

The Wildlifer

The Voice of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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P.O. Box 41337, Phoenix, Arizona 85080

Winter 2005-2006

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Presidents Message

I hope that this message catches you enjoying a happy holiday season as the year winds down. Just like the loss of the cottonwood leaves that signals the end of another year, the Arizona Chapter of TWS has predictable activities...the election of the next set of officers and preparation for the Joint Annual Meeting. Our Chapter hosts the 2006 Meeting from 2-4 February and we have been working diligently to try something different this year. The venue for the 2006 JAM will be Flagstaff and this newsletter contains information on registration and submission of abstracts. I wholeheartedly thank two Flagstaff members of the Board, Carol Chambers and Stu Tuttle, for their Herculean efforts to make this happen. Along with the new venue, we have taken several steps to make the meeting more friendly to students as well as current professionals. The Southwest Section of TWS has graciously agreed to co-sponsor the meeting and its social events. The NAU Student Chapter has taken a major role in the meeting by hosting the official conference webpage and coordinating festivities for the banquet. The Board has made a special efforts to encourage the student chapters at U of A and NMSU to attend and participate. We look forward to enthusiasm brought by the future of the profession. A luncheon event where students meet with practicing professionals is currently being planned to facilitate interaction between students and professionals.

The past year has been one of great transition within the Chapter as we build momentum for the 2007 Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society's national meeting that will be hosted in Tucson. Our communications have changed after some wonderful efforts by Carol Chambers from NAU and your President-Elect with a new web site

available through the national TWS site (www.wildlife.org) and at long last a long-term newsletter editor, Nate Gwinn (who introduces himself later in this newsletter). Getting these two means of communication together is crucial as we begin preparations and mobilize our membership for the 2007 national meeting in Tucson. Our colleagues that we elect with the ballots included here will play an important role in continuing to build momentum into 2007. This will be a chance for us to showcase our State and our Chapter. I ask that you give strong consideration yourself to submitting your name for next year's elections or volunteering to assist when our officers call over the coming 1.5 years. I have faith in my many fine colleagues that we will step forward in a big way when the time comes and show TWS members some western hospitality, Arizona style.

And so, put on your thinking cap, bundle up in your parka, pack up the skis, and meet me in February in Flag...I look forward to seeing you there.

Annual Meeting Information

The 39th joint annual meeting of the Arizona New Mexico Chapters of AFS/TWS will be held February 2-6, 2006 in Flagstaff Arizona.

Location:

Radisson Woodlands Hotel
1175 W. Route 66
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Reservations: (800) 333-3333

Phone: (928) 773-8888

Fax: (928) 773- 0587

E-mail: rhi_flag@radisson.com

Registration is now available for the 39th joint annual meeting. Early registration must be postmarked by Dec. 23, 2005; pre-registration must be received by Jan 20, 2006. To register go to www.nautws.org.nau.edu click on the link for the 2006 joint annual meeting and then click on the registration form. You must be registered to attend the meeting.

CALL FOR PAPERS!!! Abstract submission is now available for the 39th joint annual meeting. The deadline for abstracts is 5pm on December 30, 2005 submit early as space is likely to be limited. The correct format for abstracts is posted at www.nautws.org.nau.edu . Please send paper and poster abstracts to Carol Chambers at Carol.Chambers@nau.edu until Dec. 8th after which send abstracts to John Koprowski at squirrel@ag.arizona.edu .

TALENT SHOW!!! This year's meeting will include the first joint AFS/TWS talent show! If you're interested in showing what you can do contact the NAU Wildlife Society at Wildlife.Society@nau.edu .

Unsurpassed Arizona

A new feature to the Wildlifer, Unsurpassed Arizona will feature a different locale each issue reminiscent of the Copper State.

Spot of the Month: Arrastra Mountain Wilderness

Arizona is full of areas where one can find different landscapes blending into one another. You need only to look at C. Hart Merriam's life zones and then drive from Flagstaff to Phoenix or from the top of Mount Graham to Safford to see that this is true. However sometimes these changes are not as apparent but are none-the-less striking and beautiful. One of the places where the latter is true is where the Sonoran meets the Mojave Desert in the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness in western Arizona.

While remote and difficult to access, hiking and camping in the BLM administered Arrastra Mountain Wilderness is well worth the effort. To get there take U.S. highway 93 NW out of Wickenburg about 45 miles. The easiest route to enter the wilderness is the 17-mile road; a high-clearance but relatively well maintained route at the north east side of the wilderness. There are no maintained trails within the wilderness, but there is an abundance of washes as well as both the Big Sandy and Santa Maria Rivers which offer convenient travel routes.

The magic of the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness lies in the mix of vegetation which occurs within the wilderness area. In low-lying areas one can find plants found in the Sonoran Desert such as saguaro cactus, as well as plants typical of the Mojave Desert such as the majestic Joshua tree. As one goes up in elevation in the Poachie Mountain Range, chaparral and then juniper forests begin to appear. Along the riparian corridors in the wilderness, sycamore, cottonwood, willows, and walnut grow in abundance. Animals that can be encountered in the wilderness include desert tortoise, gila monsters, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, mule deer, as well as a number of bird species.

