

THE ARIZONA WILDLIFER

2019 Issue 4

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Fall Edition

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(623) 236-7734 ajones@azgfd.gov

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(928) 606-4393 vhorncastle@gmail.com

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The President's Message



Jessica's children get to enjoy the outdoors as much as she does. Credit Jessica Moreno.

Fall has arrived and we are finally experiencing Arizona's seasonal cool down and winter rains. In southern Arizona, the early morning air now has that crisp feel that I've come to associate with the scent of camp coffee, cottonwood-cloaked cienegas, and (perhaps unfortunately) the faint but lingering memory of the pungent skunk gland that I once carried in my pack to bait camera traps in wild oak woodlands in Mexico's jaguar country. All things that tie together my own origin story in my journey as a wildlife biologist. Fall, for that reason, has become my season of nostalgia and gratitude.

It is also a season to plan ahead. A host of conferences bring us together around this time to connect and gather new ideas and inspiration. It was wonderful to see so many AZTWS Chapter members attending the International Conference of Ecology and Transportation in Sacramento, CA, as well as The Wildlife Society national conference in Reno, NV! This is the season many of us in the work force are drafting strategic work plans for the year ahead, and many students are gearing up for that push towards their finals and defenses and looking to what comes next.

Our Joint Annual Meeting is just around the corner—JAM 2020 is set for January 30 – February 1 in (a very possibly snowy) Prescott, AZ. Our Chapter Elections will be in full swing in the months ahead as we lead up to our Annual Meeting, so think now about whether you might want to join our team as a Board Member in 2020! I hope you are able to attend JAM to meet us in person and see what we as a Chapter are accomplishing together.

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Presidents Message cont...

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This is also an opportunity to share what changes you would like to see or to suggest ways the Chapter can better support you and your peers in this profession (as well, my door is always open!). I encourage you to submit papers for posters and talks—especially if you've never done it before. Your projects are inspiring and worthy of sharing! We also welcome and encourage you to submit essays, photos, and stories about your field work and projects for our newsletter. What have you learned? What interdisciplinary fields, topics, or issues have augmented or impacted your wildlife profession or studies? What is your own origin story?

As I sit on my back porch with my coffee and a slice of pumpkin pie, I'm brought back to another morning like this twelve years ago. Coffee and pumpkin pie breakfast in hand, I sat at the foothills of the Atascosa Mountains while the sky and cliffs turned a brilliant shade of pink. I was torn by shin dagger and catclaw acacia, wind burned and sore from a weekend of trekking and kneeling to search out tracks and setting wildlife cameras, and I never felt more alive. That morning I knew the path I wanted to take. These days, my field work is much closer to home and my pack is more likely to smell of diapers than skunk. I'm ever grateful for the improving support systems (not to mention my partnering biologist spouse!) that help me bring my children along for the ride, to the field, office, and conferences.

Wildlife biology is as much a passion and lifestyle as it is a career and a job. How lucky are we that we can find a balance of both? I look forward to seeing how your own passion and participation shapes and enriches this profession. Make it your own.

Sincerely,

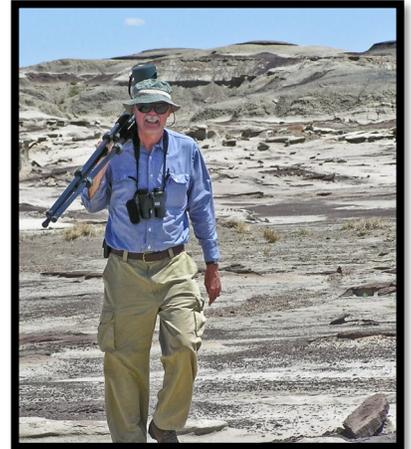
Jessica Moreno
AZTWS Chapter President

Regional News:

Southwest Section Tracks

By Jim Ramakka
Southwest Section Representative

As summer winds down in northwest New Mexico, I can look out our front window and still see patches of snow on the sides of the La Plata Mountains in Colorado. It is bound to stay on the high peaks until September storms bring snow again. While this past cold snowy winter was a stark contrast to the



warm years we've experienced recently, our anticipated usual monsoon season failed to materialize this summer, putting the San Juan Basin back in drought mode. As in much of the West, the present water situation is always a topic of conversation and undoubtedly on many minds at this year's TWS/AFS Joint Annual Meeting in Reno. For most of the 1990s, I worked on water/wildlife related issues as a Bureau of Land Management district wildlife biologist in the Carson City Office about 30 miles south of Reno. One of the reasons I'm especially excited to attend this year's conference is the chance to revisit the riparian restoration projects I helped plan as part of an interdisciplinary riparian functionality team.

