

THE ARIZONA WILDLIFER

2017 Issue 2

 Follow us on Twitter!

 Like us on Facebook!

Spring Edition

Inside this issue:

Regional News	2
Meet Your Board	8
Fun Shoot	11
Chapter Awards	12
Quiz Bowl Recap	16
Student Voice	18
Act for Public Lands	19
Photo Contest Winners	21
March for Science	22

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Kay Nicholson
(480) 967-1343 knicholson@logansimpson.com

President Elect: Tiffany Sprague
(623) 670-0750 tasprague@gmail.com

Treasurer: Andrew Jones
(602) 617-1234 ajones@azgfd.gov

Recording Secretary: Melanie Tluczek
(602) 909-3713 mtluczek@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary: Jessica Moreno
(520) 440-2885 jamoreno3083@gmail.com

Board Member: Holly Hicks
(480) 603-8603 hhicks@azgfd.gov

Board Member: Audrey Owens
(623) 236-7515 aowens@azgfd.gov

Newsletter Editor: Tiffany Sprague

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/AZTWS>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/aztws>



The President's Message

As I step into the role of Chapter President, it is with a sense of honor and duty. Coming off the heels of the Joint Annual Meeting in Farmington, New Mexico, where we celebrated the 50th JAM, I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of so many other biologists who have served as Chapter President over the past 50 years and have done great things for wildlife and biologists of Arizona.



In case you missed the 50th JAM, I wanted to provide some highlights because it was another great meeting this year. The plenary session started with a trip down memory lane, first with David E. Brown's rendition of the chapter's early years followed by Tice Supplee's discussion of the middle years. Scott Bonar delivered the final message of the plenary, during which he urged us all to be a voice for science. The Quiz Bowl was rousing, and the final round with the winning student team (from New Mexico State University) versus professionals was surprising and quite entertaining. At the banquet on Friday evening, I was honored to present two new awards that our chapter created last year: David Brown was awarded the first David E. Brown Lifetime Achievement Award, and Holly Hicks was awarded the first Outstanding Service to the Chapter Award. Five more awards were presented to very deserving individuals, of which you can read more about later in this newsletter. There was another fine line-up of oral and poster presentations for the technical sessions. The meeting ended on Saturday with Women of Wildlife's thought-provoking interactive discussion about micro-aggression in the workplace.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new board members who were installed at the annual business meeting in Farmington. Tiffany Sprague was at the end of her second 2-year

(Continued on page 2)

Presidents Message cont...

(Continued from page 1)

term serving as Board Member At-Large, and I am excited to say she has taken over as our current President Elect. Andrew Jones will be serving as Treasurer, an appointment that lasts for two years. Melanie Tluczak was elected as the new Recording Secretary and Jessica Moreno as Corresponding Secretary. Audrey Owens is back on our board after a brief hiatus, this time serving a 2-year term as Board Member At-Large. Holly Hicks is continuing in her second year of her 2-year term as Board Member At-Large. This group has hit the ground running, and I am very excited to work with these folks this year.

A big thank-you goes out to last year's outgoing board members. Scott Sprague did an excellent job as the Chapter President; I am grateful for his guidance and assistance as I transitioned into the role of President. Dana did a fantastic job as Treasurer these past two years and will be sorely missed on the board. And Mike Sorum did a great job keeping our minutes as Recording Secretary.

A major task that our board will undertake this year is planning for the 2018 JAM, during which we will celebrate our chapter's 50th anniversary. We can't do it without help from our members. If you have been considering getting involved with the chapter but were not sure where you would fit in, please contact me or one of the other board members (contact info on the front page of this newsletter), and we will be happy to get you plugged into our planning process. The more, the merrier!

Last year, we began planning another Fun Shoot similar to the one held in 2013. The planning for that event is still underway. Jonathan Hicks has stepped up to help plan and run this event. The date has been set for May 21st. An announcement with more details can be found on p. 11. If there is any interest, while we have chapter members gathered together already, we are considering having a

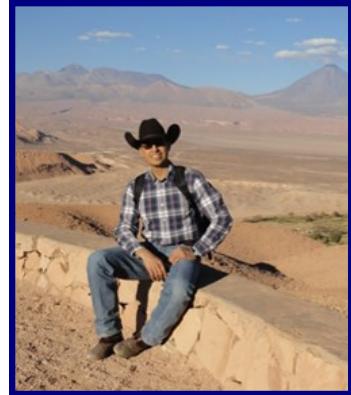
(Continued on page 3)

Regional News:

Highlights from SW Section Representative to TWS Council

By: Fidel Hernandez

The Texas mountain laurels (*Sophora secundiflora*) are a bit late blooming this year. In most years in southern Texas, it's mid-February when the first breezes that carry the fragrant blooms of mountain laurels arrive. It is one of my favorite times of year – the blooms are colorful, and their fragrance is one of a kind. This year, however, it's mid-March, and the blooms have yet to come. Rains were generous in early spring, but I guess Mother Nature is simply taking her time. What are a few more weeks? In any case, I await with much anticipation the mountain laurel blooms and smelling their unique fragrance.



A Texas mountain laurel in full bloom. Photo by Fidel Hernandez.

The soon-to-be-blooming mountain laurels mean spring is here, and thus it also means a gathering of TWS Council. I recently returned from our TWS Council meetings (4–7 March 2017) held during the 82nd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Spokane, Washington. As always, there was much to cover in two days of meetings. Below are brief highlights of these Council meetings as well as general news from the Section.

TWS NEWS

Every Council meeting begins with a status of the society – our status of membership and financial condition. I am happy to report that the positive trajecto-

(Continued on page 3)

Presidents Message cont...

(Continued from page 2)

members' campout nearby that evening after the Fun Shoot.

This month, we held our 7th annual Wildlife Techniques Workshop on April 15th at the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area. Holly Hicks is the Workshop Coordinator and worked with a group of volunteers from our chapter to ensure another successful workshop. There was already a waiting list by the end of February, so we may extend the workshop out to a 2-day event again next year to try to accommodate everyone interested in participating.

