

THE ARIZONA WILDLIFER

2022 Issue 3

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Summer Edition

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The President's Message



AZTWS President David Bergman on a feral swine survey.

Hello, fellow wildlifers. I hope you are finding time to spend in the outdoors, whether personally or through work, and continuing to build memories of those experiences. Today's changing world provides us with many challenges, including a higher cost of living, drought, and numerous political issues.

The political front, while challenging, has been showing some promise for the future. The biggest potential change would be if Congress would pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA; H.R. 2773). RAWA seeks to dedicate

\$1.3 billion in existing revenue from mineral and energy development on federal lands to the conservation of America's wildlife, fisheries, and habitats. Under RAWA, monies would be allocated directly to the states and tribes to manage our nation's threatened and endangered species and the natural areas they call home and to implement state wildlife action plans.

On June 15, 2022, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted legislation aimed at ensuring the future of U.S. fish and wildlife conservation funding in a Tuesday evening bipartisan vote. Through local chapters and our parent program, hundreds of members, including many of you, contacted their congressional delegations to recommend passage of RAWA. With passing in the House, the act moves to the Senate for consideration. When passed in the House, the act included several amendments that expand allowable activities under the legislation's federal endangered species funding title to include the management of invasive species and disease, language that imposes additional administrative fee caps, and language that

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Presidents Message cont...

authorizes nonprofit eligibility for competitive grant funding. The act adds provisions that ensure all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia receive federal funding for wildlife conservation and species of greatest conservation need every year. Tribes would be guaranteed \$97.5 million through a Tribal Wildlife Conservation and Restoration grant program, and wildlife managers would be able to dedicate more money to programs that have gone underfunded. I encourage each of you to keep up the outreach and let the Senate know how much the bill will benefit conservation today and tomorrow.

Currently, the Arizona Chapter's Executive Board is working hard to be more inclusive of tribes, tribal members, and tribal programs as part of the Chapter. We have been reaching out to tribal colleges to set up student chapters. [See page 14](#) for information on the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. You may want to participate in their upcoming southwest regional meeting at the Santa Ana Pueblo during August 22–25 to learn more about tribal activities and set up a new network of contacts.

The Chapter lost another long-time friend and former member, Dr. Cecil Schwalbe. Cecil passed away on April 3, 2022, at the age of 80 in his hometown of Tucson, Arizona. Cecil gave so much to our state's wildlife and natural resource professionals. He was the first state herpetologist of Arizona and dedicated his life to the research and conservation of amphibians and reptiles of the Southwest. After a long career with the University of Arizona, Arizona Game and Fish Department, National Park Service, and U.S. Geological Survey, Cecil retired in 2013 but continued to devote his life to the desert he loved. He was a scientist, educator, veteran, and beloved friend to so many and will be missed. Our world is a better place because of him.

I wish you all the best as you find time for conservation, family, friends, and ensuring the future of wildlife and habitat.

Regards,
David Bergman

Interested in a Leadership Role?

AZTWS has open vacancies for Chair Committee positions. Join us and make a difference in your Arizona wildlife community. The following positions are available:

1. ***Conservation Affairs Chair*** — This position includes review of regulatory, planning, environmental, and other issues related to wildlife and their habitat in Arizona. Duties include soliciting, recommending, and preparation of materials related to conservation issues. The Chair is also responsible for an annual summary of conservation affairs to be distributed in the AZTWS Annual Report.
2. ***Events and Opportunities Chair*** — This position involves acquiring information related to events and opportunities that may be of interest of Chapter members and distributing them to committee members in charge of Chapter outreach.

Please contact us at aztws@gmail.com to inquire.

Regional News

Southwest Section Tracks

By **Kathy Granillo**
TWS Southwest Section Representative

Welcome to the “Dog Days of Summer.” It’s been a warm spring, warmer than “normal,” one could say. Perhaps we should start talking about the “new normal.” We are edging closer and closer to average global temperature reaching 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The 1.5 degrees C is what the Paris Climate Change Agreement deems the point at which climate impacts will become increasingly harmful for people and, indeed, the entire planet. One could argue that we are already seeing harm to people and the planet. But let’s go back to the phrase “Dog Days of Summer”—did you ever wonder where it came from? The Farmer’s Almanac tells us:

The phrase is actually a reference to the fact that, during this time, the Sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the brightest star visible from any part of Earth and part of the constellation *Canis Major, the Greater Dog*. This is why Sirius is sometimes called the **Dog Star**.

