


THE ARIZONA WILDLIFER

2024 Issue 2

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Spring Edition

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The President's Message



AZTWS Chapter President Chris Carrillo

I am honored to serve as the new President of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society (AZTWS). I have been involved with the Chapter since 2014 and have served as Membership Chair. I have been inspired to serve as President by all those who have served before me to promote the Arizona Chapter, its members, and Arizona wildlife. Of course, this would also not be possible without all the members who continue to support The Wildlife Society and the Arizona Chapter.

I would like to start by thanking our Past President, Ms. Sarah Rinkevich, for her efforts in leading the 57th Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) in Flagstaff, Arizona. This year's meeting was a huge success, and we had 399 attendees. I would like to also recognize all the members of the AZTWS, the New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society for your participation and contributions to the success of this meeting.

I'd also like to extend my thanks to the 2023 Executive Board members for their services to the Chapter, including Mrs. Lola Van Pelt who served as Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Jesse Lewis for serving as Board Member, Ms. Tiffany Sprague for serving as Recording Secretary, and Ms. Haley Nelson who served as

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Presidents Message cont...

Treasurer. I would also like to welcome our 2024 Executive Board members who were installed at our annual business meeting in Flagstaff. This includes our President Elect Ms. Holly Hicks, Corresponding Secretary Mr. Tom Correll, Ms. Vicki Olmstead as Board Member, and Ms. Tiffany Sprague as Recording Secretary.

My hope for 2024 is to continue to increase membership to the Chapter. One way is to support additional student participation in the JAM and other AZTWS events. This year, there were 136 students registered, including several paper presenters, poster presenters, and Quiz Bowl participants. I applaud them for their participation and look forward to seeing more students participate. If we can all encourage one student to engage, we will see our Chapter grow.

Lastly, I would like to encourage all our members to start thinking about award nominations. It is never too early to submit nominations. There are lots of deserving individuals who do great work for Arizona wildlife. Please visit the AZTWS website to look at the [award descriptions](#) and [past winners](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to any board member. I look forward to seeing many of you at this year's events and would encourage all of you to get out and enjoy our state and the wildlife that so many of you work hard to manage.

Cheers,
Chris Carrillo

Get Involved with AZTWS!

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. *Continuing Education Chair* — This position is responsible for working with a committee to review applications for the Continuing Education Fund and grant awards. The purpose of the fund is to provide career enhancement opportunities for Chapter members.
2. *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.
3. *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



Southwest Section Representative
Kathy Granillo with a wolf pup.

The days are getting longer, wildflowers are popping up everywhere, and we have survived another time change to Daylight Saving Time. Do we really need Daylight Saving Time anymore? What are the pros and cons? Is there a link to wildlife and wildlife management? Perhaps I'll delve into that in a future article, but that is not the topic of discussion I'd like to address in this article. I have been mulling over The Wildlife Society (TWS) membership—we have various levels within our organization, and currently a person can pick and choose which levels they'd like to belong to. We have chapters, student chapters, sections, and the parent organization.

There are 55 chapters, usually state or province based, and there are eight sections, which are regional networks of states, provinces, and republics. We have 147 student chapters with more forming every year. These are based at college campuses across North America and beyond. Each one of these levels within TWS has their own bylaws, officers, and events and activities, and each of these levels of organization synergistically support the mission of TWS. What I have been mulling over in particular is why some members only maintain membership at the chapter and/or section level and not the parent organization and vice versa. I presume it is because of the perceived benefits or lack of benefits.

If you are one of those people who belongs to the Arizona Chapter, and perhaps the Southwest Section, but not the parent organization, I'd like to encourage you to examine why that is. I've heard many reasons from members over the years. I commonly hear they get what they need from their local organization and the parent organization dues are too expensive, they can't attend the annual conference, and so why join?

Many think that the main reason to belong to the parent organization is to get a break on registration for the annual conference, yet they cannot attend the annual conference for one reason or another. Their employer won't allow them to attend the annual conference with pay on work time; it is almost impossible to get permission to attend on work time for federal government employees; it is too expensive to attend the annual conference out of your own pocket; or perhaps attending the annual conference eats up your entire travel budget for the year.

I grant you that these are valid concerns and are topics of concern to Council as well. However, TWS is way more than the annual conference. Do you know about the other benefits of TWS membership? Have you visited the website lately and seen what TWS has to offer? As wildlife professionals, many of you are involved in research and/or management. What do you do to stay up on your profession and to contribute to your profession? Do you seek to publish your research findings or to learn more about your field of work? Access to TWS publications comes with your membership. This includes the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, *Wildlife Monographs*, and *The Wildlife*

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Professional. These are premiere wildlife publications. Membership gives you access and helps support the publication of these resources.