Last year, we started a new Job Board on the chapter website (<https://aztws.com/category/jobs>) with postings of both volunteer and paid positions. If you are looking for either type of opportunity, be sure to check the website. Also, please consider sending announcements for available positions to our Opportunities Coordinator, Callie Hartson, at aztwscalendar@gmail.com, and she will post them on the Job Board.

It's never too early to start thinking about who you may want to nominate for an award this year. In addition, consider nominating yourself or a colleague for an officer position. Feel free to ask any board member if you have questions about what we do on the board. You may send in your nominations for both awards and officer candidates to our President Elect, Tiffany Sprague (tasprague@gmail.com).

I hope you enjoy the articles in this issue of the newsletter. If you have an interesting article or exciting project to write about, please consider submitting those to our Newsletter Editor, Tiffany Sprague (aztwseditor@gmail.com). Suggestions for improvement on any aspect of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society or ideas for engaging our members are always welcome; feel free to send me your comments at knicholson@logansimpson.com.

Kay Nicholson
AZTWS Chapter President

Regional News cont...

(Continued from page 2)

ry that began for TWS about four years ago continues to the present. Executive Director Ken Williams reported that TWS has recorded three consecutive years in which the approved budget included a surplus (i.e., positive net income) and, for three consecutive years, those budgeted surplus amounts were met or exceeded. As of the end of January 2017, TWS assets were about \$2.8 million, and liabilities were about \$1.1 million, resulting in an equity position of \$1.75 million. And the future looks good for this year's budget. It is anticipated that TWS will meet the surplus goal by the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

Where does this surplus go? Part of it was used to stabilize TWS finances that had been shaky prior to the turn-around. Some monies go toward a rainy-day fund to help ensure that TWS has a surplus to cover at least six months of operation costs should an unanticipated, catastrophic event occur. This "rainy-day fund" is a standard accounting practice that is part of many businesses but only in recent years has been implemented in TWS. Another portion of the annual surplus goes toward operational costs or paying for member services, such as the recent member benefit of free journal access. In any event, the positive financial turn-around and growth that TWS has experienced is exciting and in a large part due to Director Williams' leadership, in conjunction with the invaluable contribution of the entire TWS staff and Council.

Regarding membership, Director Williams reported that the long-awaited rebound in membership seems at last to have begun in earnest. There have been consistent year-on-year increases in membership. TWS has initiated many new efforts to attract and retain members, including an aggressive effort to reach out to the states and provinces and their biologists, expanding the content and frequency of *The Wildlife Professional* and access by members to TWS journals, and the new Give-Back program. As a result of these dedi-

(Continued on page 4)

Regional News cont...

(Continued from page 3)

cated efforts, membership as of January 2017 was 9,527 members (compared to 8,649 in January 2016) – an increase of 878 members (+10.1%).

TWS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

As many of you know, Director Ken Williams is retiring at the end of this fiscal year (30 June). Thus, TWS has been involved in a search for an executive director since last October. TWS received about 30 applicants, from which five were selected for on-site interviews after intensive review of applications and phone interviews. These five in-person interviews were conducted in conjunction with our March Council meeting. Based on these interviews, the search committee made recommendations to President Bruce Thompson. As of the time of this writing, a formal announcement of the new executive director has not been made. However, it is anticipated that the new executive director will be announced in the near future. So stay tuned for news from TWS.



Ken Williams, current Executive Director of TWS, will retire on 30 June 2017. Photo courtesy of TWS.

GIVE BACK PROGRAM

As I mentioned above, one of the new recruiting efforts of TWS is to offer current members the ability to share a free 6-month membership with a colleague of their choosing. That is, when a current member renews his/her membership, he/she has the opportunity to “Give Back” to the wildlife profession by gifting a 6-month complimentary TWS membership to a wildlife professional who presently is not a member but can benefit from the many services that TWS has to offer. This 6-month membership is free, with no obligation of the recipient to join TWS. There appeared to be some confusion that the membership was for one year, with six months of the membership being free but with the recipient paying the remaining six months. This is incorrect. The membership is free for six months with no obligation to join (i.e., pay for the additional six months). For nominees accepting their 6-month gift membership, they will enjoy the following benefits:

- *The Wildlife Professional* bimonthly magazine
- Free online access to all TWS publications (*The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs*, and *Wildlife Society Bulletin*)
- Weekly editions of the eWildlifer newsletter, including featured TWS Talks presentations
- Networking through the TWS Online Member Directory
- Ability to join any and all working groups
- Ability to pursue certification opportunities
- A variety of members-only discounts, including \$200 off TWS Annual Conference registration

So, as you renew your membership this year, be sure to nominate a deserving wildlife professional for this great opportunity. It is easy, free, and, best of all, beneficial to a fellow wildlifer.

(Continued on page 5)

Regional News cont...

(Continued from page 4)

CALL FOR TWS AWARD NOMINATIONS

It is that time of year again. This is a friendly reminder that the deadline for nominations for several TWS awards is on the horizon (**1 May 2017**). Here is a brief description of these awards:

- **Aldo Leopold Memorial Award**: This is the highest honor bestowed by TWS for distinguished service to wildlife conservation. The basic selection criterion is the significance of an individual's contribution to the wildlife field.
- **Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research**: The Caesar Kleberg Award recognizes those who have distinguished themselves in applied wildlife research and is focused on those whose body of work, in both inquiry and discovery, has resulted in application of management and conservation "on the ground."
- **Chapter of the Year Award**: Active state chapters are needed to achieve TWS goals, many of which are best addressed at the state, provincial, or local level. The State Chapter of the Year Award pays tribute to these chapters and recognizes exceptional achievement.
- **Conservation Education Award**: Conservation education covers a wide diversity of activity. It encompasses particular works of great merit and also programs representing sustained effort that can achieve great significance over the years. The Conservation Education Award is given in each one of the following categories on a four-year-rotation basis: writing, audio-visual works, media, and programs.
- **Distinguished Service Award**: The Wildlife Society Distinguished Service Award recognizes TWS members who have made a long-term commitment to the Society based on at least 20 years of membership and actions to further the mission of the Society. The member is someone who is/was "always there" and could be counted on to serve the chapter, section, or parent organization.
- **Diversity Award**: The Diversity Award recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding efforts in promoting ethnic and gender diversity in the natural resource professions, especially wildlife conservation and education. Recognized activities may focus on encouraging ethnic and gender diversity in the workforce, academic enrollment, or organizational membership.
- **Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship**: This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Don Rusch and to continue his legacy by contributing to studies of game-bird biology. The award is presented annually to a graduate student studying any aspect of upland game bird or waterfowl biology and management.
- **Excellence in Wildlife Education Award**: This award celebrates exemplary teaching and contributes to the improvement of wildlife education by honoring individual faculty members. Eligible faculty should be actively engaged in undergraduate and/or graduate wildlife-related education with outstanding performance in at least one of the following categories: teaching, advising, research, academic program development, or educational leadership.
- **Honorary Membership**: Honorary Memberships recognize continuous outstanding service to any area of concern of TWS by a TWS member who is a practicing or retired wildlife professional.

