. If you are interested in helping please contact me. Committee

chairs may be contacting you for help; please do not turn them down as we will need a lot of help to make this a Southwest experience for the unfortunate that do not live here. It will be a lot of hard work but worth every minute!

My term as Southwest Section Representative to the Council of TWS will terminate in September. I want to take this time to thank you for your support and remind you to contact me if I can help with TWS issues between now and September. I also want to remind you that the proceedings of the 2005 Southwestern Symposium held in Alpine, Texas will be out this year. A bit more editing and Jimmy Cain and I will be able to turn the proceedings over to the printer. I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you afield and at the conferences. Until later.

Paul R. Krausman
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Missing Linkages Report Released!

Two years in the making, Arizona's Missing Linkages: Biodiversity at the Crossroads, is being released in June 2006. The process of developing the report began in April 2004, when over 100 persons gathered at the Phoenix Zoo to identify areas where roads, urbanization, canals, railways, and activities of illegal migrants and border security operations threaten to sever connectivity between publicly-owned wildlands. The report documents some 150 potential wildlife corridors throughout the state, so that planners can coordinate land conservation, highway mitigations, and other actions to maintain or restore wildlife corridors in these areas.

With this report, Arizona becomes one of a small handful of states to produce a statewide map of fracture zones and potential wildlife corridors. One unique aspect of Arizona's effort is that the transportation agencies (Arizona Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration) are leading the effort. Other partners include Arizona Game and Fish Department, US Forest Service, BLM, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlands Project, Sky Islands Alliance, and Northern Arizona University. But the transportation agencies are the crucial partners because highway projects present the single greatest potential barrier to animal movement in almost every potential linkage. Bruce Eilerts of ADOT also point out that each major highway improvement project also provides an opportunity not merely to slow down the rate of habitat fragmentation, but to create a landscape that is more permeable than the road being replaced.

Roads, urbanization, and infrastructure projects not only destroy habitat, but create barriers that isolate wildlife populations and disrupt ecological functions such as

gene flow, predator-prey interactions, and migration. Steve Thomas of FHWA explains that addressing each potential barrier one-at-a-time is expensive and inefficient. Highway planners are reluctant to build a wildlife underpass if a shopping mall may be built adjacent to the underpass, and county planners are unlikely to prohibit urban development if the adjacent highway is not made more permeable. Getting potential corridors “on the map” is the first step needed to get all the necessary players working together to address all these factors concurrently.

ADOT’s Siobahn Nordhaugen argues that crossing structures will also help reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions that kill and injure people and wildlife, cause millions of dollars in property damage, and sometimes expose the State to legal liability.

For each potential linkage, the report identifies major impediments to wildlife movement, and lists some species that need a wildlife corridor in the area. The potential linkages are scored in terms of biological importance, and in terms of threats and opportunities for conservation. For each linkage scoring high in both biological importance and threat & opportunity, Arizona Game and Fish Department is collaborating with Northern Arizona University to produce detailed corridor designs for 5-15 focal species per linkage. Each corridor design identifies swaths of habitat that will promote movement by these focal species, which include reptiles, fish, amphibians, mammals, and in some cases plants and invertebrates. Dan Majka, GIS analyst for the corridor design at NAU, points out that conservationists will have only one opportunity to design these corridors: “We’d be foolish to design a bighorn sheep corridor and then come back in 5 years to ask for a black-tailed rattlesnake corridor, and then come back in 15 years wanting a pronghorn corridor. We have one chance, and we need to do it right.” Paul Beier of NAU adds “Our corridor designs are typically at least a half-mile wide, have multiple strands to serve different species, and often follow the twisting patterns of streams, vegetation communities, and topographic features. The idea is to make the corridor fit the species’ needs, not to force species to fit the corridor. Our corridor designs may not be fully implemented, but without a map and scientific justification for a biological optimum, there is no way we can conserve these corridors.”

The partners believe that agencies and citizens, working together with a comprehensive, landscape-scale approach, can conserve corridors while accommodating an expanding economy, transportation system, and human population. As Ray Schweinsburg of AGFD explains: “Many projects are like rearranging deck chairs on the *Titanic* – they are interesting, look nice, but ultimately have little payback for wildlife. This project, however, is patching the hole. We are still taking on water – the population of Arizona is likely to double in the next 1-20 years – but if we can establish connectivity now, we can keep this ship from sinking.”

To receive a copy of the first comprehensive inventory of connectivity needs throughout the state, contact Ms Siobhan Nordhaugen (snordhaugen@dot.state.az.us).