As a member of TWS, you can join and participate in working groups, which are forums for members with common professional interests to network, exchange information, and promote science-based decision making and management of wildlife and its habitats. Working groups publish newsletters, hold meetings, conduct policy analysis, and organize technical symposia and workshops. Working groups can help you advance your skills in core or emerging areas of the wildlife profession, advance science about a particular area of concern by the profession, network with colleagues in your area of expertise, keep up with the latest information in your professional subdiscipline, participate in special projects related to your professional interests, and promote science-based policy and management of wildlife and habitats.

TWS offers a host of resources for students and for early career professionals. Perhaps you are a current student or early career professional and, if not, you used to be one! Take a look at what TWS offers and take advantage or help support these efforts.

TWS has a strong role in the policy arena and in promoting legislation and regulations that are beneficial to wildlife. TWS also supports local efforts by chapters and sections to engage in both North American and more local conservation concerns through the Conservation Affairs Network.

Membership includes many resources, such as continuing education opportunities, mentoring programs, and leadership programs such as the Leadership Institute. For me, one of the main benefits of membership is knowing that I am supporting my chosen profession and my passion for wildlife and wild places.

If you are not a member of the parent organization, or have let your membership lapse, I hope I have intrigued you enough to check out what TWS has to offer these days, how you might benefit, and also how you might contribute to keeping your profession vibrant.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. My email is KGBirder55@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Kathy

* * * * *

Southwest Section Submits Written Testimony to the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board

Reprinted from the [TWS Conservation Affairs Network newsletter](#)

The Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society submitted written testimony to the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board, a Federal Advisory Committee serving the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. The letter emphasized the negative effects of feral horse populations on native wildlife populations in the region. The arid nature of the Southwest makes the region increasingly vulnerable to feral horses degrading the landscape. The Southwest Section recommended that populations be reduced to the appropriate management level.

[Read the letter online.](#) For further information, contact [John Kinsey](#) or [Nicole Tatman](#).

Our Neck of the Woods...

Meet Your 2024 AZTWS Executive Board!



President: Christopher Carrillo

Since 2004, Chris Carrillo has served as the District Supervisor for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services' (WS) Arizona Program. He oversees a diverse wildlife damage management program to protect human health and safety, agriculture, property, and natural resources. Some of the programs include managing wildlife conflicts through predator management to protect livestock, endangered species such as Mexican wolves, black-footed ferrets, and Mount Graham red squirrels; invasive species; urban coyote management to protect human health and safety; wildlife management at airports; and zoonotic diseases such as plague and rabies. In 2014, Chris began to serve the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society as the Membership Committee Chair. In 1995, Chris received a B.S. in Agriculture with a major in Wildlife Science from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM.

President-Elect: Holly Hicks

Holly Hicks is the Small Mammals Project Coordinator for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, where her work entails management of Gunnison's prairie dogs, black-footed ferrets, Mount Graham red squirrels, and New Mexico jumping mice and re-establishment of black-tailed prairie dogs. She dedicates her free time to volunteering at Liberty Wildlife helping rehabilitate injured wildlife. In addition, she enjoys the outdoors, running, and traveling. Holly has served on the board of The Wildlife Society in various roles since 2010. As Chair for the annual Wildlife Techniques Workshop and the Chapter's Student Liaison, she supports students and provides opportunities for them to become successful biologists.



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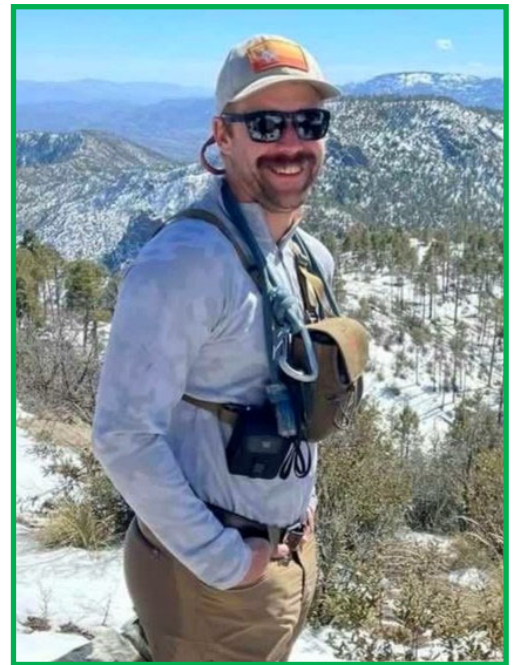