(Continued on page 6)

Regional News cont...

(Continued from page 5)

- *Jay N. "Ding" Darling Award for Wildlife Stewardship Through Art:* This award is intended to be a lasting recognition of the heritage established by Jay N. "Ding" Darling to promote wildlife and habitat conservation through art. His legacy of artwork and associated conservation messages were instrumental in achieving significant wildlife conservation measures. Among them were the creation of the Federal Duck Stamp Program, National Wildlife Federation, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program, the groundwork for today's system of National Wildlife Refuges, and many broadly recognized cartoons advocating land and water conservation.
- *Jim McDonough Award:* This award is presented to a TWS member who is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and a member of the section and chapter where the individual resides. The recipient is recognized for making a significant contribution to the wildlife profession by being an active member/participant of TWS, especially at local levels and through program implementation and development of new techniques or approaches in an area, state, or province. Additionally, the recipient is the kind of person recognized by his/her fellow workers as a solid contributor and a "true professional" but who has gone without major awards, citations, or prominent recognitions.
- *Special Recognition Service Award:* This award honors a person or group who has made an outstanding contribution over the short or long term to one or more of the following areas: the wildlife profession; general areas of wildlife conservation, management, or science; or a specific area of endeavor, species, community, ecosystem, region, etc.
- *Student Chapter Advisor of the Year:* This award recognizes exceptional annual mentorship by a TWS student chapter advisor.
- *Student Chapter of the Year Award:* Active student chapters are needed to achieve TWS goals, many of which are best addressed at the state, provincial, or local level. Chapters also strengthen the Society's membership recruitment and retention efforts by providing opportunities for member involvement in Society activities. The Student Chapter of the Year Award pays tribute to and recognizes exceptional achievement.
- We have many outstanding people in the Southwest Section who contribute considerably to TWS at various capacities. Be sure to nominate a deserving colleague. Visit the TWS Award website (<http://wildlife.org/engage/awards>) to get more details, learn of past honorees, and download nomination applications.

SECTION NEWS

One of the main issues the Southwest Section has struggled with over the years is how to be relevant to members who are part of a section that is comprised of three very strong and active state chapters. Many different ideas have been proposed and tested over the years to attract and better serve section members, but the reality is that most of the services that are valuable to section members such as networking, dissemination research, etc. are provided at the state level. So, during the recent Southwest Section Executive Board meeting in San Antonio, a brainstorming session led to the idea that, instead of attempting to offer services that were so adeptly provided by state chapters, a better approach could be to provide one or two relevant services to section members. One idea was to sponsor a workshop of interest to the membership during each annual conference of the respective state chapters. Naturally, such approach would require close collaboration with the respective executive boards of the state chapters as well as workshop ideas from the membership. If you have any ideas on potential workshop top-

(Continued on page 7)

Regional News cont...

(Continued from page 6)

ics or on how the Southwest Section can better serve our membership, please contact me or any officer of the Executive Board of the Section.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Just a reminder that the 24th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, during **23–27 September 2017**. Ginny Seamster from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, along with the local committee, has been busy assisting the parent society with fundraising, planning, and local arrangements. There is plenty of work to do, so if you are interested in helping with any of these activities, please contact Ginny (Virginia.Seamster@state.nm.us). I am sure she would welcome your help.

Well, that's all for now. I think the Texas mountain laurel blooms are opening!

Until next time,

Fidel Hernández

Fidel Hernández
Southwest Section Representative of TWS



2nd place “Wild Mammals” photo contest winner. See p. 21 for more photos from the contest! Photo by Emma Van Pelt.

AZTWS Continuing Education Grant

Applications may be submitted at any time and will be reviewed quarterly by the Committee in January, April, July, and October. Applicants will be notified of the Committee's decision within 30 days of the Committee's review. The Continuing Education 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.

Total available grant amounts are limited to \$2,000 per year with the maximum individual grant capped at \$1,000. Grants are limited to Chapter members.

Grant application forms are available on the Chapter webpages at <https://aztws.com/resources/continuing> or may be obtained from Chair of the Continuing Education Committee, Stan Cunningham (Stanley.Cunningham@asu.edu).



We need articles, stories, and pictures for upcoming newsletters.

The Arizona Wildlifer Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Summer 2017	Jun 16, 2017
Fall 2017	Sep 15, 2017

Email submissions to aztwseditor@gmail.com.

Meet Your 2017 AZTWS Board!

Kay Nicholson, President

Kay is a senior wildlife biologist for Logan Simpson in its Tempe, Arizona, office. She specializes in Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act compliance, is a qualified biologist for conducting airport wildlife hazard assessments, and works with a wide variety of species and project types. Kay enjoys working in the field and has volunteered with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the Arizona Bat Working Group on various special projects with species such as the desert tortoise, Mexican gray wolf, black-footed ferret, southwestern willow flycatcher, and an array of bat species. Kay has been a member of TWS since 2002. For the chapter, she previously served on the 2012 and 2016 JAM planning committees and as President-Elect, Recording Secretary, Board Member-at-Large, and Newsletter Editor. She received a BS in Animal Science from Oregon State University in 1996 and a MS in Environmental Resources from Arizona State University in 2003. For her MS thesis project, Kay studied small mammal abundance, distribution, and habitat selection at an urban-rural interface in northern Phoenix.