It was during my time in Carson City that the First Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society was held in Albuquerque, and I decided to take annual leave and attend with the hope of maybe seeing a few friends and colleagues from the previous decade I'd spent working in New Mexico. It turned out I not only reconnected with friends from across the country that I hadn't seen decades, but also, I was able to network with folks from across the West working on similar issues. In succeeding years, the TWS Annual Meeting, along with Chapter and Section meetings, served a key role in my continued professional development.

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Regional News cont...

In some years, my agency paid my way—other years, I footed the bills myself. It was always worth the expense. I will likely see many folks from the Southwest Section at this year's conference. I hope members will take the opportunity to sit in on annual TWS Council meetings, if only briefly, to get a sense of how TWS functions as a whole.

My primary TWS Council duties this summer have involved serving as a member of the "Mentorship for Life" subcommittee, Certification Liaison subcommittee, and Chair of the Jay N. "Ding" Darling Memorial Award for Wildlife Stewardship Through Art. The Mentorship Strategy was on the agenda for review and discussion at the Council meeting, along with latest updates from the Certification Review Board. This year's Ding Darling Award recipient, Donald Luce, was honored at the Annual Meeting. As has been the case for the last few years, the committee faced a difficult choice when selecting among outstanding nominees.

In other news, it has been a good summer for TWS. Some highlights include the following:

- Planning for the conference continued throughout the summer—registration was on pace to make the Reno meeting the largest ever for TWS attendees (we will update tallies when available).
- Travel grants were awarded to 15 students presenting papers/posters at the 2019 conference.
- Evaluation of possible sites and venues for 2022, 2023 conferences have begun (next year's conference will be in Louisville, KY, and the 2021 conference is in Baltimore, MD).
- FY19 ended with a budget surplus of \$170,000, which exceeded the year-end goal stated in the annual budget. The Endowment Fund will receive \$10,000 from that surplus. The remaining funds will be placed in the Council Discretionary Fund.
- Paid membership has grown to 10,619 (a 4.5% increase). If Give Back membership is counted, the combined total membership is 11,228.
- 53% of members are now enrolled in Automatic Renewal.
- A strategy to improve first-year member communications was launched.
- A TWS Resource Guide was prepared and distributed to Chapter and Section Presidents.
- Website visits and social media audience are both increasing.
- TWS staff have played an active role along with partners in soliciting cosponsors for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) as well as preparing resources for Chapters and Sections to use in contacting legislators to support the Act.
- On July 10, 2019, TWS/AFS hosted a webinar on RAWA engagement strategies and legislative updates for approximately 60 attendees.
- The TWS Conservation Affairs Network held its annual meeting and a RAWA Strategy Session in at the Reno Conference Monday, Sept. 30, 2019. There was also a TWS/AFS joint RAWA Strategy Meeting on Oct. 2nd.
- Staff restructuring, as a result of turnover and projected retirements, was a Council topic of discussion at the Annual Meeting.

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Regional News cont...

I'll summarize the business items discussed and voted for during this year's fall Council meeting in my next (Winter '20) column. In the meantime, I will be trying to squeeze in a dove hunt or two before starting a busy travel schedule revolving around our Reno gathering.

Have a great autumn, everyone!

Jim Ramakka, CWB®

69 Rd. 2785
Aztec, NM 87410
Email: j_ramakka@msn.com
Phone: 505-486-2746



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

The Arizona Wildlifer Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Winter 2020	Dec 13, 2019
Spring 2020	Mar 20, 2020

Email submissions to aztwseditor@gmail.com.

	<p>POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT</p>	<p>Application Period Ends: January 3, 2020</p>	
	<p>The Wildlife Society is accepting applications and nominations for the Wildlife Society Bulletin's next Editor-in-Chief. Click here for details</p>	<p>4 ISSUES YEAR</p> <p>60k FULL-TEXT DOWNLOADS IN 2018</p>	

Save the Date: JAM 2020!