Treasurer: Haley Nelson

Haley Nelson was born and raised in Arizona, where she earned a bachelor's degree in applied biological sciences from Arizona State University and a Master's of Science in geographic information system technologies from University of Arizona. She worked with the Arizona Game and Fish Department since 2014, both in wildlife biology and information technology roles, before transitioning into a new position with Arizona Department of Health Services in 2023. As a Senior GIS Analyst, she develops and maintains web mapping and other GIS applications using GUI-based application development software. Haley has held various positions on the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society board, including Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary, and also serves as Webmaster.

Corresponding Secretary: Tom Correll

Tom Correll is a Wildlife Biologist for USDA Wildlife Services at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, with more than 10 years of experience in the field. He is a graduate of Northern Arizona University, where he was active member and Vice-President of the student TWS chapter. He has worked in the wildlife field since 2011, working with Arizona Game and Fish Department on Gunnison's prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets, with NAU monitoring rabies in urban skunk populations, and with University of Wyoming on sage grouse. In 2015 Tom was hired by USDA Wildlife Services as an Urban Wildlife Specialist, working to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, disease management, and agriculture protection. Since starting at Davis-Monthan in 2018, Tom has received several awards and commendations for his successful efforts to reduce aircraft-wildlife hazards. Tom is a hunter, angler, and outdoorsman and is passionate about wildlife conservation, establishing meaningful partnerships within the wildlife community, and sharing his love of the outdoors with anyone he meets.



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Recording Secretary: Tiffany Sprague

Tiffany Sprague has devoted her life to protecting our natural world while educating and inspiring others to do the same. She has a B.S. in Wildlife Sciences from University of Arizona and an M.S. in Applied Biological Sciences from Arizona State University. As a native Arizonan, she has worked with a diversity of species and habitats across the state, with a particular fondness for snakes, bats, and tortoises. Her 23-year career with non-profit organizations and federal and state governments has impressed upon her the importance of collaboration in order to achieve common goals. She currently works with the Arizona Game and Fish Department as the Heritage Data Program Manager. She has been involved with The Wildlife Society for more than a decade, including seven years on the Arizona Chapter board.



Board Member: Lias Hastings

Lias Hastings is a wildlife specialist for USDA Wildlife Services. Lias was born in eastern Arizona on the White Mountain Apache reservation. Much of his youth was spent wandering through nature and learning to appreciate the beauty of the natural world. He received his Bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University in 2012 and spent the following six years working for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. His involvement with a wide range of projects all around the state provided the opportunity to work with many different wildlife species. He received his Master's degree from Northern Arizona University in 2021, studying rabies cross-species transmission between bats and mesocarnivores. He finished graduate school just as Flagstaff experienced an outbreak of bat rabies in striped skunks, providing the opportunity to work with the system he had studied in school.

As the number of rabies positive cases increased, he was offered a position with Wildlife Services leading a trap, vaccinate, and release program designed to mitigate and control dangerous rabies outbreaks in urban environments. He has been in this position for a year and appreciates the opportunity to work hands-on with different mesocarnivores as well as provide a valuable public service.

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Board Member: Vicki Olmstead

Vicki Olmstead is a Tribal wildlife biologist for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Prior to her move to Arizona, she was a qualified airport wildlife biologist in New York City. She recently became a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist. She has worked in 11 different states in a variety of wildlife positions, focusing on population demography, habitat restoration, and threatened and endangered species monitoring. She's been in Arizona for just more than two years and has truly grown to love the state and the desert southwest.

**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

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Summer 2024	Jun 14, 2024
Fall 2024	Sep 20, 2024

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

Congratulations to the 2023 AZTWS Chapter Award Winners!



Faith Walker with AZTWS Chapter President Chris Carrillo.

Faith Walker

Professional Service Award

The Professional Service Award is 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.

Faith Walker, Associate Research Professor in the School of Forestry and Pathogen & Microbiome Institute at Northern Arizona University, has made significant contributions to wildlife conservation in Arizona through research, education, and protection or enhancement of wildlife and their habitats. Among her many contributions are the [Species from Feces](#) program, which she developed to inform species identification and diet of thousands of mammal species using a non-invasive method; approximately 600 entities have used these genetic services in the past eight years. Her genetics work has also been instrumental in endangered species conservation and wildlife disease testing. Above and beyond these accomplishments, Dr. Walker is building capacity through education, outreach, and mentoring of students and other professionals. She is changing what we know today and informing our efforts for tomorrow.