Tiffany Sprague, President Elect

Tiffany Sprague has devoted her life to protecting our natural world while educating and inspiring others to do the same. For the past 10 years, she has worked with the Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter of Sierra Club, focusing on education and outreach regarding Arizona's environment. She is also currently finishing her MS in Applied Biological Sciences at Arizona State University, for which she studied micro-habitat selection and movements of northern Mexican gartersnakes. Previously, she worked on a variety of wildlife and habitat restoration projects with the National Park Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Army National Guard, and Northern Arizona University. Tiffany has been honored to serve as a board member for AZTWS for the past four years and very much looks forward to her continued involvement. Oh, and don't worry – as President Elect, she has no plans to build a wall or to drain the swamp.

(Continued on page 9)

AZTWS Board cont...

(Continued from page 8)

Andrew Jones, Treasurer

Andrew Jones was born and raised in Wyoming, earned a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from Washington State University in 2008, and joined the Research Branch of the Arizona Game and Fish Department in 2009. From 2010–2014, he led a research project that evaluated the impacts of off-highway vehicle road networks on kit fox space use. Currently, he is leading a four-year research project evaluating predator-prey interactions between desert bighorn sheep and mountain lions. Additionally, he is finishing his thesis for a Master's degree from Northern Arizona University, which focuses on spatial predictions of desert bighorn sheep habitat quality in Arizona. Andrew is looking forward to being more involved in our professional organization, serving as a resource for early-career professionals, and contributing to the planning and organization of successful TWS joint annual meetings.



Jessica Moreno, Corresponding Secretary

Jessica Moreno is a wildlife biologist and science communicator with 10 years of experience in non-invasive carnivore research and wildlife corridor conservation in the Arizona-Sonora borderlands. Born in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona, she had an early affinity for nature. In 2004, she began helping Sky Island Alliance, a local non-profit, with ocelot and jaguar monitoring, wildlife tracking instruction, and wilderness protection. After graduating from University of Arizona with a degree in Wildlife Conservation and Management in 2007, she worked for the UA Wild Cat Research and Conservation Center leading urban mountain lion and bobcat studies. She is a certified wildlife tracker and worked for the last seven years with Sky Island Alliance leading an internationally-recognized citizen science wildlife monitoring program to monitor and conserve wildlife linkages. In addition to her technical science expertise, she has experience in online, print, and broadcast media communications, website design, public outreach, comment writing, and fundraising and development. She has a passion for carnivores, outdoor cooking, and wild open spaces. Jessica is an enthusiastic collaborator, dedicated to connecting people to conservation to protect our quality of life.

Jessica Moreno is a wildlife biologist and science communicator with 10 years of experience in non-invasive carnivore research and wildlife corridor conservation in the Arizona-Sonora borderlands. Born in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona, she had an early affinity for nature. In 2004, she began helping Sky Island Alliance, a local non-profit, with ocelot and jaguar monitoring, wildlife tracking instruction, and wilderness protection. After graduating from University of Arizona with a degree in Wildlife Conservation and Management in 2007, she worked for the UA Wild Cat Research and Conservation Center leading urban mountain lion and bobcat studies. She is a certified wildlife tracker and worked for the last seven years with Sky Island Alliance leading an internationally-recognized citizen science wildlife monitoring program to monitor and conserve wildlife linkages. In addition to her technical science expertise, she has experience in online, print, and broadcast media communications, website design, public outreach, comment writing, and fundraising and development. She has a passion for carnivores, outdoor cooking, and wild open spaces. Jessica is an enthusiastic collaborator, dedicated to connecting people to conservation to protect our quality of life.

(Continued on page 10)

AZTWS Board cont...

(Continued from page 9)



Melanie Tluczek, Recording Secretary

Melanie Tluczek is the Assistant Director for McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Field Institute, where she leads the citizen science program and field operations for Field Institute research projects in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Melanie has a Master's degree in wildlife ecology from Arizona State University, for which she spent three years crawling after a herd of pronghorn in order to study their diets and water requirements. During this time, she supported herself as a field and GIS technician and took odd jobs mapping, digging up historical data, and writing. Her current interests include methods for measuring ecological health, community engagement, and a continued fascination with all things living in the Sonoran Desert.

Holly Hicks, Board Member (2016-2017)

Holly Hicks is the Small Mammals Biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. She earned her Conservation Biology degree in 2008 at Arizona State University. Holly's work entails management of Gunnison's prairie dogs, black-footed ferrets, and New Mexico meadow jumping mice and re-establishment of black-tailed prairie dogs. She has dedicated the last nine years to volunteering at Liberty Wildlife helping rehabilitate injured wildlife. In her free time, she enjoys the outdoors, running, and traveling. Holly has served on the board of the Arizona chapter of The Wildlife Society in various roles since 2010. She is also the Chair for the annual Wildlife Techniques Workshop that is offered to students and young professionals and is the state chapter's Student Liaison.