The 53rd Joint Annual Meeting of the AZ/NM American Fisheries Society and the AZ and NM Chapters of The Wildlife Society

30 January – 1 February 2020



The conference will be hosted at the [Prescott Resort and Conference Center](#), Prescott, AZ. When making reservations at the Prescott Resort and Conference Center use code **G1292**. Book ASAP!

Registration is now OPEN for professionals, exhibitors, students, and enthusiasts alike! Click [here](#) for more details

First Call for Papers is open. The deadline is **15 December 2020!** Follow instructions [here](#) and get papers submitted ASAP! Students—there are awards for Best Student Paper and Best Student Poster in the respective fisheries or wildlife fields.

There are several **Continuing Education Workshops** available, such as wildlife acoustics, student professional development, distance sampling, piscicide application, and machine learning for wildlife camera data. Check out the workshops, including time offerings, [here](#).

Don't forget to run (walk, crawl,...swim?) in the annual [SPAWNING RUN!](#)



For more information, check out the official [2020 JAM website](#).

Our Neck of The Woods...

Antelope to antelope squirrels: a need for the open range

A. D. Burnett,

Graduate Student, University of Arizona, School of Natural Resources and the Environment

As a favorite Hollywood backdrop and symbol of the “wild, wild west,” the saguaro cacti forests and expansive views offered by the Sonoran Desert form an iconic landscape that captures imaginations worldwide. Counterintuitively, the lack of trees is a quality that humans and other animals have taken advantage of in defensive maneuvers for millennia. These lands facilitate antipredatory strategies reliant on vigilance and speed, much like in the African Plains. The American pronghorn expresses a well-known example of this phenomenon, using its speed as an advantage against predators on the open range.



An adult Harris's antelope squirrel and her juvenile climb onto a mesquite snag to keep an eye out for predators. Credit K. Flay

A number of other Sonoran species use similar strategies, including jackrabbits, prairie dogs, and ground squirrels. Open conditions allow animals to not only detect and escape from predators but also to communicate with predators to discourage pursuit in the first place. By communicating that a predator has been detected, prey can convince that predator not to waste time or energy on a chase it is likely to lose. This strategy benefits both parties, as chases are energetically costly, risk injury, and are unlikely to be successful once the element of surprise is gone. Deterrent antipredator signals are exhibited when African antelope “stot” after detecting a lion or a leopard, or when children yell “you can’t catch me” during a competitive game of tag (although with humans, this signal seems to backfire). This antipredatory strategy, however, restricts animals to open grasslands where adequate visibility can be maintained while foraging. Shifting ecosystems that favor dense woody shrubs over open grasslands compromise visibility and natural history strategies for a myriad of important Arizona species.

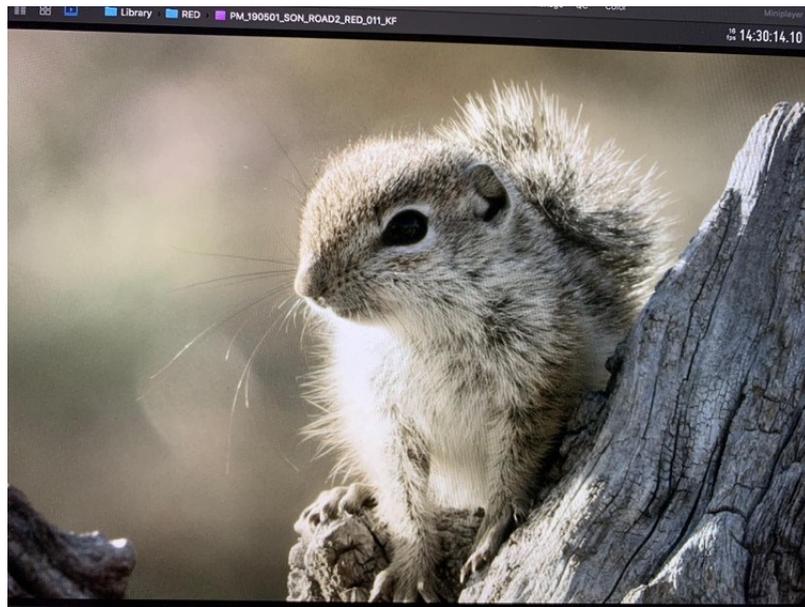
Arizona has experienced vast landscape changes in the past 200 years due to shifting land use practices that introduced fire suppression, grazing, and urban development. Habitat loss and fragmentation is therefore a major concern for a plethora of wildlife species endemic to Arizona. Shrub encroachment is one result of such management changes, leading to increases in trees and shrubs in desert grasslands throughout southeastern Arizona. Shrub encroachment is a concern for wildlife professionals because it leads to a shift in population composition that eliminates obligate grassland species from the area. For many of these species, visibility is an important factor that influences risk