--Paul Beier

National News Headline

U.S. Forest Service Proposes Land Sales

The President's Fiscal Year 2007 budget includes a legislative proposal that would grant

the Forest Service authority to sell tracts of forest land that are deemed too isolated or inefficient to manage due to their location or other characteristics. Up to 300,000 acres are being considered for sale. The money received from the sales, which could total \$800 million, would provide funding for roads and schools for states and counties impacted by the loss of receipts associated with lower timber harvests on federal lands. Comments will be accepted on the proposal until 1 May. A list of the parcels being considered for sale and maps showing their locations are available at: www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/rural_schools.shtml. Over 1000 acres are eligible for sale in Arizona on the Apache-Sitgreaves and Kaibab National Forests (<http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/spd.html#Arizona>).

Who do you know?

The following is a list of the great bunch of folks who help the AZ chapter of TWS to run like the well oiled machine that it is. Please feel free to drop them a line any time day or night to ask any question no matter how mundane! (kidding of course)

Executive Board and Committee Chairs

Executive Board

<i>President</i>	Carol Chambers 928-523-0014, Carol.Chambers@nau.edu
<i>President-Elect</i>	Stu Tuttle 928-214-0459 ext. 223, stu.tuttle@az.usda.gov
<i>Treasurer</i>	Sheridan Stone 520-533-7083, hsstone@ssvecnet.com
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Dan Carroll 928-333-4941 ext.103, dan.carroll@az.usda.gov
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Michael Herder 435-688-3239, Michael_Herder@blm.gov
<i>Board Members</i>	
1-year term	Bill Burger 480-324-3553, BBurger@azgfd.gov
2-year term	John Koprowski 520-624-6439, squirrel@Ag.arizona.edu

Committee Chairs

<i>Continuing Education Fund</i>	Jon Hanna 480-324-3555, JHanna@azgfd.gov
<i>Newsletter</i>	Nate Gwinn 520-749-1680, ngwinn@email.arizona.edu
<i>Membership</i>	Frank Baucom 520-398-8181, FMBaucom@aol.com
<i>Web Master</i>	Liz Kalies 928-699-2975, elk26@nau.edu
<i>Awards</i>	Stu Tuttle

Nominations 928-214-0459 ext. 223, stu.tuttle@az.usda.gov
 Stu Tuttle
Conservation Affairs 928-214-0459 ext. 223, stu.tuttle@az.usda.gov
 Sheridan Stone
Resolutions 520-533-7083, hsstone@ssvecnet.com
 Your Name Here!

Financial Report 2005

2005 Summary Financial Report
 Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society
 1/1/2005 through 12/31/2005

<u>Category description</u>	<u>1/1/2005 - 12/31/2005</u>
INCOME	
2006 Annual Meeting Income	
Registration	<u>1,925.00</u>
TOTAL Annual Meeting Income	1,925.00
Chapter Income	
2005 Dues	710.00
Annual Meeting Associated	53.94
Donation	1,000.00
Interest income	<u>537.41</u>
TOTAL Chapter Income	2,301.35
Dedicated Fund Inc.	
Gift Received - Memorial Garden	387.60
Interest Income - Memorial Garden	<u>7.42</u>
TOTAL Dedicated Fund Income	<u>395.02</u>
TOTAL INCOME	4,621.37

EXPENSES

2006 Annual Meeting Expense:	
Hotel	<u>250.00</u>
TOTAL Annual Meeting Expense	250.00
Chapter Expenses:	
Bank Charge	18.43
Chapter Award	302.54
Donations; Sponsorship	1,000.00
Miscellaneous	170.00
Newsletter 05	277.03
PO Box	126.00
Supplies	11.48
President-elect to TWS Annual Meeting	1,000.00
Web Site	<u>26.85</u>

TOTAL Chapter Expenses	2,932.33
Dedicated Fund Expenses:	
Habitat Relations Award	100.00
Memorial Garden purchases	64.86
Continuing Education grants	<u>216.00</u>
TOTAL Dedicated Fund Expenses	<u>380.86</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,563.19
OVERALL TOTAL (annual net gain or loss)	1,058.18
ENDING BALANCES: Statement balances December 2005	
Business Checking	1,409.22
Business High Balance Savings	18,856.32
Business Savings (Memorial Garden Fund)	1,765.84
Certificate of Deposit (Continuing Education Fund)	10,924.21
Certificate of Deposit (Wildlife Habitat Relationships Award Fund)	<u>2,851.09</u>
TOTAL CHAPTER ASSETS	35,806.68

(Submitted by AzTWS treasurer, Sheridan Stone)