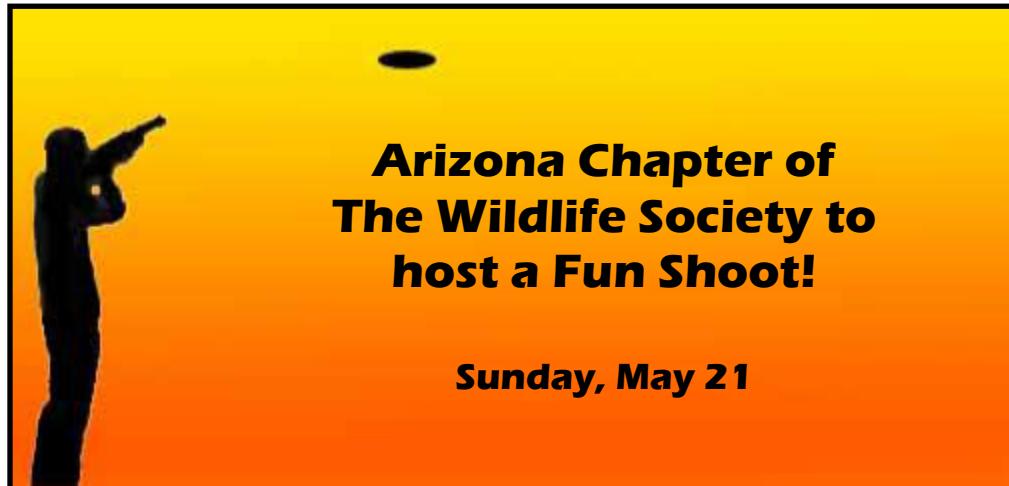
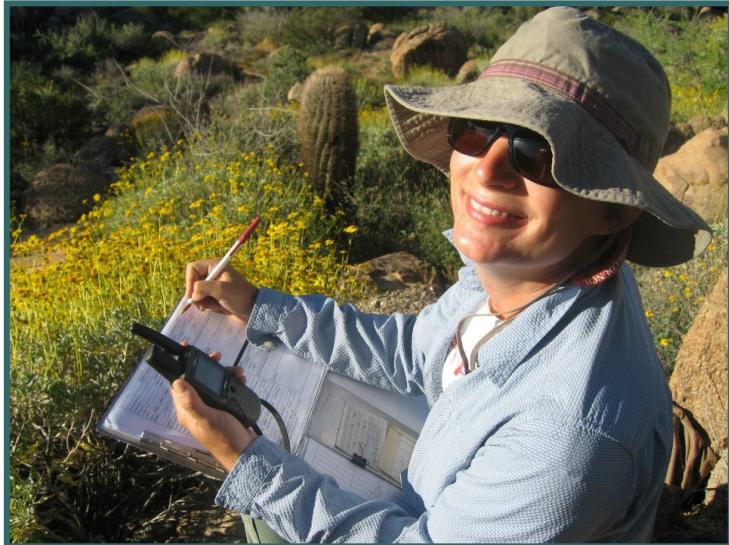
(Continued on page 11)

AZTWS Board cont...

(Continued from page 10)

Audrey Owens, Board Member (2017-2018)

Audrey Owens is the Ranid Frogs Project Coordinator at the Arizona Game and Fish Department. She has worked for the Department since she moved to Arizona in 2007. She has a BS in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from University of Florida and an MS in Forest Resources from University of Georgia. She has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 2002, and has served on the AZTWS Board in several positions over the years. She is pleased to serve on the board again because she believes the chapter has an important role in fostering professionalism, leadership, and communication in new and established wildlife professionals in Arizona.



Kick off your summer with a blast! This event will be ideal for shooters of all skill levels – from beginner to advanced. Guns, ammo, and eye/ear protection provided.

Students and professionals welcome!

We are still finalizing details, but please contact us to register and for more information.

Contact Jonathan Hicks at (949) 677-4590 or jhicks@azgfd.gov.

Congratulations to the 2016 AZTWS Chapter Award Winners!

Roger Hungerford Student Award

Sarah Hale

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.

This year's Roger Hungerford Student Award went to Sarah Hale. Sarah is a doctoral student at University of Arizona who is committed to conservation and to making a difference in our natural world. Her research focuses on critical issues in conservation biology, such as the role of keystone species, restoration, and correlates of rarity. She is a skilled communicator and motivator who has worked closely with land management agencies for conservation of wildlife. Sarah is also a dedicated and passionate educator and has engaged dozens of students in her research, has presented her research in a variety of settings, and has served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in introductory biology. Sarah's combination of professional drive, passion to learn, independence, intellect, and dedication to conservation issues make her an ideal recipient of this award.



Amanda Veals (left) accepts the award on behalf of Sarah Hale from President Kay Nicholson.

Chad Rubke (right) and President Kay Nicholson.

Doug Morrison Award

Chad Rubke

This award is 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. This award exemplifies the dedicated work ethic of our Chapter's former President and U.S. Forest Service Biologist, Doug Morrison.

This year's Doug Morrison Award went to Chad Rubke. He is a Wildlife Specialist with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, but his impact reaches well beyond his job duties. During his five years with the department, he has worked on multiple teams and always plays an important role. He has assisted in a burgeoning monitoring program for Sonoran desert tortoises, and his contributions to monitoring tortoises on the ground have assisted managers with developing and implementing recommendations in their candidate conservation agreement and have also been essential for understanding population trends and

monitoring program for Sonoran desert tortoises, and his contributions to monitoring tortoises on the ground have assisted managers with developing and implementing recommendations in their candidate conservation agreement and have also been essential for understanding population trends and

(Continued on page 13)

Chapter Awards cont...

(Continued from page 12)

detecting problems. Chad's work ethic and drive are outstanding, and his dedication to his work is sincere and selfless. Arizona, the Sonoran desert tortoise, and the department have benefitted immensely from his efforts. We are pleased to recognize his dedication with the Doug Morrison Award.

Conservation Award

Liberty Wildlife

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) that contributes significantly to the conservation of wildlife and/or their habitat in Arizona.

This year's Conservation Award went to Liberty Wildlife, a non-profit organization that serves the community by rehabilitating native wildlife. Liberty began more than 30 years ago when Dr. Kathy Orr, a veterinarian from Scottsdale, began to care for wildlife in her own home. Now, with more than 250 volunteers, it is deeply committed to environmental education, participating in more than 800 events a year involving live animal demonstrations. Liberty also provides feathers to more than 180 different Native American tribes. Liberty has rescued and rehabilitated more than 6,000 animals a year. This organization is vital for much-needed educational and rehabilitation support for native wildlife within Arizona, and we are honored to recognize Liberty Wildlife with our Conservation Award.



Holly Hicks (left) accepts the award on behalf of Liberty Wildlife from President Kay Nicholson.



Tiffany Sprague (right) accepts the award on behalf of Sandy Bahr.

Scrapping Bear Award

Sandy Bahr

The Scrapping Bear Award is given to a person who has gone beyond the normal call of duty in support of wildlife issues and has made exceptional contributions toward the management and protection of wildlife and habitat resources. The recipient has also stood up for what he/she thought was right, even if it was controversial or perceived as contrary to their agency's official position or supervisor's positions or that had the potential to put the recipients job on the line.

This year's recipient was Sandy Bahr, the Chapter Director of Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter. She has devoted her life to our wild lands and wildlife and is one of the strongest and most persistent advocates for protection of these resources. She is a staunch supporter of science and consistently encourages use of the best available science in all resource management decisions. Because of this, she often finds herself in highly controversial situations, yet she never falters in speaking out and working toward sensible solutions.

