



# Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### David E. Brown is Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

PHOENIX, AZ – **David Brown** is the first recipient of the Arizona Chapter of the Wildlife Society's (AZTWS) David E. Brown Lifetime Achievement Award, named in his honor. Moving forward, this prestigious award will recognize an individual for his or her accomplishments in wildlife biology and management over their lifetime.

Brown, along with six others receiving awards, was honored this year on Feb. 9, 2017, during the 50<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico Wildlife and Fisheries Societies in Farmington, NM.

"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," say eleven of Brown's colleagues in a joint letter of support for this award nomination. "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."

Brown started his wildlife career in 1960 at the age of 23. Wildlife politics were as contentious then as they are now, but Brown bridged political gaps through his exemplary performance as a Wildlife Manager and his keen insights into wildlife and their habitats. 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 monsters. Brown and Charles Lowe's classification of vegetation of the southwest US and northwestern Mexico has become a bible for defining biotic zones in the Sky Island region. Brown was a founder of the Arizona Antelope Foundation, and has mentored hundreds of college students, often collaborating with them on research projects in an effort to give them a leg up on their careers. Brown is currently working on grassland projects with pronghorn antelope and antelope jackrabbits.

“This is a wonderful tribute,” says David Brown. “I owe much to my daughter and great-granddaughter, and to a college education at San Jose State where I majored in wildlife conservation and duck hunting under Dr. William Graf. My first career job was working for California Fish and Game banding ducks and mapping wetland vegetation for Bill Anderson during the summer of 1960. Much of my good fortune was having good Arizona Game and Fish Department supervisors who let me work on my own wildlife programs - Ted Knipe, John Russo, and Paul Webb. Although not an academic per se, I always felt comfortable in academia and had such giants as mentors as Drs. W. L. Minckley, Charles H. Lowe, D. I. Rasmussen, Miklos Udvardy and Jim Yoakum.”

In addition, AZTWS honors were presented in six other categories this year:

- **Sarah Hale**, 2016 Roger Hungerford Student Award, for significant contributions to the management and conservation of Arizona’s wildlife and/or habitat while attending an Arizona college or university.
- **Chad Rubke**, 2016 Doug Morrison Award, for significant contributions to the management and conservation of wildlife in Arizona by a biologist in a non-supervisory position.
- **Liberty Wildlife**, 2016 Conservation Award, for significant contributions to the conservation of wildlife and/or their habitat in Arizona by an organization, person, or persons, not directly involved or employed in wildlife management.
- **Sandy Bahr**, 2016 Scrapping Bear Award, for going beyond the normal call of duty in support of wildlife issues, and making exceptional contributions toward the management and protection of wildlife and habitat resources, by standing up for what they thought was right, even if it was controversial or perceived as contrary to their agency’s official position, supervisor’s positions, or had the potential to put the recipients job on the line.
- **Tice Supplee**, 2016 Professional Service Award, for outstanding contributions to management and conservation of wildlife by an Arizona biologist, and for their professional work standards and conduct.
- **Holly Hicks**, 2016 Outstanding Service to the Chapter Award, for an individual who has volunteered significant time and effort to provide exceptional service to our chapter and its members. Hicks is the first recipient of this award.

Tice Supplee, who was awarded the Professional Service Award, has blazed a trail for current and future women of wildlife. Supplee says she was “deeply honored and touched by this recognition, especially sharing the honors with the truly legendary Dave Brown.”

“Arizona’s diverse ecosystems and wildlife are a big part of why I have made this state my home for 30 years,” said Scrapping Bear award recipient Sandy Bahr. “I am proud that Arizona is

helping to provide a second chance for species such as California condors, black-footed ferrets, and Mexican gray wolves, and that we may one day see jaguars and ocelots return for more than just a visit. I am truly honored to receive recognition from an organization that I respect immensely.”

For additional information about past and present AZTWS award winners, visit:  
<http://www.aztws.com/category/awards>

### **About the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

AZTWS is dedicated to promoting sound management and conservation of Arizona’s wildlife resources. Established in 1968, we seek 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. [www.aztws.org](http://www.aztws.org)

### **About The Wildlife Society**

For more than 75 years, The Wildlife Society has been influencing the future of wildlife and wild places for the benefit of generations to come. Founded in 1937, the organization’s mission is “To inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation.” The Wildlife Society enhances members’ networking and learning opportunities, professional and career development, and provides numerous ways for them to get more involved in creating a better future for wildlife and their habitats. [www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org)

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*David Brown and AZTWS President Kay Nicholson. Photo by AZTWS.*

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