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Kay Hawklee and El Quen Ranch, LLC

Conservation Award

The Conservation Award is given to a person, or persons, not employed directly as a wildlife biologist, or an organization not directly involved in wildlife management (including researchers at universities), who contribute significantly to the conservation of wildlife and/or their habitat in Arizona.

Kay Hawklee, President of the Northern Arizona Audubon Society (NAAS), is a wildlife conservation champion who contributes as a leader, mentor, advocate, and natural resource practitioner. She has helped advance initiatives, including pinyon jay conservation and migratory bird monitoring throughout the state, organizes field trips and educational events, and strives to enhance the breadth and effectiveness of NAAS. She is a resolute voice for ecological responsibility and science-based management and has provided information to the general public and



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legislative officials on the importance of wildlife habitat, the economic impact of nature-based recreation, and the need for sustainable groundwater management. She is genuinely interested in inspiring and educating aspiring naturalists, and her knowledge and enthusiasm help welcome scores of new nature advocates into the field.

El Quen Ranch, LLC, owned and managed by Owen T. Lonsdale, has been managed to restore ecological health, improve wildlife habitat, and increase the base flow of the San Pedro River. Owen Lonsdale developed a conservation plan to restore approximately 442 acres of riparian and upland vegetation that had been degraded over time with invasive species and a downcutting river. These problems were addressed by working with federal and state agencies through several conservation programs and implementing numerous on-the-ground projects over the last six years, including invasive species removal, installing fencing along riparian areas to control grazing, and replanting native species. Efforts continue to improve whole watershed health while providing a safe haven for a diversity of wildlife species.



Ganesh Marin

Roger Hungerford Student Award

The Roger Hungerford Student Award is 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. The award is given in memory of one of Arizona's finest research biologists, Roger Hungerford.

During his time at University of Arizona, Ganesh Marin has stood out as a student with exceptional promise due to his knowledge of and commitment to wildlife conservation in the borderlands of Arizona and Sonora. His dissertation research on wildlife in the Sonoran borderlands promises to influence management actions taken by private landowners, non-profit organizations, public land and wildlife managers, and border security agencies. He has also

worked to disseminate his research to broad audiences through scientific publications and through public media outlets, both in Spanish and English.

Submit an award nomination! We encourage you to nominate deserving individuals for future awards. You can learn more about our awards and past winners at <https://aztws.com/past-award-winners>. Submit nominations at any time to Awards Committee Chair [Holly Hicks](#).

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Gloria Tom with AZTWS Chapter President Chris Carrillo.

Gloria Tom

Tribal Conservationist Award

The Tribal Conservationist Award is given to an individual working for or retired from a Tribal natural resource department who is recognized and honored for their exceptional work toward the betterment of tribal natural resources management. The recipient's impact in Indian Country has created a path for better tribal resources management for the future. Their contributions can be over several years or limited to a few years of outstanding service.

Gloria Tom, Director of the Navajo Nation's Department of Fish and Wildlife, was recognized for her leadership in wildlife conservation on and off the Navajo Reservation. Director Tom and her fish and wildlife staff embody excellence and are champions of wildlife and fisheries conservation and management. The Navajo Nation's Department of Fish and Wildlife

under Director Tom is a well-established, comprehensive management program that manages wildlife and plants for scientific purposes, as well as for spiritual, traditional, and cultural purposes. Further, the department is an important partner with regard to possible black-footed ferret reintroductions, Colorado pikeminnow, and monitoring and management of threatened Mexican spotted owls on the Reservation. Director Tom has created a path toward better tribal resources management for the future.

Tad Theimer

David E. Brown Lifetime Achievement Award

Our most prestigious award, the David E. Brown Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual for his or her accomplishments in wildlife biology and management over their lifetime. This award was created to recognize a lifetime of work devoted to wildlife on par with David E. Brown's lifetime accomplishments, which were exceptional and beyond the scope of existing Chapter awards.

Tad Theimer, Professor of Biological Sciences at Northern Arizona University, received this prestigious award to recognize his outstanding contributions to the management and conservation of wildlife and the legacy he has left by guiding others on their paths in this field. As a biologist, his research has included a wide variety of taxa and has ranged from ecology and conservation to diet and movement to disease management, and he has authored more than 30 publications. He has also served as an inspiring mentor to thousands of students, many of whom are now filling critical roles in the wildlife field. The number of supporters for this award nomination was overwhelming. We encourage you to read the tribute to Dr. Theimer on [page 14](#).