(Continued on page 14)

Chapter Awards cont...

(Continued from page 13)

Sandy is also a firm believer in the power of education and public involvement and works tirelessly to engage the public in natural resource planning. Sandy is a voice of reason for resources that cannot speak for themselves, and our state and its natural resources would be lost without her. As the nominators said, this award really could be called the Sandy Bahr Award and given to a scrapping bear.

Professional Service Award

Tice Supplee

This award is given to an Arizona biologist for outstanding contributions to management and conservation of wildlife. The individual is also recognized for his/her professional work standards and conduct.

Tice Supplee was one of the pioneers for women in wildlife ecology while working in research, as a habitat specialist and finally as Game Branch Supervisor at the Arizona Game and Fish Department. She made a name for herself by conducting desert fieldwork, law enforcement, and political scrapping at some of the highest levels. Her direct nature and personality, as well as her determination, hard work, intelligence, and grit earned great respect, when certainly the initial years of her career were when wildlife biology was still largely a “man’s world.” Current and future biologists owe her for helping to blaze that trail for women to come behind her. In 2004, Tice left the department and began working with Audubon Arizona, where she advocates for wildlife and habitat, and engages the public in numerous citizen science efforts. In her limited free time, she volunteers to lead classes and field trips in order to train future generations of natural resource scientists. Tice is an outstanding example of a hardworking and experienced naturalist who is passionate about conserving Arizona’s wildlife, and we are pleased to recognize her with our Professional Service Award.



Tice Supplee (right) and President Kay Nicholson.

Two new awards!

In 2016, our chapter decided to create two new awards in order to recognize two of our most dedicated members and contributors. Our existing awards did not quite encapsulate everything these individuals have done for our chapter and for wildlife conservation.

Outstanding Service to the Chapter

Holly Hicks

The first of these two new awards is our Outstanding Service to the Chapter Award, which recognizes an individual who has expended significant time and effort to provide exceptional service to our chapter and its members.

Because the recipient serves on our board, the rest of the board members had to carry on secret discussions and maintain two variations of our annual report just to keep this a surprise. We were pleased to finally let the ferret out of the bag and to recognize Holly Hicks with this well-deserved award.

(Continued on page 15)

Chapter Awards cont...

(Continued from page 14)



Holly Hicks (right) and President Kay Nicholson.

Holly has been a vital part of our chapter for a number of years. She has served as Student Chapter Liaison since 2011 and has been on the board since 2010. She is often the first contact people have with our chapter and helps keep them engaged through open, honest communication and her always-positive demeanor. She is the impetus behind our annual Wildlife Techniques Workshop, an active and willing part of the JAM Quiz Bowl, and an incredible resource to students and professionals throughout our state.

When we reached out to others for input on this nomination, we received an outpouring of support. We quickly noticed some common themes among this input, including what an amazing resource she is for students, her enthusiasm, her role as a mentor, her openness and genuine interest in others, and how she always goes above and beyond.

One thing that every supporter mentioned is that Holly is definitely deserving of this award. We couldn't agree more, and we were so pleased to present her with our very first Outstanding Service to the Chapter Award.

David E. Brown Lifetime Achievement Award

David Brown

Our second new award bears the name of its recipient: the David E. Brown Lifetime Achievement Award. From here forward, this highly prestigious award will recognize an individual for his or her accomplishments in wildlife biology and management over their lifetime.

Few, if any, people have contributed more to the understanding and science-based management of the wildlife of Arizona, New Mexico, and northern Mexico than Dave Brown. He has a special ability to consider the entire history of a species, documenting population declines, range expansions, and anthropogenic influences in order to clearly express management recommendations to scientists, managers, and the public. His broad interests and insatiable curiosity have lead him all over the world, including more than half the states in the U.S., 30 Mexican states, Central America, Cuba, Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. These interests have resulted in more than 120 scientific and technical papers and more than 20 books on topics ranging from grizzly bears to Gila



David Brown (right) and President Kay Nicholson.

(Continued on page 16)

Chapter Awards cont...

(Continued from page 15)

monsters to the entire vegetation classification of the SW U.S. and NW Mexico, which has become a bible for defining biotic zones in the sky island region.

Dave started his wildlife career in 1961 at 23 years of age. Wildlife politics were as contentious then as they are now, but Dave bridged political gaps through his exemplary performance as a Wildlife Manager and his keen insights into wildlife and their habitats. He was one of, if not *the*, first person to have cattle reduced on a State Land grazing allotment. He also authored and championed a resolution to re-establish wolves and grizzly bears to Arizona and New Mexico. Among his most important contributions are his documentation of long-term trends in wildlife distribution and numbers, including decades of annual surveys of scaled quail and jackrabbits in southern Arizona. He has also demonstrated human impacts on jaguars, Mexican wolves, antelope jackrabbits, masked bobwhite, and Imperial woodpeckers through historical accounts, personal recollections, and genetic material.

Dave has mentored hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students and often collaborates with them on research projects in an effort to give them a leg up on their careers. He constantly pushes students to look deeper into a subject, to see it from numerous perspectives, and to challenge assumptions.

Dave is a rare breed in this age of specialization, a naturalist in the truest sense of the word. We are inspired for all he's done for wildlife science and conservation and are thrilled to be able to recognize his accomplishments through this legacy award.

Students Compete in 4th Annual Quiz Bowl

By Heather Bateman, 2017 JAM Quiz Bowl Chair



Left: NMSU answers a bonus question about a bison collar. *Right:* Competing against the NMSU champs in the fun student vs. professionals round were (from left to right) Scott Sprague, Jennifer Frey, Quentin Hays, and James Dominguez. Photos by Heather Bateman.

The competition kicked off with this question: "What is the common name of a trout species that is native to both Arizona and New Mexico?" (Answer at the end of article.)

Quiz Bowl is an exciting trivia-type competition during which teams of four students compete in matches by answering questions on wildlife and fisheries trivia. This year, nine teams from schools in Arizona and New Mexico competed in Quiz Bowl at the Joint Annual Meeting. Single-elimination

(Continued on page 17)

Quiz Bowl cont...