In the summer, Sirius rises and sets with the Sun. On July 23rd, specifically, it is in conjunction with the Sun, and because the star is so bright, the ancient Romans believed it actually gave off heat and added to the Sun’s warmth, accounting for the long stretch of sultry weather. They referred to this time as *diēs caniculārēs*, or “dog days.”

Thus, the term Dog Days of Summer came to mean the 20 days before and 20 days after this alignment of Sirius with the Sun—July 3 to August 11 each year.

While you ponder that, I shall write of something of major importance to wildlife in our country. The House of Representatives passed “Recovering America’s Wildlife Act” (H.R. 2773) a few days before I wrote this. The House’s approval moves the focus for the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act to the Senate floor, where it is still awaiting a vote at the time of my writing this article. This Act is incredibly important for wildlife in our country. Specifically, the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act will provide states, territories, and tribes with \$1.3 billion annually to catalyze proactive, on-the-ground, collaborative efforts to restore essential habitat and implement key conservation strategies, as described in each state’s Wildlife Action Plan.

- The House bill would provide \$1.3 billion in dedicated annual funding for proactive, collaborative efforts by the states and tribes to recover wildlife species at risk.
- The state agencies have identified 12,000 species of wildlife and plants in need of conservation assistance in their federally approved State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans would guide spending from the bill.



Southwest Section Representative
 Kathy Granillo with a wolf pup.

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- [Tribal Nations](#) would receive \$97.5 million annually to fund proactive wildlife conservation efforts on tens of millions of acres of land.
- At least 15 percent of the resources would be used to recover species listed as threatened or endangered.

I urge you to pay attention as this bill is considered by the U.S. Senate and, if you feel so inclined, please contact your Senators to voice support for the bill.

The annual conference of [The Wildlife Society](#) will be here before we know it. Hopefully, I will see many of you there for this first in-person conference since 2019. There are a record number of submissions for symposia, panel discussions, workshops, posters, and presentations. It is shaping up to be one of the best conferences to date. Be sure to register early to get the best rates. The host location is Spokane, WA. This is a beautiful town located in far eastern Washington, in a region known as the Palouse. Heartland of the Inland Pacific Northwest, the rolling hills of the Palouse are a mystical expanse of stunningly beautiful landscapes of the Washington-Idaho border farming region from the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene Valley south to Walla Walla, and from Lewiston and Clarkston westward to the Tri-Cities.

Another topic I'd like to highlight is disease. Seems appropriate in this era of the pandemic. This year's outbreak of the H5N1 virus has resulted in the deaths of nearly 400,000 wild birds worldwide. It has been detected in at least 41 U.S. States so far and has been found in more than 100 species of wild birds. Although it can have huge impacts on the poultry industry, it can also have huge impacts on our wild birds. For example, on Quebec's Magdalen Islands, wildlife officials recently discovered the carcasses of thousands of white gannets that had been wiped out by the flu. Ducks, geese, gulls, and swans are thought to be the major carriers of this virus.

This is another reminder of how small our blue planet is and how interconnected our ecosystems are. Please take care of whatever piece of the planet that you can, be safe and be hopeful—if we all work together, we can make the world a better place.

Sincerely,
Kathy, KGBirder55@gmail.com



A funnel web wolf spider observed during the 2022 Hassayampa Ecosystems BioBlitz. Credit: Natalie Case