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perception and foraging efficiency. Lack of visibility can lower survival directly, if the environment prevents detecting the predator, or indirectly, if animals cannot maintain energetic requirements.

Harris’s antelope squirrels (*Ammospermophilus harrisi*) are found only in the Sonoran Desert and exhibit unique adaptations for living in open environments with extreme temperatures. One such adaptation is their alarm calling behavior, which likely serves as both a predator deterrent and a warning to offspring. These antipredator vocalizations are often given repeatedly in bouts that persist until the threat subsides. However, ground squirrels generally will only vocalize if the squirrel can track the predator location through the vegetation; they are unlikely to give away their location if the predator location is unknown or within close proximity—that would be like yelling during a game of hide and seek! Instead, antelope squirrels rely on their speed to outrun predators that get too close, much like an antelope. Shrub encroachment may therefore prevent squirrels from emitting antipredator vocalizations if squirrels fail to detect predators until they are too close, at which point the squirrels forego communication and attempt escape.

We conducted a two-year study to investigate how shrub encroachment affects antipredatory behavior. We measured call rate (i.e., number of vocalization bouts detected per hour) and compared between an open area of ~0.1 km² with less than 25% shrub cover to an area with significant shrub encroachment with greater than 25% shrub cover. We found that squirrels called significantly less at our shrub-encroached study site. In fact, throughout the entire two-year period, we heard only three instances of alarm vocalizations given within the shrub-encroached site. In comparison, more than 80 detections were recorded at the open study site over the same time period, a significant difference that effort cannot account for. A lack of visibility could be preventing squirrels from calling, which may alter survival if predators that normally would be effectively deterred are not.



A juvenile Harris’s antelope squirrel remains vigilant toward a potential threat from her watch post. Credit K. Flay

Although they are currently considered common, Harris’s antelope squirrels live in very low densities and population estimates are likely to be unreliable due to trap avoidance. Much of their current distribution lies sandwiched between the urban sprawl and high elevation shrublands. These squirrels are wide-roaming and highly sensitive to human presence and so, unlike the round-tailed ground squirrel that can live in high densities and exist well in urban areas, Harris’s antelope squirrels exist at low densities even in areas with artificial resources present. As shrub encroachment descends into lower elevations and housing developments creep further into the foothills, the distribution of squirrels could shrink dramatically, and current populations could be threatened. Harris’s

antelope squirrels are important seed dispersers for desert plant species and act as a vital prey source for hawks and snakes. Their decline or disappearance from an area could result in declines across trophic levels. Our results are additionally important for Sonoran wildlife such as pronghorn and jackrabbits that may face similar challenges employing natural antipredatory behaviors in shrub-encroached environments.

* * * * *

Lesser long-nosed bat PIT-tagging

Joanne M. Roberts,
Conservation Wildlife Biologist and Natural Resources Specialist

Volunteering to assist Sandy Wolf—of Bat Research and Consulting of Tucson, Arizona—in her research efforts to capture, tag, and monitor the lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris yerbabuenae*), has been part of my summers for the past few years. The primary objectives of her research are to determine regional migration patterns and the bat's use of hummingbird feeders. For one evening, I become part of her team as a data recorder while continuing to learn about this sensitive species and its habits.

Ms. Wolf works with private citizens, federal and state agencies, colleagues, and universities to support her research. I was happy to host and be part of her team for the 2016 and 2017 season at my home in Hereford and, thereafter, to continue to work with her at locations near Coronado National Memorial in the Huachuca Mountains in 2018 and again this field season. A few bats tagged at those southeastern stations have been recorded at other monitoring stations in the Tucson area.