(Continued from page 16)

matches were held for 10 minutes each until the final two teams competed in one 15 minute match. Students had been studying hard to learn scientific names of wildlife, fish, and plants; skull and skin characteristics of animals; and trivia related to our professional societies. Teams fielded questions related to specimens of *Mephitis*, *Nasua*, and *Kinosternon* and questions on techniques and even drone technology. One bonus question included a large telemetry collar used to fit bison – compliments of Arizona Game and Fish Department. The final match pitted last year's winning school (Arizona State University) against the previous winner (New Mexico State University). In the end, the championship went to NMSU. Congrats to the Quiz Bowl Champs who will host a travelling plaque until next year's show-down!

New this year, we held a final match between the student champs and wildlife and fishery professionals. This round began with a question from the cult-classic movie *The Princess Bride*. Questions were silly and a fun way to end a night of serious competition. Many thanks to the professional competitors!

Many of these teams are planning to compete in Quiz Bowl on the national stage during the annual TWS meeting to be held in Albuquerque in September. Some of the Arizona schools are planning a scrimmage to help the teams practice in a competition setting and to sharpen their trivia skills.

Thank you to professionals who helped to organize and prepare questions and specimens: Audrey Owens was the moderator, Tiffany Sprague ran the buzzers, Scott Sprague and Jonathan Hicks wrangled specimens, Sid Riddle helped keep time, Amberle Jones designed the winning prizes, and Kent Mosher helped with fish trivia. Judges included Holly Hicks, Tiffany Love-Chezem, and Leland Pierce. Dan Trujillo made the room and audio-visual come together, and many people helped out that night to make Quiz Bowl a success!

(Answer: *Gila trout!*)

* * * * *

Standing Invitations!

Call for Award Nominees

Submit your valued co-workers and partners for one of our Chapter Awards (see categories and criteria by visiting <http://aztws.com> and clicking on "Awards"). Let's recognize our finest! Submit your nominations to our President Elect, Tiffany Sprague (tasprague@gmail.com).



Call for Chapter Officer and Board Member Nominees

Also: Please consider becoming active with the Chapter as an officer or board member. You can learn about positions and responsibilities by visiting <http://aztws.com> and clicking on "About," then "Executive Board Positions." Nominations are due in November of each year, with elections occurring in January. Contact Tiffany Sprague (tasprague@gmail.com) to register your interest. We'd love to have you on our board!

* * * * *

Student Voice

Update from Arizona State University Student Chapter

By Katie Hansford, Wildlife and Restoration Student Association Vice President



Arizona State University 2017 Quiz Bowl teams with mentor Stan Cunningham. Photo by Molly Fifield.

This year, the Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico chapters of The Wildlife Society met in Farmington, New Mexico. Perhaps one of the greatest opportunities for students at this year's JAM was the student-mentor lunch. Many professionals in the wildlife field highlight the importance of internships, volunteer work, and building connections with professionals in the field, and this was such a grand opportunity for students because not only did it allow them to meet with professionals from Arizona Game and Fish Department, but it allowed students to meet with other members from The Wildlife Society who are employed in both non-governmental organizations, as well as federal organizations that work with wildlife.

Another great endeavor on the part of Arizona State University was the four students who presented their posters at the JAM meeting. Cheyenne Herzog presented a poster that discussed the preliminary results of her research on the San Pedro, monitoring how the invasive salt cedar affects mesocarnivore abundance. This research will be continued as she begins her 4+1 Master's program at ASU. Lauren Jackson also presented her findings on how mite load varies between parthenogenetic and sexual species and how habitat (native vs. invasive) affects these mite loads. Tiffany Sprague presented a poster on her final research for her Master's project on northern Mexican gartersnake movement and habitat selection. Sid Riddle began his Master's thesis work this summer and presented preliminary results on how riparian species abundance is affected by salt cedar on the San Pedro.

(Continued on page 19)

Student Voice, cont...

(Continued from page 18)

Returning with high hopes for a second win, the ASU “A” team placed second in the student Quiz Bowl, losing by only 25 points to New Mexico State’s “A” team. ASU will be back next year to hopefully reclaim its title, this time perhaps armed with more knowledge of fisheries and birds. I personally hope to come back next year and win, if at least for the sake of Stan Cunningham and Heather Bate-man, slightly amused but slightly annoyed at our lack of knowledge regarding waterfowl and birds.

Following the conclusion of JAM, ASU is hoping to cause a stir at the national meeting of The Wildlife Society in Albuquerque. As a result of this JAM, ASU has forged stronger connections with the U of A and NAU and hopes to meet and practice for the national conference in September. ASU was delighted to be included in the JAM and hopes that by increasing student participation, we can forge relationships with professionals in the wildlife field, as many WRSA students plan on attending and participating next year.

Make Sure 2017 is the Year You Contact Your Representatives

By Jon Hanna, Conservation Affairs Committee Chair



Photo by Tiffany Sprague.

Your public lands are under attack, and you don't need to look any further than Arizona to get involved. Several of Arizona's Congressional members have supported or promoted legislation and ideology to dismantle and privatize America's public lands – specifically Arizona's Congressman Paul Gosar and Senator Jeff Flake. Rep. Gosar, who represents much of western Arizona, has introduced or cosponsored several anti-public-lands bills. Gosar also showed support for the Bundys during the now-infamous Nevada standoff between the militia and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) when the agency tried to round up Cliven Bundy's trespassing livestock. Gosar even traveled to Bunkerville, Nevada, during the conflict. Gosar is also the Chairman of the Congressional Western

Caucus, which “is committed to protecting private property rights, strengthening local control, fostering economic growth, preserving multiple-use of public land, and increasing energy independence. [The Caucus] believes economic growth and conservation are not mutually exclusive goals and can be accomplished by promoting balanced, common-sense reforms.”

(Continued on page 20)

Contact Representatives cont...

