



Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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AZTWS BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

February 6, 2025

58th Joint Annual Meeting

4:00-5:00pm

- I. Call to Order at 4:00 p.m. (Welcome – Christopher Carrillo)
- II. Old Business
 - A. Officer Reports
 1. Approval of minutes from calendar year 2024 annual business meeting
 - Kay Nicholson motioned. Dave Bergman seconded. Approved unanimously.
 2. Outgoing President’s Report (Christopher Carrillo)
 - Request for people to fill vacant committee chairs. Reach out to Chris Carrillo or any Board member to learn more.
 - The Chapter received the TWS Chapter of the Year Award in 2024.
 3. Treasurer’s Report (Haley Nelson)
 - The Chapter had a total of \$44,463.89 in its accounts as of December 31, 2024. This is broken down into General Funds and Committed Funds. See report for details.
 - The Chapter awarded \$1,000 to students and professionals to attend conferences.
 - Dave Bergman motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report. Seconded by Lola Van Pelt.
 - B. Committee Reports
 1. Membership (Christopher Carrillo)
 - The Chapter currently has 249 active registered members, which is an increase over last year.
 - The highest previously documented membership was 263 members.
 - Everyone is encouraged to invite others to join the Chapter to help us increase membership.
 - People can join through our website or when joining/renewing with the parent society.
 - We use Member Planet as our membership platform. Members will receive notification to renew before their membership expires.
 2. Continuing Education (vacant)
 - This committee did not have a chair in 2024.
 - AZTWS awarded \$1,000 to two people to attend conferences in 2024.
 - Students and professionals are encouraged to apply for continuing education grants to support continued learning. The chapter has up to \$1,500 to award per year, capped at \$500 per person.
 3. Website and Social Media (Haley Nelson, Tom Correll)
 - The chapter encourages people to engage through social media. We maintain Facebook and X social media pages and just started an Instagram



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- page.
- Student chapters and partners are encouraged to coordinate with us for cross-posting.
4. Newsletter (Tiffany Sprague)
 - The newsletter is published quarterly and comes out in January, April, July, and October. The deadline for submissions is the third Friday of the preceding month.
 - Deadline for the Spring 2025 issue is March 21.
 - We received a variety of engaging articles in 2024 and received a lot of positive feedback on the issues and individual articles.
 - Everyone is encouraged to submit something!
 - Readers are also encouraged to provide feedback on what they like, don't like, would like to see in future issues, etc.
 5. Awards (Holly Hicks)
 - The chapter is presenting four awards this year at the annual banquet.
 6. Techniques Workshop (Holly Hicks)
 - The 2024 Techniques Workshop was held at the AZGFD Ben Avery Facility. Some of the planned courses had to be swapped out at the last minute, but the event went really well.
 - The 2025 Techniques Workshop will be held on April 5 at Horseshoe Ranch. Contact Holly Hicks if you are interested in leading a class or participating as an attendee.
 7. Volunteer/Opportunity (Blue Martin)
 - Blue Martin stepped in as the chair in April.
 - Blue has been posting job announcements, volunteer opportunities, and other content, primarily focusing on students and new professionals.
 - Please share any opportunities with Blue to share on the website.
 8. Conservation Affairs Committee (vacant)
 - This committee did not have a chair in 2024 so was not able to engage in this work.
 - Contact Holly Hicks or the Board if you are interested in learning more and engaging.
 9. Borderlands Foundation for Understudied Plants and Animals (Kay Nicholson)
 - No additional funds came into the foundation in 2024.
 - The foundation distributed about \$2,000 in 2024 to a project to build an educational opportunity at the location where Aldo Leopold killed a wolf.
 - Anyone interested in assisting with BFUPA should reach out to Kay Nicholson.
 10. Memorial Garden (Vacant)
 - This committee did not have a chair in 2024.
 - Fortunately, there was no activity in 2024 as no AZ biologists passed away in the line of duty.
 - The Memorial Garden is hosted at the AZGFD headquarters.