Lesser long-nosed bat in hand during processing. Credit Sandy Wolf



(L) Setting up the nets; (R) Sandy (standing) with team collecting biological data before tagging.
 Credits Joanne M. Roberts

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A tagging station requires many committed volunteers. Volunteers assist with netting the bats, collecting vital biological data, PIT-tagging individuals, and releasing bats after offering a drink of nectar. The tagging session starts after sundown as the bats are caught in mist-nets. The nets are placed strategically around an area of hummingbird feeders that have been monitored prior to the tagging event; surveys end when bats are no longer netted.

A lesser long-nosed bat waits in a bag until another bat is PIT-tagged and processed. Credit Joanne M. Roberts



Lesser long-nosed bat drinking nectar before release. Credit Joanne M. Roberts

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Southwest Region Congratulates 2018 Recovery Champions

Sarah E. Rinkevich,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region

Each year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Recovery Champion Award honors employees and also our partners-in-mission for conserving threatened and endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The award is given to an organization whose work results in milestones in the Recovery Program. Amy Lueders was honored to present the 2018 Recovery Champion Award to the staff of the White Mountain Apache Tribe's Sensitive Species and Mexican Wolf Program: Cynthia Dale, Sara Eno, Deon Hinton, Joseph Perez, Theo Guy, and Manuelita Kessay.

The White Mountain Apache Tribe has been an instrumental partner in the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program by supporting the establishment of a sustainable population of Mexican gray wolves (*Canis lupus baileyi*) on the Reservation. The staff's commitment to the conservation of the Mexican wolf has been an inspiration and model for the Service's Tribal partners in conservation throughout the Southwest. The White Mountain Apache Tribe's work on wolf recovery is emblematic of countless partnerships between tribal, federal, and state fish and wildlife management entities nationwide.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Regional Director Amy Lueders presents Cynthia Dale and her team (Deon Hinton, Theo Guy, Manuelita Kessay, and Joseph Perez) the Recovery Champion Award at the 2019 Native American Fish and Wildlife Society National Conference. Credit Vanessa Burge, USFWS



Remembering Sheridan Stone



H. Sheridan Stone (far right), Larry Laing, Ken Kinsley, and volunteers discuss details during a 2009 property sight evaluation in the Verde Valley. Credit Joanne M. Roberts .

Wildlife biologist Sheridan Stone passed away in April of 2019. Working at Fort Huachuca outside of Sierra Vista, AZ, for most of his career, Sheridan was well known to wildlifers in southern Arizona and beyond. I first met Sheridan when I was gathering genetic samples for my doctoral work on javelina (*Pecari tajacu*), and the collections we made at Fort Huachuca became a critical part of that data set. Sheridan took me into his home during that first visit to Fort Huachuca, and the warmth and friendship he exuded during my stay remained the hallmark of our interactions in the years that followed, including as fellow officers on the AZTWS board. I will always remember the twinkle in his eye as we laughed over some tall tale and the soft distinctive cadence of his voice that never quite lost the flavor of Old Virginia.

Sheridan was a wildlife professional, in the true sense of that word professional. A formal obituary appeared in *The Wildlife Professional*, but here we take a more informal approach, a chance for fellow wildlifers to share their memories of our friend and colleague.

~Tad Theimer

Remembering a friend, a mentor, a colleague.

I first met Sheridan while conducting mountain lion surveys on Fort Huachuca in 1990. I was just beginning my interest in a career change from business to conservation biology. From that moment on, I cannot think of a time when our professional paths did not cross in a span of 28 years. This includes my volunteer participation in the annual surveys, encouragement in pursuing my conservation biology degree, collaborating with threatened and endangered species programs, sponsorship for Department of Defense workshops and The Wildlife Society Educational grant, monitoring training lands, and working closely with Sheridan as a member of the Arizona State Park's Board Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee.