So if you're a die-hard desert rat or are just looking for a nice, quiet, remote place to hike or camp or just a change in scenery give the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness a try. You won't be disappointed.

Maps: 7.5 minute- Arrastra Mountain NE, Arrastra Mountain SE, Malpais Mesa SW, Palmerita Ranch, Artillery Peak, Thorn Peak, Signal Mountain, Signal



Santa Maria River Arrastra Mountain Wilderness; BLM photo.

Hi Everybody!

NEW EDITOR This year the Wildlifer has appointed a new editor namely me... Nate Gwinn. I thought I'd give everyone a nice how-do-you-do as well as give some background about myself. I

received my B.S. in biology with an emphasis in ecology last December from Northern Arizona University. While at NAU I worked in a STEP appointment for the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station in Flagstaff. I'm currently a grad student at the University of Arizona, studying introduced Abert's squirrels on Mount Graham under the tutelage of the erudite Dr. John Koprowski. I'm a member of the Arizona as well as the National chapter of TWS as well as the American Society of Mammalogists, the Cooper Ornithological Society, and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. I look forward to serving as editor of the Wildlifer for as long as I possibly can, and I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's meeting in Flagstaff.

Thanks,

Nate

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU We look forward to hearing from all of you in the wildlife management community here in Arizona and will gladly look at any and all submissions. So if you have an opinion, information, or just a good story to share please drop us a line at ngwinn@email.arizona.edu. Also if you have any questions or comments regarding the Wildlifer don't hesitate to contact us.

Biosketches for the Candidates:

President Elect

Stuart (Stu) Tuttle

Stu Tuttle began his career teaching high school vocational agriculture for two years in Colorado. In 1987 he began working with the Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service) as an engineering technician. After working in Idaho as a soil conservationist, he moved to Arizona and worked as a District Conservationist on the Navajo Nation. He is currently Area Wildlife Biologist covering northern Arizona as part of the NRCS Area office in Flagstaff. Stu has 18 years of conservation planning and application experience with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and completed his MS in Biology at Northern Arizona University in the spring of 2005. He served as President of the NAU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society in 2002 and has been active within the chapter for nearly 6 years.

Recording Secretary

Dan Carroll

Dan Carroll moved to Prescott, AZ in July, 1990, and attended Yavapai College in the late 1990's studying biology, chemistry and geography. He is a past president of the

Environmental Club on that campus. He spent almost two years involved in an ongoing study with Dr. Ken Abbott of Yavapai College and the Center for Diseases Control in examining the incidence of Hantavirus in the rodent population. Dan then attended Northern Arizona University from the spring of 2000 until graduating in May of 2003, with a bachelor's in Zoology. During that time he was an ongoing member, vice president and president of the NAU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. He spent almost a year as a student intern for the Rocky Mountain Research Station and another year as a student intern with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Dan is currently employed with NRCS as a Soil Conservationist at the Springerville Field Office.

Corresponding Secretary

Michael Herder

Mike Herder received his BS in wildlife management from Humboldt State University in 1977, and his MA in marine biology from HSU in 1986. He has worked as a wildlife biologist at the BLM's Arizona Strip Field Office in St. George, UT since 1988. Previous to his current position he worked as a marine biologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service, the University of Hawaii, and the California Department of Fish and Game. He also worked as a biologist for the Pacific Whale Foundation for 9 years. Mike is a member of professional organizations other than TWS, including Bat Conservation International, and the American Fisheries Society. His professional interests include bat biology, marine mammals, and Neotropical migratory birds. Outside interests include music, hiking, skiing, sailing, SCUBA, and woodworking. Mike has served on the TWS board as secretary once before.

Board Member (2 yr/term)

John L. Koprowski

John earned his BS in Zoology from Ohio State University (1983), MA in Zoology from Southern Illinois University (1985), and PhD in Biology from the University of Kansas in 1991. A faculty member in Wildlife Conservation and Management at The University of Arizona, John's research focuses on the conservation and management of rare and uncommon mammals. He teaches courses in general ecology, small mammal conservation and management, biogeography and conservation of the sky islands, and applications of behavioral ecology to conservation biology. A long-time member of many professional societies including The Wildlife Society, John currently serves as the Arizona Chapter President.

Board Member Replacement (1 yr to complete term of resignee Robert T. Magill)

Bill Burger

Bill Burger is the Nongame Specialist for Arizona Game & Fish's Region VI (central Arizona), where he has worked for the past 10 years. Previously Bill worked for

Telonics, Inc., and also has had temporary positions with the US Fish & Wildlife and the US Forest Service. He has an MS degree from Humboldt State University. Bill served 4 years on the Arizona Chapter TWS board culminating as President of the Chapter in 2000.

Mail ballots (found in this issue) to:

Carol Chambers, President Elect/Nominations Chair
School of Forestry
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, AZ 86011

All ballots must be received by Monday Jan. 30 2006.