(Continued from page 19)

Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) is Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power. He introduced the “Mohave County Federal Lands Management Act,” which would “establish a process for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in consultation with Mohave County, to sell federally-owned land through a public process at fair market value. This would allow Mohave County, which is nearly 70% federally-owned, to increase its local tax base through increased private land ownership. Additionally, BLM would divest itself of land it has identified as no longer needing, with proceeds from land sales going toward reducing the federal budget deficit.”

Let’s take a look at that “fair market value.” In January, efforts to liquidate our public lands took a step forward with a vote in the House of Representatives to designate public lands transfers “budget neutral,” which places a monetary value of exactly zero on our lands. In a single line of changes to the rules for the House of Representatives, the values of federal lands were overwritten, easing the path to disposing of federal property – even if doing so loses money for the government and provides no demonstrable compensation to American citizens.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), the top Democrat on the Natural Resources Committee, sent a letter to fellow Democrats urging them to oppose the rules package on the basis of that proposal. “The House Republican plan to give away America’s public lands for free is outrageous and absurd,” Grijalva said in a statement. “This proposed rule change would make it easier to implement this plan by allowing the Congress to give away every single piece of property we own, for free, and pretend we have lost nothing of any value.

Other major developments that are being proposed: Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bishop has requested \$50 million of taxpayer money to be spent on the immediate transfer of public lands to states’ control. The Chairman’s budget request states that “federal lands create a burden for surrounding states and communities” and the “solution is to convey certain lands to state, local, and tribal governments.”

Let’s conclude with some good news. There are examples of how involvement from the public can put a stop to this assault on our federal lands. In February, sportsmen flooded the office of Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) with phone calls, letters, tweets, and Facebook messages about his unpopular and dangerous public lands bill, H.R. 621. H.R. 621 was the “Disposal of Excess Federal Lands Act” and called for the responsible disposal of 3.3 million acres of land identified as being suitable for sale to non-federal entities. The bill claimed that “these lands have been deemed to serve no purpose for taxpayers.” Shortly after the public outcry, he dropped the legislation that would have enabled the sale of 3.3 million acres of public lands.

Need some guidance for getting involved and taking action? Check out the activist toolkit provided by The Wilderness Society: http://bit.ly/activist_toolkit.



Photo by Scott Sprague.

Congratulations to the 2017 Photo Contest Winners!

By Christina Kondrat-Smith,
2017 JAM Photo Contest Committee Chair

This year's 2017 Arizona/New Mexico chapters of The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society Joint Annual Meeting photo contest was jam packed with 63 entries on display. Members entered the contest with their wildest memories and experiences in the traditional categories, such as Wild Mammals, Birds, Herps, Fish, Invertebrates, and Landscape. In honor of the 50th JAM celebration, additional categories were opened, which included Historic AZ/NM wildlifers, "Caught in the Act," Remote Cameras, and "NextGen." Voting was conducted by participants, and winners were announced at the Friday night banquet.

Thank you to all the participants and members who made their vote heard for this year's winners!

This year's 2017 Photo Contest Winners:

BEST OF SHOW

Cody Bear

Wild Mammals

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 st – Susan Bard | 1 st – Cody Bear |
| 2 nd – Emma Van Pelt | 2 nd – Larisa Harding |
| 3 rd – Faith Walker | 3 rd – Sarah Grubel |

Wild Birds

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Wild Herps | Wild Fish | Wild Inverts |
| 1 st – Jon Hanna | 1 st – Alex Kunkel | 1 st – Kerry Walden |
| 2 nd – Meredith Campbell | | 2 nd – Lola Van Pelt |
| 3 rd – Kerry Walden | | 3 rd – Jessica Curtis |

Landscape

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 st – Cody Bear | Caught in the Act | Historic Wildlifers |
| 2 nd – Faith Walker | 1 st – Sarah Grubel | 1 st – Jim Ramakka |
| 3 rd – Meredith Campbell | 2 nd – Jacob Miller | |

Remote Cameras

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 st – Michelle Crabb | Next Gen |
| 2 nd Susan Bard | 1 st – Lola Van Pelt |
| 3 rd – David Wilkens | |

Don't forget to start capturing those memories into photos for next year's photo contest! The upcoming 2018 photo contest will include the traditional wild animal and landscape categories taken in either Arizona or New Mexico and Remote Cameras. There will be a new category for photos taken outside our state borders. Start snapping away and see you next year!

Photos from top: Best of Show, 1st Wild Herps, 1st Wild Fish, 2nd Wild Inverts, 2nd Remote Cameras, 1st Next Gen.





MARCH FOR SCIENCE

EARTH DAY

APRIL 22, 2017

The Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society encourages you to participate in the March for Science on April 22! The March for Science sounds a call to support and safeguard the scientific community. Recent policy changes have caused heightened worry among scientists. The mischaracterization of science as a partisan issue, which has given policymakers permission to reject overwhelming evidence, is a critical and urgent matter. The march is a way for people who support scientific research and evidence-based policies to take a public stand.

The March for Science is *not just for scientists!* Anyone who supports science, science education, and science policy is welcome to join in this effort and to advocate for our future – and for the future of wildlife and habitats.

The primary march will be in Washington, DC, but satellite marches are occurring across the nation, including in several Arizona cities. We encourage you to join your local march!

For more information, visit <https://www.marchforscience.com>.

Flagstaff

14:00 – 17:00

Thorpe Park Ramada
191 N. Thorpe Rd., Flagstaff
<http://bit.ly/FlagSciMarch>

Lake Havasu City

11:00 – 13:00

McCulloch and Acoma
<http://bit.ly/HavasuSciMarch>

Phoenix

10:00 – 16:00

Cesar Chavez Memorial Plaza
125 W. Washington St., Phoenix
<http://bit.ly/PhxSciMarch>

Prescott

10:00 – 15:00

Courthouse Square
120 S. Cortez St., Prescott
<http://bit.ly/PrescottSciMarch>

Sedona

13:00 – 15:00

Creative Gateways
45 Birch Blvd., Sedona

<http://bit.ly/SedonaSciMarch>

Tucson

10:00 – 14:00

El Presidio Plaza Park
175 W. Alameda St., Tucson
<http://bit.ly/TucsonSciMarch>

White Mountains

11:00 – 16:00

Festival Marketplace
1031 E. Deuce of Clubs, Show Low
<http://bit.ly/WMSciMarch>