There are many memories. Some funny, some philosophical. However, one that remains with me daily came during the time we worked together on the Advisory Committee between 2004 and 2009. One of the primary responsibilities of the Advisory Committee was to evaluate properties for natural areas values in order to make recommendations to the Board for acquisitions through the State Natural Areas Heritage Program. During a property evaluation discussion, a member made the statement that making a decision on which parcels of properties to recommend as eligible for natural areas funding "was just not that difficult; it is not rocket science." Sheridan responded that they were right in one sense, "It is not rocket science. Rocket science follows a formula, an equation. Choosing natural area values is harder because these systems are living, dynamic, and always changing. There is no equation." His words reminded our committee of the importance of what we were doing and how what

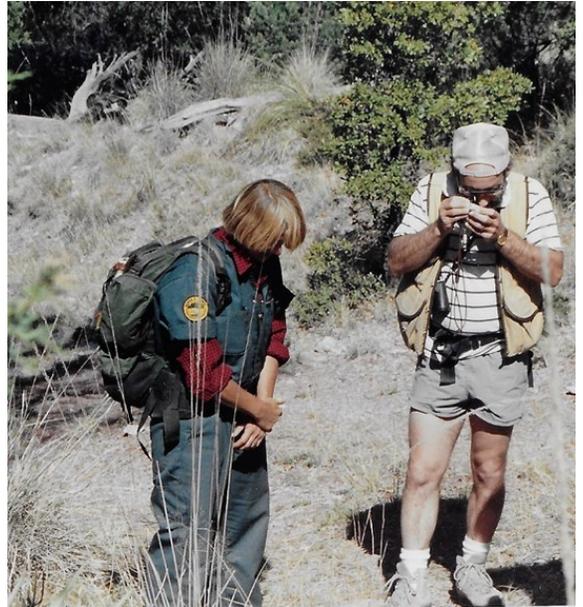
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we decided then would determine our success at protecting wildlife and habitat for future generations. I do not know if Sheridan chose these words because he read them or heard them from somewhere else. It does not really matter. What I do know is that his words held meaning then, and they do now, as they continue to guide me in land management and daily decisions. I pass this memory on to entry-level professionals whom I work with, no matter how old they are when entering the conservation field, and I now pass them on as part of my oral history of H. Sheridan Stone to all of you.

~*Joanne M. Roberts*

In 2002, after I moved to Tucson and joined University of Arizona, I was introduced to Sheridan at the annual wildlife tracking workshop at Fort Huachuca and was immediately drawn to his southern Virginia accent as I had just moved here from southern Virginia. Sheridan always had the time to talk to me (or anyone else) about a new or ongoing research project, and he was willing to help in any way possible. More than once, Sheridan forwarded me emails of grant opportunities he thought would be appropriate for my work and offered to write letters of support for me. It was his unique and remarkable attitude that fostered collaboration and productivity among the researchers he worked with.



H. Sheridan Stone and Susan Morse while conducting mountain lion surveys. Credit Joanne M. Roberts .

In 2011, after I received funding for the UA to start a camera study in 17 southern Arizona mountain ranges, we needed research permits from dozens of agencies, including the US Army. Sheridan helped my team through the process of gaining permission to access areas on Fort Huachuca that we needed to set cameras on. He was a pleasure to work with, was always interested in our project, and gave his expertise freely.

It is my feeling that Sheridan truly cared about the natural resources, which is why he wanted to do everything in his power to facilitate researchers to gain knowledge about the natural resources. He knew that knowledge would allow the best stewardship for our valuable natural resources. The loss of Sheridan is a loss for all of us and a loss for the natural resources on the Fort where he served for many years.

~*Melanie Culver*

What a loss to the wildlife profession to no longer have Sheridan and his wonderful dedication to our valuable natural resources to work with us all. It was always good to see him, whether it was at The Wildlife Society meetings or on a project in the field coordinating across agency (Forest Service/Ft. Huachuca) boundaries. He was always ready with a friendly chuckle and great smile, no matter how difficult the issue was we worked on. My last adventure with him was on the Colorado River where he invited me to join him (and his wife Bonnie and several others) on an Arizona Game and Fish Department Citizen Science project—the roar of the river, the Kanab ambersnail (*Oxyloma haydeni kanabensis*), and sharing stories around a campfire. How I miss him.