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11. Student Chapter Liaison (Holly Hicks)

- Holly coordinated with student chapters about opportunities, JAM, etc.
- Grand Canyon University is interested in forming a student chapter. AZTWS has been coordinating with them to establish bylaws, identify student workloads, etc. They need to receive signatures from members of the parent society and are circulating a petition.

C. Student Chapter Reports

1. Northern Arizona University

- The student chapter is focused on connecting students with volunteer opportunities, internships, and mentors. Additionally, students and professionals with experience are invited to present about their work.
- Each year, they receive a behind-the-scenes tour at Bearizona to learn about husbandry and conservation at the facility.
- Engagement in the chapter started strong early in the school year but dropped over time. They are working to raise awareness of and interest in the chapter by posting flyers around the campus, identifying new presenters and opportunities, etc.
- They are now an official college club, which enables them to advertise their chapter to more students.

2. Arizona State University

- The student chapter increased their membership.
- They've been participating in a variety of volunteer opportunities.
- They host weekly meetings.

3. University of Arizona

- The student chapter focused on student and social engagement. They participated in a number of events, including tabling and presenting.
- They had a number of club socials, including herping and birding outings, which increased engagement.
- They meet every other week and bring in faculty or professionals to speak.
- They participated in a number of volunteer activities. They help with monthly cleanups at a local area to remove trash. They do a blackberry pull at a sensitive spring. They are working on restoration at a pupfish pond.
- The chapter does a variety of fundraising activities, including two fundraising events.
- The chapter hosted a bioblitz at the Santa Rita Experimental Range. This is the second year they hosted this event, and it is planned as an annual event.

III. Presentation to Outgoing Board Members (Christopher Carrillo)

- Outgoing board members include Chris Carrillo, Lias Hastings, Tiffany Sprague, and Haley Nelson.

IV. Installation of Incoming Board Members (Holly Hicks)

- President: Holly Hicks



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- President Elect: Tom Correll
- Corresponding Secretary: Blue Martin
- Recording Secretary: Cheyenne Herzog-Lowrance
- Treasurer: Julie Alpert
- Board Member: Karla Vargas

V. SW Section News (Kathy Granillo and Kay Nicholson)

- Kathy Granillo – SW Representative to Council
 - TWS awards: You can learn about the awards on the parent society website. Nominations are due on May 1, except Fellows, Distinguished Service, and publications awards are due on March 1.
 - Position statements: TWS works to provide guidance related to wildlife for biologists, decision-makers, politicians, etc. Four position statements are up for review/renewal this year. Talk with Kathy if you are interested in being part of a review committee.
 - The 2025 annual conference will be in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from October 5–9. Participation could be decreased due to federal travel restrictions, but Canadian participation could increase. Nominations for sessions are due on March 9.
 - Women of Wildlife: Interested individuals are encouraged to sign up to receive emails and notifications regarding this TWS community team.
- Jim Ramakka – Members are encouraged to identify ways that retired professionals can provide benefit to or coordinate with student chapters, state chapters, sections, etc.
- Kay Nicholson – Outgoing Past President of SW Section
 - TWS has a new chapter in Mexico. Students with the chapter were sponsored to attend JAM.
 - The Section has been engaging in conservation affairs. Their committee chair can assist AZTWS.
 - The Section has two new newsletter editors.
 - Jim Heffelfinger awarded with TWS Fellows in 2024.
 - Leland Pierce received the TWS Distinguished Service Award in 2024.
 - The Section awarded \$1,000 for continuing education.
 - The Section uses a Google Groups platform. They've had issues with members not receiving emails. Members should contact the Section if they are not receiving emails.

VI. New Business

- JAM 2026
 - Will be hosted by AZ/NM AFS and will be held in AZ.
- 2025 Wildlife Techniques Workshop
 - Open to 60 students.
 - All are encouraged to attend!
- Committee Chairs
 - Reach out to Holly Hicks to learn more about the committees or if you are



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interested in filling a chair vacancy.

- Membership Comments/Questions?