National News

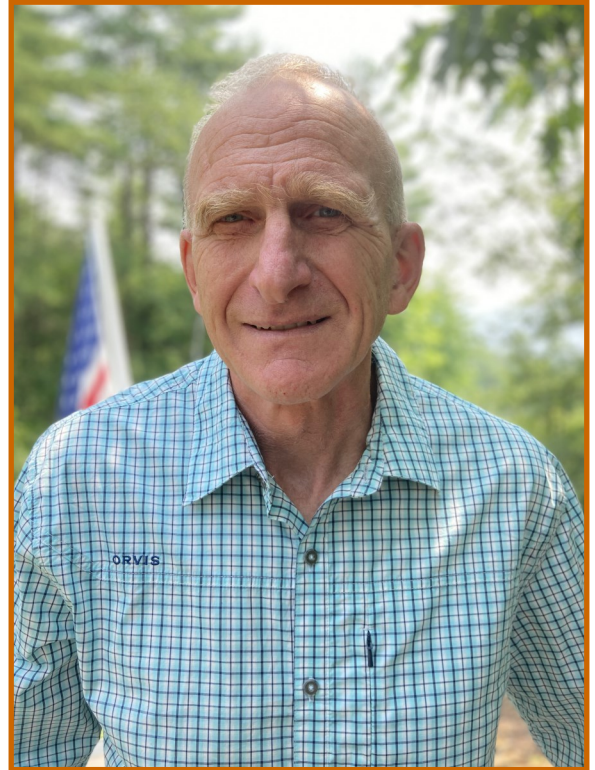
On the Theory of Government

*By Gordon R. Batcheller
President, The Wildlife Society*

The Wildlife Society spends a lot of time on policy. Our members consistently state that policy engagement should be a top priority. I agree. What is “policy?” It’s how we think about managing wildlife accomplished through the legal framework applied to wildlife agencies. It’s how we establish funding priorities through budgeting. It’s what we say and do when responding to proposals or decisions from policy makers inside and outside of government. It reflects our purpose, values, mission.

The Wildlife Society’s governance framework establishes its Council as the policy-making authority. The 12 members of Council are diverse. We have state agency experience, federal perspectives, and academic and research expertise. We have wide ranging views on what is important, along with ideas on theory of government. While grounded by our unified commitment to The Wildlife Society’s core purpose as an educational and scientific society, our diverse views lead to vibrant and constructive dialogue on policy.

As elected officials within TWS’s policy-making body, we greatly value ideas and input from members. Often, that’s where policy gets its start. Our policies are stronger when they reflect member contributions.



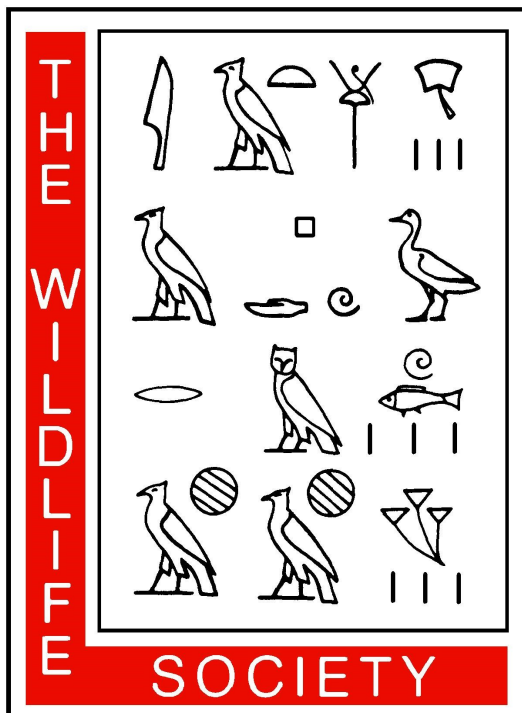
TWS President Gordon Batcheller

Recently, Council adopted a revised policy on “Lead in Hunting Ammunition and Fishing Tackle.” This revision replaced an older policy adopted about five years ago. As a scientific organization, it’s important that our policies be science-based. To that end, in 2008 TWS published a technical review on lead ammunition and fishing tackle with the American Fisheries Society. In 2017, we held an all-day workshop on hunting ammunition during our annual conference in Albuquerque, and last year we hosted a comprehensive symposium that literally brought together all of the key issues and experts germane to lead hunting ammunition.

As President, I decided to appoint an advisory committee composed of experts to develop the new draft policy. Chaired by past President John McDonald, the committee had representatives from key TWS working groups: Wildlife Toxicology; Wildlife Diseases; Wildlife Damage; and Hunting, Trapping, and Wildlife Conservation; along with representatives from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the North American Non-lead Partnership. As a precondition for appointment to this advisory committee, I asked each person to attend the 2021 symposium to ensure that everyone had access to the latest and best information on lead/nonlead hunting ammunition. They worked hard, debated the

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technical and policy considerations, and ultimately developed recommendations for Council's Position Statements Committee.

It was that Committee's recommendations that ultimately were approved by the full Council, and the new position statement has now been announced. [You can read about it here.](#)

Now, here's something really important. During the same meeting of Council, we also adopted a new approach to developing policy. It is simplified and streamlined and includes a very clear process for member engagement. We have two principle types of policy document: Position Statements and Issue Statements. The former are "high level," while the latter "nest" within any particular position statement.