Scott Sprague presented Tad Theimer's award.

Student Voice

My JAM Experience

By McKinsey Tighe, University of Arizona

The Arizona/New Mexico Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) of 2024 was my first time attending the event and my first-ever professional conference. As an attendee from the University of Arizona Chapter of the Fish and Wildlife Society, I got to bond with my fellow club members and attendants from other schools/affiliations. Not only was I able to attend many interesting talks that have influenced ideas for my career post-graduation, but I also got to participate in the many fun events that JAM hosts every year, including the Quiz Bowl that my team won!

JAM was full of excitement and new memories. On the way to the meeting, our van stopped by Stoneman Lake, which is one of two natural lakes in Arizona. It had been a long time since I had seen some water in Arizona, so this was a great way to get hyped for JAM.



A visit to Stoneman Lake helped prepare the students for JAM. Credit: McKinsey Tighe



Quiz Bowl winners McKinsey Tighe, Miguel Gonzales, Isabella Erlenbach, and Matt Mayer. Credit: Tylea Jorgenson

On the first night of JAM, I got to talk to many professionals and like-minded students, which was a great experience for me. I'm a naturally shy person, but the comfortable and lively atmosphere of the meeting helped coax me out of my shell and talk to people I normally wouldn't. At Quiz Bowl, I wasn't very quick to the buzzer, but I did help out for the students vs. professionals game, where I figured out musical clues such as "Jagged Little Pillbug." This was followed by a beautiful snowfall, which made just about every attendee jump with excitement. Tucson doesn't see much snow, so our cohort was in the parking lot throwing snowballs within minutes.

I spent most of the next two days of JAM at various talks, where I learned about species like porcupines, Mexican wolves, and bats. I also got to hear about education in conservation, which is a career path that I'm now very interested in exploring. All of the speakers were both informative and friendly, which made for a great few afternoons and lots of notetaking. In addition to these experiences, I also won an item at the silent auction: a lovely painting of irises. It now sits on my bookshelf and reminds me of the wonderful time I had at JAM.

Silent auction prize.
Credit: McKinsey Tighe



Congratulations JAM Student Competition Winners!

Quiz Bowl University of Arizona



The University of Arizona Quiz Bowl team (*front row*) included McKinsey Tighe, Isabella Erlenbach, Matt Mayer, and Miguel Gonzales. After winning the student competition, UA went on to beat the “Professional” team (*back row*) of Dean Pokrajac, Tad Theimer, Aaron Facka, and Serra Hoagland. Credit: Elizabeth EbadiRad

Best Wildlife Student Paper

Brianna Russo

“Trade-offs between Selecting Habitat and Avoiding Human Disturbance for a Widespread Ungulate”



Best Wildlife Student Poster

Makayla Grandpre

“Detecting New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mice through eDNA”



A Celebration of Dr. Tad Theimer

By Scott Sprague, Project Manager/Road Ecologist, Arizona Game and Fish Department



A group of students, professionals, and friends gathered to celebrate Tad Theimer after the JAM banquet.
Credit: Carol Chambers

The Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Lifetime Achievement Award is named for Dave Brown, who set an amazingly high bar for anyone to earn his name on their wall. But there is no doubt that Dr. Tad Theimer has more than earned this honor. I really could ramble on about all the different ways that Tad is amazing. But anyone out there who has been lucky enough to be his student, colleague, partner, or just crossed paths with him already knows. We had more than 40 co-signers for the award nomination, and their testimonials start to paint the picture of just how much Tad has accomplished through and with all of us. It's that inspiration Tad provides to those around him that not only meets the bar set by Dave, but I would argue raises it several rungs.

From his charismatic in-class instruction to his lab groups to his passionate JAM presentations to every conversation you have with him, Tad's enthusiasm for our natural world and the science of it all is extremely contagious and inspiring. Every one of us is a better scientist and a better person for having crossed paths with him. Beyond his tremendous personal accomplishments, everything that each of his students accomplishes is a credit to Tad, as well.

I'm sad for our community that this is his final semester teaching at Northern Arizona University, but I'm excited for him to head down whatever path he chooses from here, where he will no doubt inspire those he encounters.