~*Tom Skinner*

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I first met Sheridan on a mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) track monitoring project at Fort Huachuca where he was the head biologist. I was impressed by his knowledge of the flora and fauna and the variety of monitoring projects he was conducting. I could feel his passion for the environment as he talked about his research. I was gearing up to start a jaguar monitoring project on a very limited budget and Sheridan loaned me all of his extra cameras to help launch my project. Over the years I knew and worked with Sheridan, I discovered that he was always willing to cooperate with other biologists working in the Huachuca Mountains either on or off of the Fort. The first time I hiked with Sheridan was on a mountain lion track transect on the Fort. It was probably around 1999 and the illegal immigrant traffic was heavy. We were constantly finding discarded back packs and other evidence of the traffic. Sheridan would open the packs and remove any unopened edible items and eat them as we hiked. He was not a delicate man. He was my friend and I will miss him. We will all miss him.

~Jack Childs

I had the chance to work with Sheridan over many years and on a number of projects: Gould's turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo mexicana*) studies and restoration, management challenges on and off the Huachuca Army Post, management teams we served on together, and of course, our shared tenures on the AZTWS Board. Sheridan was a wealth of knowledge and among the most deliberate thinkers with whom I've worked. There were so many humorous things that occurred over the years, but they always seemed to occur just before Sheridan arrived or just after he left the scene. Sheridan once located a camp site for several Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) biologists and volunteers doing turkey surveys, helped us start a fire, departed, and about 15 minutes later we were challenged by three undercover officers from the Criminal Defense Command who had been seeking a drug exchange. When they asked us to produce evidence of who we were, we pointed to the 3 trucks with AZGFD logos on the door that they had walked right past—kind of diffused the situation rapidly and everyone had a good laugh. We were in the process of dialing Sheridan's number at that point!

Sheridan always found us what we needed and facilitated meetings with post commanders when we needed it. He found us campsites, corrals for horses, access to secured areas, and solutions to management challenges. He smoothed rifts we occasionally had (caused?) with U.S. Forest Service (USFS). He was thorough and thoughtful. The one thing you could always bet on was that whatever meeting you had scheduled, he would be late for it. And not just by a few minutes, often 30–60 minutes late! And it was generally because he was wrapping up the details from some other exercise he was just leaving!

I can remember running into him at the North American Wildlife Conference in 1993 or 1994. That was the first time I ever attended one of those meetings and I was there to represent AZTWS at TWS Council during the goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) guidelines technical review. I was early in my term as president for AZTWS and I was a research biologist with Arizona—this was a huge policy issue among TWS, AZGFD, USFS, and others just to mention a few—and I'd had a conversation with then USFS chief Jack Ward Thomas. I really felt like I was way over my head, and I was really uncomfortable. Among other things, the meeting was in Anchorage, AK, and I couldn't even run outside to hide because it was about 20 below! I ran into Sheridan in one of the sessions and he was about the only person I knew there! He was a welcome sight, and he clued me in on some of the actions and processes to expect. He was the last person I expected to see there, but he sure made me feel a lot more comfortable!

Sheridan was thorough, thoughtful, annoyingly methodical, but always had the best for the resource in mind! His contributions were many, and I always enjoyed any encounter with him.

~Brian Wakeling

Lets Recognize Our Finest!



AZTWS Awards Announcement

Do you know of a wildlife professional, student, or organization that deserves recognition for their work? Please nominate them for one of our awards!

We present these awards in order to recognize those individuals and organizations that make significant contributions to wildlife management and conservation in Arizona. These awards are significant because of the history and prestige behind each one—and because they come from you. This is your chance to give credit to some of the many deserving people and organizations out there.

Deadline for Award Nominations is November 30th

Submit your nominations to Andrew Jones at ajones@azgfd.gov

WE NEED YOU to submit a nomination for one or more of the eight awards (*details next page*).

Award nominations should include the following:

1. Name and affiliation of the nominee (nominees need not be members of TWS or the AZ Chapter).
2. The award for which the individual is being nominated.
3. Letter of support signed by nominator and endorsed by at least one additional individual. Endorsers may sign the nominating letter or send separate letters of support.
4. Name and contact information of nominator(s).

Visit <https://aztws.com/past-award-winners/> to view past recipients of each award.

Final nomination documents must be received by November 30, 2019.