Take a look at our existing [position statements and issue statements](#). Our new procedures say, "Council may approve drafting a Position Statement in response to a written proposal submitted to the CEO from any Active Member of TWS, a TWS Section or Chapter, a TWS Working Group, or TWS staff." Depending on the topic, Council may decide to send a draft position statement to the members for comment.

Any active member or working group may "...request that Council review an existing Position Statement at any time via letter submitted to TWS' CEO." Similarly, in the case of Issue Statements, "Any active member or working group may request that Council review an existing Issue Statement at any time via letter submitted to TWS's CEO."

So, if you as an active member of TWS see a policy or issue statement you don't like, you can ask for a review. If you see the need for a new position statement, you can also ask that Council address that issue. You have a lot of opportunity to engage in the policy process. I hope you exercise that right.

Earlier, I mentioned "theory of government." That's important and has much to do with the final shape that policy takes. What is the role of government in society? When does government step in with laws or regulations to change public behavior? I have found that some members of The Wildlife Society tend to favor a legal/regulatory approach as the first and best option to fixing a problem. Others tend to advocate that change occur primarily from leadership via education, science, and advocacy. This has influenced our new position statement on lead hunting ammunition.

I know that members of our advisory committee are not 100% in agreement with the revised policy. I believe this is also true amongst members of Council and TWS staff. But the final position statement is a consensus document representing balanced perspectives. It was approved by Council with a unanimous vote. We advocate advancing the voluntary replacement of lead-based ammunition; we encourage industry to develop additional capacity to produce non-lead bullets; we advocate for policies that promote the phase-out of lead-based hunting ammunition; and we support educational efforts, policies, and practices of wildlife agencies. We do not call for an immediate, comprehensive, national prohibition on lead hunting ammunition. Some would have preferred that approach. At my end, I disagree. Why? This gets back to theory of government. That is, how to approach the problems associated with lead ammunition with balance and practicality. The new TWS policy hits a "sweet spot" that demonstrates leadership while recognizing the complexity of policies associated with hunting ammunition. TWS has been a very strong leader on this issue, and I am very confident that our science-based focus will continue to be valued by policy makers in and out of government.

Our Neck of the Woods...

Hassayampa Ecosystems BioBlitz a Success!

By Caitlyn Brogan,

BioBlitz Co-Coordinator and Arizona Game and Fish Department Intern



Marine blue butterflies. Credit: Lisa Rivera

Over the weekend of April 9–10, 2022, volunteer citizen scientists and wildlife experts came together for the Hassayampa Ecosystems BioBlitz (HEB) event. This effort was co-sponsored by the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society (AZTWS) and the Arizona Game & Fish Department in collaboration with many other partner organizations. HEB aimed to collect diverse ecological inventory data to capture a snapshot of biodiversity in the area of the proposed Interstate-11 and to promote advocacy for science-based wildlife management across the Arizona landscape. Over a 24-hour period, citizen scientists, or “Blitzers,” and Species Matter Experts (SMEs) surveyed the target area, which included the White Tank, Vulture, and Belmont mountains and the Hassayampa Plains that connect them, for any and all living things.

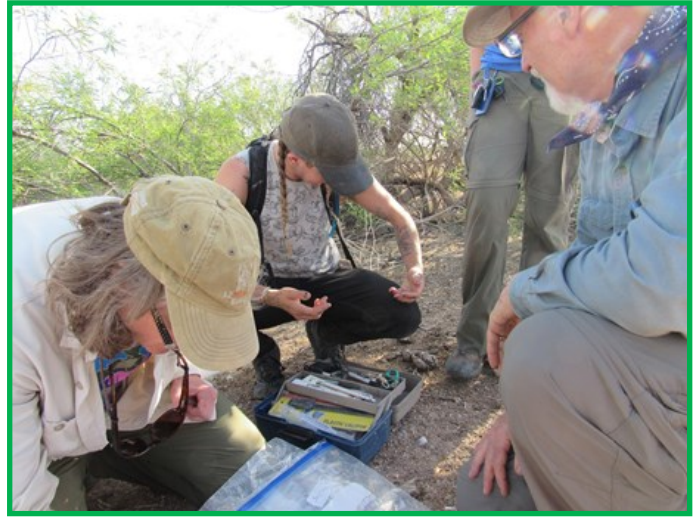
Festivities began at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning and continued nonstop until 9 a.m. on Sunday. More than 110 registered Blitzers and 52 SMEs participated in 41 different guided excursions during the event, ranging from family-friendly wildlife walks to strenuous surveys. The Group Campground in White Tank Mountain Regional Park served as headquarters for the event, where many Blitzers set up

camp for the night. Operation Centers were also set up at the White Tank Library and Hassayampa River Preserve. Most excursions focused on specific taxa, inviting Blitzers to accompany an expert into the field and gain hands-on experience searching for and identifying different species.