Adjournment

Glen Dickens motioned. Eddie Cota seconded. Approved unanimously.



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ANNUAL REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

Presented February 6, 2025

58th Joint Annual Meeting

Outgoing President's Report Christopher Carrillo, President

Board Members

<u>Christopher Carrillo</u>	President	<u>Tiffany Sprague</u>	Recording Secretary
<u>Holly Hicks</u>	President-Elect	<u>Vicki Olmstead</u>	Board Member
<u>Haley Nelson</u>	Treasurer	<u>Lias Hastings</u>	Board Member
<u>Tom Correll</u>	Corresponding Secretary	<u>Sarah Rinkevich</u>	Past-President

Committee Chairs

<u>Holly Hicks</u>	Awards/Nominations	<u>Vacant</u>	Memorial Garden
<u>Scott Sprague</u>	BioBlitz	<u>Tiffany Sprague</u>	Newsletter Editor
<u>Vacant</u>	Conservation Affairs	<u>Holly Hicks</u>	Student Chapter Liaison
<u>Vacant</u>	Continuing Education	<u>Blue Martin</u>	Volunteer/Opportunity Coordinator
<u>Christopher Carrillo</u>	Membership	<u>Haley Nelson</u>	Webmaster
<u>Tom Correll and Haley Nelson</u>	Social Media		

I would like to Thank the Board, Committee Chairs, and the membership for the support during my time as the President of the AZ Chapter. I am particularly thankful for the dedication, time, energy, historical knowledge, and leadership that each board member and committee member that has provided support to the chapter.

2024 Financial Statement Haley Nelson, Treasurer

The 2024 Treasurer's Report summarizes the financial transactions and account balances of the Arizona Chapter of the Wildlife Society (Chapter) for the 2024 calendar year. Chapter funds are held in five accounts, including four dedicated accounts (Continuing Education, Memorial Garden, WildHARE, and Reed Sanderson) and one general account (General Funds). The Chapter strives to provide financial support to students and professionals for educational and



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networking opportunities. As such, the Chapter expended \$1,199.02 to students through the Reed Sanderson Memorial Fund (\$9.02 was expended from our General Fund to cover the small exceedance), to assist with their travel expenses for the 2024 Joint Annual Meeting. The Chapter also awarded \$1,000.00 in Continuing Education grants to students for various educational and professional development activities. Additionally, the Chapter provided financial support in the sum of \$644.72 to host the Wildlife Techniques Workshop. Other recurring expenses include officers' national dues, website hosting, and various shipping expenses. This year, the Arizona Chapter of the Wildlife Society also hosted the Joint Annual Meeting in Flagstaff; a detailed review of the spending and income from the event, and the rest of the year, can be found below.

	31-Dec-2023	31-Dec-2024
General Funds		
General Fund	12,815.10	38,665.58
Sub-Total	12,815.10	38,665.58
Committed Funds		
Memorial Garden	735.08	735.08
Continuing Education	2,300.00	1,300.00
WildHare	3,763.23	3,763.23
Reed Sanderson	1,190.00	0.00
Sub-Total	7,988.31	5,798.31
Grand Total	20,803.41	44,463.89

Annual Cash Flow: Dec 31, 2023 - Dec 31, 2024

INFLOWS

Chapter Dues Received	1,125.32
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BioBlitz T-Shirt Sale	491.20
2024 JAM	
Registration/Sponsorship	90,379.22
Drink Tickets Reimbursement	288.00
Raffle/Auction	
PayPal	2,461.50
Cash	2,399.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	97,144.24

OUTFLOWS

Reed Sanderson Award	1,199.02
2024 Techniques Workshop Expenses	644.72
Website Hosting	122.16
Continuing Education Grants	1,000.00
Payment of Officer National Dues	271.00
President to National Conference 2023 & 2024	2,916.33
Stamps/Business Checks	142.76
New Swag	847.84
Member Planet	00.96
2024 JAM Expenses	
Hotel/Venue	56,241.87
Priority Mail Shipping Fees for Payment	40.45
Event Management	6,371.46