Award Descriptions:

The Doug Morrison Award

This award, in memory of Doug Morrison, is given 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 the Chapter's former President and U.S. Forest Service Biologist, Doug Morrison. Contributions can be in areas of wildlife research, education and training, management, conservation (including legislation), or law enforcement. Contributions can be over a relatively short period of time (e.g., months) or over several years. Weight is given to the significance of contributions and not necessarily the number of years in service. This Award differs from the Professional Award primarily in that it is given to a non-supervisory biologist in memory of Doug Morrison.



Professional Service Award (Professional Wildlifer Award)

This 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. Contributions can be in the areas of wildlife research, education and training, management, conservation (including legislative), or law enforcement. These contributions can be over several years or limited to a few years of outstanding service. Weight is given to the significance of contributions and professional work ethic, not necessarily the number of years in service. Both supervisory and non-supervisory biologists may be considered for this Award.

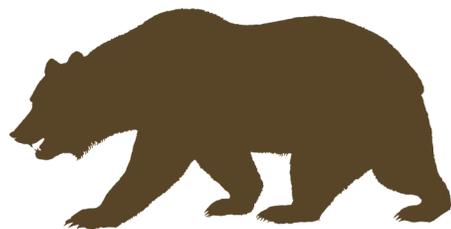
Conservation Award (Non-Professional Award)

This 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. Conservation can include, but is not limited to research, education, legislation, and protection or enhancement of wildlife and their habitat. Weight is given to the significance of the contribution to conservation.

Wildlife Habitat Relationships Award (WILDHARE Award)

This award is given to a professional wildlife biologist in Arizona for their contribution to understanding or applying habitat principles to management of an animal species or group of species. The recipient receives a check based on the interest generated for the year in the Habitat Relationships account.

Scrapping Bear Award



The recipient of the Scrapping Bear Award 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 AND the recipient has stood 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.

The recipient does not have to be a member of the Arizona Chapter.

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Roger Hungerford Student Award

This 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. Management and conservation categories are similar to those listed for the Professional Award. Weight is given to the significance of the contribution. The Award is given in memory of one of Arizona’s finest research biologists, Roger Hungerford.



Outstanding Service to the Chapter Award

This award recognizes an individual who has shown continual dedication and commitment to the Chapter. The award recipient has expended significant time and effort while providing exceptional service to the Chapter and its members. This individual must be a Chapter member.

David E. Brown Lifetime Achievement Award

The creation of this award in 2016 was inspired by the desire 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. Therefore, a new award was created. The David E. Brown Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual for his/her accomplishments in wildlife biology and management over their lifetime. These accomplishments may have been made in management, education, research, administration, or in a combination of activities that over a lifetime have noticeably advanced the field of wildlife biology and management and enhanced wildlife conservation in Arizona. This award is intended to be highly prestigious and not given out annually, but rather only when a deserving individual should be recognized for a lifetime of service to wildlife in Arizona.



A picnic reprieve at Lake Tahoe after the AFS-TWS meeting was upended by a thieving golden-mantled ground squirrel. Credit Brian Blais

Seeking New Board Members!

Take an active role in Arizona’s wildlife conservation and management! Advance professional stewardship of wildlife resources and their habitat! Prepare the next generation of wildlife professionals!

Please consider joining the board of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society! See the descriptions below for a list of positions up for election this year. Visit <https://aztws.com/about/executive-board-positions/> to learn more about these positions. All officers are expected to participate in monthly conference calls to help with planning and current business.



*Email Andrew Jones (AJones@azgfd.gov) for more information or if you are interested in running for a position. Nominations must be submitted by **November 30, 2019.***

Nominees should provide a short bio (about 300 words) and a photo that will be distributed to voting members. Ballots will go out mid-December and the results announced at the Annual Meeting during the 2020 JAM in Prescott, AZ.

OPEN POSITIONS

President-Elect

The President-Elect serves a two-year term, one year as President-Elect and one as President. As President-Elect, he or she assists and fills in for the President on a variety of assigned tasks and serves as the Chairperson of the Awards and Nomination committees.

Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary serves a one-year term and is responsible for the Chapter files and correspondence with members and supporters.

Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary serves a one-year term and is responsible for recording and distributing minutes of the Executive Board and Chapter Membership meetings.

Board Member (1)

A Board Member serves a two-year term and shares all responsibilities of conducting Chapter business and assisting other Board Members with assigned tasks.