All observations were recorded in a 24-hour [iNaturalist project](#), which culminated in 2,047 observations of 490 unique species, plus an additional 77 species recorded on 39 eBird lists. More than 27 iNaturalist identifiers have already contributed to confirming species identifications, although many observations still need ID—if you’d like to help, search “Hassayampa Ecosystems BioBlitz 2022” on iNaturalist! In addition to guided hikes and passive observation stations, excursions included land snail surveys, small mammal trapping, bat mist netting, owl broadcast call surveys, desert tortoise surveys, butterfly surveys, bat and amphibian acoustic stations, and two camera traps that captured 14,658 images.

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Left: Bat netting at Hassayampa River Preserve. Credit: Caitlin Brogan

Right: Small mammal trapping on the Hassayampa Plains. Credit: Adam Stein

The HEB target region was selected based on a number of contributing factors that make collecting ecological inventory data a priority, most of which revolve around human development and wildlife connectivity concerns. Currently, the Hassayampa Plains connect several mountain ranges between which wildlife is constantly moving. In the coming years, it is possible that these mountain ranges could become isolated and connectivity could be significantly reduced.

The "priority zone" for the Hassayampa Ecosystems BioBlitz focused largely on a swath of land within the current "Selected Corridor Alternative" for the proposed Interstate-11 (I-11). The Selected Corridor Alternative is a 2,000-foot-wide starting point within which the proposed I-11 could be built, stretching from Nogales to Wickenburg. [More information](#) about I-11 and the Intermountain West Corridor Study can be found on the Arizona Department of Transportation website. The [White Tank Mountains Conservancy's Connectivity Initiative](#) site also provides some excellent resources to learn more about wildlife connectivity efforts in this region.



Sonoran desert tortoise. Credit: Patrick McCarthy

The landscape in and around the HEB target area is also projected to change rapidly as human population increases in this fast-growing section of the Sun Corridor. In 2019, the U.S. Census Bureau identified Buckeye, Arizona, as the fastest growing city in the nation with a population of 50,000 or more based on change between 2017 and 2018—and similar patterns of growth are expected over the coming decade for the entire region. These changes will undoubtedly impact wildlife and the ecosystems that exist in what is currently undeveloped desert landscape. Consideration of wildlife connectivity and conservation efforts are critical to protecting these ecosystems as human communities expand. The Hassayampa Ecosystems BioBlitz contributes an important snapshot of biodiversity in this vulnerable area.

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Cactus wren fledgling. Credit: Adam Stein

BioBlitz events are a valuable method of collecting ecological inventory data while also engaging the community in citizen science and wildlife conservation efforts. Tools like iNaturalist and eBird make citizen science increasingly accessible, allowing BioBlitz events and similar efforts to serve diverse goals across broader scales.

The 2022 Hassayampa Ecosystems BioBlitz was made possible by collaboration between partner organizations from across the state. Thank you, AZTWS, for your exceptional support! We would also like to acknowledge the Arizona Game & Fish Department, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, Bureau of Land Management, White Tank Mountains Conservancy, Educating Children Outdoors, Maricopa County Master Naturalists, City of

Surprise, City of Buckeye, Bashas', and all of the individual Blitzers, Species Matter Experts, Event Logistics Volunteers, & Planning Crew Members who made this event possible!

BioBlitz

Join the AZ BioBlitz Hub!

Are you a facilitator of other BioBlitz or citizen science events across the state? Are you interested in becoming more involved in BioBlitz events in Arizona? Join the Arizona BioBlitz Hub! The Arizona BioBlitz Hub establishes opportunities for sharing resources and connections between facilitators of BioBlitz events and other citizen science efforts. The goal is to maximize the quality, engagement, and outputs of our respective BioBlitz endeavors across the state while building a community of interested individuals and organizations. Through a strong network of professionals and community members, we can encourage advocacy for Arizona flora and fauna while collecting data and making scientific experiences more accessible to everyone! Scan the QR code to [register for the AZ BioBlitz Hub](#). All are welcome!