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Some snippets from the more than 40 people who supported Tad's award nomination:



Tad Theimer brings unique fun and spark to every learning opportunity, including during the 2024 Quiz Bowl. Credit: Scott Sprague

“Dr. Theimer is an icon in wildlife education and research in our generation in Arizona, a benefactor of knowledge and encouragement for his students and peers and a prominent example of humility and professionalism that exemplifies the values of our profession.” –Russell Benford

“Tad taught me patience, kindness, and critical thinking, as well as the idea that we should be radically enthusiastic about the work in which we are engaged. Tad, thank you so much for accepting me into your lab. The opportunity you gave me changed my life for the positive more than I think you know.” –Andrew Jones

“Dr. Tad Theimer is an incredible teacher and mentor, whose passion for wildlife conservation is evident in his every word and action. As a mentor and committee member he perfectly walks the line between supportive, constructive, and critical. Through his mentorship, his many students have made overwhelming contributions to wildlife conservation. Beyond his students’ and his own direct contributions to the field, Tad is continuously inspiring those around him to persevere in their own conservation efforts, even when it seems the world at large seems uninterested.” –Kayla Lauger

“Tad is an outlier. He’s a tipping point. He’s a compassionate, supportive, and giving educator and person who was and is a quiet catalyst for intellectual, personal, and professional growth. He has played a vital role in conserving Arizona’s wildlife for future generations and has motivated and trained a small army of wildlife professionals to do the same.” –Chad Loberger

“Tad was easily the most outstanding professor that I had during my time in graduate school. He was extremely knowledgeable, of course, but Tad went so far beyond just being a knowledgeable professor. He was approachable and had an easy manner of erudition about him that lent itself to actual knowledge acquisition by and from his students. He inspired his students to learn more, take those extra steps, and go well beyond the coursework and syllabus. Tad led by example and was always willing to go above and beyond for his students to ensure their success if they were willing to put in the effort.” –Jeff Meyers

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“I’ve been so inspired by Tad’s generosity in supporting students and colleagues over the years. I’ve seen his care, empathy, and drive to ensure student empowerment and success first-hand. He sets the standard for mentorship (and judicious butt-kicking, when needed) for so many. The way he inspires students to care about wildlife conservation and management through teaching and mentoring, and life-long friendships, is truly legendary. There really are no words to convey his importance in our lives; we’re so much the better for having the privilege of working with him and learning from his generous spirit.” –Erika Nowak

“Dr. Theimer has been an extremely influential figure in my journey into wildlife management and conservation. His classes left me with a strong toolbox for my work to come as I have entered and con-

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tinue my journey into wildlife management, and his courses showed me just how cooperative and many-sided the world of wildlife management truly is. Dr. Theimer is an amazing professor who supports his students in the classroom, outside of the classroom, and beyond. If you have ever had the opportunity to speak to him or to hear him lecture, you will know just how passionate he is about the field and how this rubs off on all of his students.” –Meagan Owens

“Not only is Dr. Theimer a wonderful teacher, but he is also an incredible artist, author, and actor with a creativity that interweaves throughout his work. Dr. Theimer embodies all of the qualities of a top-notch wildlife biologist and research mentor for every student that he takes under his wing.” –Emily Renn



Bruce Hungate and Tad Theimer starred in the play “Abraham and Charles” to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln. Credit: Theimer Lab Group

“Dr. Theimer taught with enthusiasm, providing the ‘why’ and background to all his lessons. His lectures were incredibly engaging, and I found myself excited about what I was going to learn next. His ability to teach and connect what he is teaching to his students was inspiring. So much so that my career path changed after having Dr. Theimer as a professor. I wanted the opportunity to share my passion and knowledge for wildlife that I gained through Dr. Theimer’s many classes in hopes to inspire others about wildlife and conservation. So thank you, Dr. Theimer; you had a major impact on me and helped me find my own passion for educating folks about wildlife.” –Cheyenne Towne

Continuing Education Grants

AZTWS offers \$1,500 annually in [Continuing Education Grants](#) to its members (including professionals, graduate and undergraduate students) to support education and career development opportunities (conferences, workshops, trainings, etc.). 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.

APPLY NOW



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](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#), and [website](#) for opportunities.
- AZTWS has vacancies for several Committee Chair positions. See [page 2](#) for details.
- Have questions for us? Contact us [here](#).

SIGN UP TODAY!

APRIL 20, 2024

AZTWS WILDLIFE TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

Students and early professionals, join us for a one-day workshop to get hands-on experience with a variety of wildlife field techniques, including survey, capture, and telemetry—and much more! This is also a great opportunity to learn and to network with professionals and peers. Limited space available!

For more information, contact Holly Hicks at hhicks@azgfd.gov.