2022 JAM Benefitted Students

By the Wildlife Restoration Student Association, Arizona State University

Attending the Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico chapters of The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society (JAM) has significant value for a variety of individuals. JAM provides lessons on many real-world applicable skills that will benefit students looking to acquire an internship or graduates who are starting their career. Whether you are a fellow driven student or someone looking for a career change, hoping to work as a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, your local state wildlife agency, or just a job in the biology field, there is something for everyone! Although all the presentations are applicable for those who wish to be engaged in current projects and events, there are other great opportunities as well, such as the lunch where attendees get to meet, mingle, and ask questions to wildlife professionals helping you find your true calling!

Attending the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society's business meeting at JAM was very educational. During the meeting, attendees got to hear about the progress the Southwest Section made for the past year, as well as the plans for the upcoming year. We learned what the Chapter is active in and where money is spent. This left us more knowledgeable about the Chapter and feeling that we better know our part in the club at Arizona State University. The meeting is how we first learned about the Hassayampa Ecosystems BioBlitz, which allowed us to prepare for attending and spreading the word to the club in a timely manner.

Also, being part of the American Fisheries Society and attending the meeting provides members an opportunity to connect and receive news or information from various professionals in the fisheries industry. In the meeting held at JAM, American Fisheries Society board members and college representatives presented various insights to the current state of the society as well as upcoming projects and research work. One of the events that was mainly talked about was the Joint Aquatic Species Meeting (JASM) 2022, which is held every year in a different state. There will be various kinds of vendors that come from all over the country to share their research and hardware.



A rock squirrel observed during the 2022 Hassayampa Ecosystems BioBlitz. Credit: Eric Hough

In Memoriam

Dr. Cecil Robert Schwalbe, 1942–2022

This piece contains excerpts from an article written by Brent H. Sigafus. [See the full piece on the University of Arizona website](#)



Cecil Schwalbe. Credit: John de Dios

Dr. Cecil Robert Schwalbe, beloved husband, brother, father, grandfather, and friend, died April 3, 2022, at the age of 80 in his hometown of Tucson, Arizona. Dr. Cecil Robert Schwalbe was born April 2, 1942, in Lubbock, Texas, and had a passion for all things natural from an early age.

During the Vietnam War, Cecil served in the U.S. Army (1964–1966) and sailed aboard one of the first troop ships carrying 4,000 active combat soldiers to Vietnam. He received sharpshooter and expert rifle commendations and a good conduct medal. Back home, Cecil earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Rice University before realizing he didn't want to be an engineer. He pivoted, went to the University of Washington, and received his master's degree in environmental science and ecology and then moved to Tucson to pursue his Ph.D. in zoology and physiology at the University of Arizona, where he also taught for many years.

The first state herpetologist of Arizona, Cecil dedicated his professional life to the research and conservation of amphibians and reptiles of the Southwest and his personal life to brightening every room he walked into with his inexhaustible kindness and irrepressible sense of humor. He was as nimble at playing Boggle and Words with Friends as he was at wrangling snakes, lizards, and graduate students. Cecil's lasting and important contributions to scientific research and conservation earned him many awards. In 2015, the Western National Parks Association honored him with the Emil W. Haury Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to scientific research in national parks and monuments. Just last year, he was thrilled to receive the Charlie Painter Memorial Award from the Southwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. He was nominated by a very large number of his former students and colleagues. One of the most famous quotes attributed to Cecil is, "Anyone who gets bitten by a Gila monster deserves it."

He will be missed.

Wildlife Water Catchments— a Summertime Blessing

By Kathy Miles, Tucson resident



Catchments provide water to diverse species. Credit: Kathy Miles

If you have been hiking in Arizona for any length of time, you have probably seen a wildlife water catchment. You may have been hiking along, minding your own business, when all of a sudden you stumble upon one of these strange looking concrete giants.

These catchments are a small piece of history and have been here in southern Arizona since the 1950s. Many were built out of concrete and then later fiberglass; now, some of the more modern catchments are made from food-grade polyethylene.

Catchments are known by many names—*guzzlers*, *trick-tanks*, and *drinkers*, to name a few. They began as a research tool to help study gallinaceous quail. Land

managers quickly realized that other wildlife were drinking from catchments as well. Many animals you can think of very likely visit a water catchment for a drink. Generations upon generations of wildlife have enjoyed these summertime blessings.

These older water catchments are not very complicated. In fact, they are of very simple construction. They have a sloped collecting fan in which they catch rainfall. The rain that is collected then drains down into a tank that holds the water. On one end of the tank is a step-down trough that allows animals to walk down in and take a drink. This is known as the “drinker.” If the water level is low, the animal can step down further into the tank if necessary. Both small and larger animals can use these catchments.

Storage capacity in these older guzzlers can range from 750–3,000 gallons of water, with newer style catchments holding 10,000 gallons or more. The bigger the catchment, the more rainwater it can hold. Most wildlife water catchments have fencing around them to exclude livestock—this allows only wildlife into the catchment area. It is amazing that there are still some catchments functioning that are 70 years old or more.



Catchments collect water into drinkers. Credit: Kathy Miles

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Most of the water developments in the state are managed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD). AZGFD performs maintenance on the older concrete catchments to keep them going and also builds modern water developments. The state of Arizona is considered state-of-the-art in water catchment building.

During periods of drought, catchments can become very low on water or even empty. The folks at AZGFD help to keep them full. Their staff haul water when necessary, along with a crew of volunteers. Filling catchments takes time and a lot of resources. Water is hauled by truck, trailer, and even by helicopter if the catchment is in a very remote location. This makes for a costly endeavor, but our wildlife need the water to survive in our arid climate.

AZGFD accepts donations for their water program and will also allow members of the public to haul water to catchments if they have the right equipment. They need only to contact their nearest AZGFD office to inquire.

So far, the predictions for monsoon this year are that we will have an “active” monsoon. Hopefully, this will keep some of our catchments full.

You can help. If you happen to see a wildlife water catchment that is low or empty, you can call the Arizona Game and Fish *Wildlife Water Helpline* at 866-950-AGFD (2433).

Kathy Miles is a Tucson local who has been observing water catchments for several years. For more information, you can contact her at photogurl68@gmail.com.



A coyote pauses at a wildlife water catchment. Credit: Kathy Miles

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society

Reprinted with permission from the NAFWS website

The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) is a national tribal organization established informally during the early 1980s. NAFWS was incorporated in 1983 to develop a national communications network for the exchange of information and management techniques related to self-determined tribal fish and wildlife management. As a non-profit organization, the NAFWS's mission is to assist Native American and Alaska Native Tribes with the conservation, protection, and enhancement of their fish and wildlife resources.

NAFWS's purposes are charitable, educational, scientific, and cultural, as well as the following:

- To assist in the facilitation and coordination of inter-tribal communication in regards to fish and wildlife matters, including issues with treaty rights, court cases related to fish and wildlife, and hunting and fishing regulations
- To protect, preserve, and conserve the wise use and management of tribal fish, wildlife, and recreation resources
- To educate Native Americans involved in fish and wildlife management, policy decision makers, community members, and others similarly dedicated to tribal natural resource management, of the best management practices
- To provide administrative support, expertise, and advice to tribal governments, relating to tribal fish, wildlife, and recreation resources
- To improve the general welfare of tribal people through educational, charitable, as well as fish and wildlife enhancement activities
- To provide professional publications and promotional activities for disseminating information about Native American fish and wildlife resources to members, organizations, public officials, and the general public.



Ensuring the vast resource base is kept intact for future generations, the NAFWS aims to support tribal decision-makers toward astute natural resource management. Native Americans continually demonstrate environmental sensitivity towards the earth's precious resources and are looked to by many to "show the way" to replenish the earth's resources. In today's changing world, however, tribes are faced with a complexity of situations demanding a marriage of traditional management practices with the cutting-edge of biological management. This task places enormous strain on those in leadership and management roles. These leaders are charged not only with the maintenance of diminishing resources but with the responsibility of shaping resource management into a flexible entity sensitive to the needs and concerns of Native Americans. To this end, NAFWS strives to provide assistance to tribes and tribal leadership and support them in their self-determined march towards a secure natural resource future.

For more information about the NAFWS and membership, contact Darren Talayumtewa at dtalayumtewa@hopi.nsn.us or Elveda Martinez at elvedamartinez@yahoo.com (NAFWS Southwest Regional Directors) or visit www.nafws.org. Be sure to check out the upcoming conference on [page 15](#).



TWS Public Certification Database

Do you hold certifications from The Wildlife Society? Soon, members of The Wildlife Society who are certified as an Associate Wildlife Biologist, Certified Wildlife Biologist, and/or a [Qualified Airport Wildlife Biologist](#) will have the option to be included in a publicly accessible certification database. This will be a great opportunity to get your name and certifications out there!

Members with these certifications will receive an email with instructions on how to access and update their information in the database. You will be able to decide how much (if any) information is shown. Watch for details coming soon!

[You can find more information about the database here.](#)

To learn more about TWS' certification programs or to inquire about the status of your certification, [click here](#) or contact certification@wildlife.org.

Upcoming Conferences

Global Amphibian & Reptile Disease Conference



The 2022 Global Amphibian and Reptile Disease (GARD) Conference will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee, **August 4–10, 2022**. The conference will bring together scientists from across the globe to discuss amphibian and reptile diseases, organize facilitated discussions on the similarities and differences among host-pathogen systems, and identify disease management strategies that can be used to ensure the conservation of herpetofauna species for generations to come! You can [register](#) to participate in-person or virtually. [Travel grants](#) are available to help increase geographic, ethnic, and gender diversity at GARD, and priority will be given to students and early career professionals. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

NAFWS Southwest Regional Conference

The NAFWS annual conference is held in May of each year; this year it was in the Miami area hosted by the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida with the theme “*Combating Invasive Species and Wildlife Disease with Tribal Perspectives*.” The Southwest Chapter of NAFWS will hold its annual conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, **August 22–25, 2022**, and will be hosted by the Pueblo of Santa Ana. For more information, contact [Darren Talayumptewa](#) or [Elveda Martinez](#) (NAFWS Southwest Regional Directors).



SHARE YOUR AZ WILDLIFE STORIES

Want to share your Arizona wildlife stories and perspectives? Please consider submitting **articles, stories, project updates, events, and pictures** for upcoming newsletters! AZTWS welcomes all contributors.

The Arizona Wildlifer Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
Fall 2022	Sep 16, 2022
Winter 2023	Dec 16, 2022

Email submissions at any time to aztwseeditor@gmail.com.

Continuing Education Grants

AZTWS offers \$2,500 annually in [Continuing Education Grants](#) to its members (including professionals, graduate and undergraduate students) to support education and career advancement opportunities. Grant requests should not exceed \$500 per application and only one grant is awarded per person, per year. Grants are limited to current Chapter members only; membership dues are \$6/year. Join or renew [here](#).



Applications can be submitted at any time and will be reviewed quarterly by the Continuing Education Committee. Applicants will be notified within 30 days of the Committee’s review. The Committee evaluates applications based on your explanation of how the activity will enhance your career development, your financial need, your efforts to obtain supplemental funding, and your involvement in Chapter activities. AZTWS encourages applicants from under-represented individuals and groups.

**Submit Your
Application [Online](#)**



AZTWS News & Resources

The [Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) is dedicated to promoting sound management and conservation of Arizona's wildlife resources and strives to be the preeminent resource for Arizona's community of scientists, managers, educators, students, technicians, planners, and others working to manage and conserve wildlife and habitats in the state. To help you keep up with AZTWS's resources, opportunities, and happenings, we hope that you find the following hotlinks useful:

- **Members** gain access to numerous opportunities; if you are not yet a member, sign up [here](#). Annual dues are only \$6!
- **AZTWS's Web Store** is live! Show your support by gifting cool AZTWS swag to others (or splurging for yourself). Proceeds support AZTWS resources, including conference events and our Continuing Education Grant. [Shop now!](#) [You can also support AZTWS's Mission by [donating](#) discretely or in monthly recurrences.]
- Support others and help increase representation in Arizona's natural resource fields by **gifting a AZTWS membership** (1-year) – [details here](#).
- Looking for that older issue of *The Arizona Wildlifer*? **All issues** are freely accessible [here!](#)
- Our parent society, TWS, emphasizes important resources for **[diversity, equity, and inclusion](#)** throughout the wildlife profession. AZTWS also strives to uphold these values.
- Want to get more involved with your Chapter? Check out the information available on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [website](#) for opportunities.
- AZTWS has vacancies for several Committee Chair positions. See [page 2](#) for details.
- Have questions for us? Contact us [here](#).



A canyon rubyspot observed during the 2022 Hassayampa Ecosystems BioBlitz. Credit: Rachel Stringham