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Volunteer Registration Reimbursement	1,265.00
Workshop	800.00
JAM Travel Grant	300.00
Award Plaques	595.70
Quizbowl	150.00
Student Prizes	225.00
Planning Committee Gifts	120.00
Badges/Printing	229.49
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	73,483.76
<hr/> OVERALL TOTAL	23,660.48

Funds by Quarter					
	1-Jan-24	31-Mar-24	30-Jun-24	30-Sep-24	31-Dec-24
General Funds:	12,815.10	39,510.15	39,728.43	40,072.64	38,665.58
SUBTOTAL	12,815.10	39,510.15	39,728.43	40,072.64	38,665.58
Committed Funds:					
Memorial Garden	735.08	735.08	735.08	735.08	735.08
Continuing Education	2,300.00	2,300.00	1,800.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
WildHare	3,763.23	3,763.23	3,763.23	3,763.23	3,763.23



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Reed Sanderson	1,190.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SUBTOTAL	7,988.31	6,798.31	6,298.31	5,798.31	5,798.31
GRAND TOTAL	20,803.41	46,308.46	46,026.74	45,870.95	44,463.89

2024 Membership Report Christopher Carrillo, Membership Chair

As of January 21, 2025, there were 249 active registered members in the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Our numbers of paid members have remained stable compared to last year. At our peak in 1994, we had a record high of 263 registered members. Every year we set goals to meet or exceed our record high membership by the following year’s meeting. Unfortunately, we did not reach our goal, but we had some growth and our numbers remained steady. I am positive that with the continued support and networking skills that we can continue grow our membership in the years ahead. I would like to thank each of you for your continued support of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society. For our Chapter to continue to flourish we all need to continue to support our chapter and encourage others to join or rejoin. I would like for each member to get at least one person to sign up this year. If each of our current members does that, we will have 498 members. We need to continue to encourage other wildlife professionals, educators, students, and laypersons that are interested in wildlife management and education to join the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society. If you have any suggestions or ideas on improving membership, please share those ideas.

We are continuing to use Member Planet as the membership database and has provided the AZ TWS chapter with various membership services (i.e., communications tools, payment mgmt., etc.) However, like any tool there are limitations. Unfortunately, this platform does not allow us to automatically track those members who pay their Chapter dues through the National program. This confirmation is done monthly through manual verification from reports provided by the National program. If for any reason you need assistance with your membership, please reach out the AZ TWS Chapter. We hope that by providing member notification that it will help to maintain and increase membership.



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The Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society members are the lifeblood of this Chapter, you represent a group of interested people that want to promote sound management and conservation of our states' wildlife resources. Like many of the species we manage, we need to manage our membership to ensure our numbers don't decline, and we need your help TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIPS! Please join us as we find solutions to increase membership so that we can continue to provide educational, professional development and networking opportunities.

What do we need to do? If you haven't renewed your membership yet for 2025, you have several options. You can renew at the registration desk, or when you renew your TWS National Membership at www.wildlife.org, or you can visit the Arizona Chapter website <https://aztws.com/membership/> and renew online. Please take the time to talk with your colleagues, fellow students, and those interested in Arizona's wildlife and encourage them to join the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society. If you recently joined or are a veteran member and you have not been receiving our Arizona TWS emails, it may be that we don't have a valid email address for you. If you could please send us any changes to your email addresses to, ArizonaTWS@gmail.com. Also, please send any comments and/or suggestion to the email as well. We look forward to a wonderful 2025!!!

2024 Paid Memberships	249	2023 Paid Memberships	221
2022 Paid Memberships	202	2021 Paid Memberships	191
2020 Paid Memberships	191	2019 Paid Memberships	226
2018 Paid Memberships	185	2017 Paid Memberships	185

2024 Continuing Education Committee Report Vacant

The Continuing Education Committee issues grant funds to professionals, graduate students, and undergraduate students who are members of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society. These grant funds are intended to help our Chapter members with educational and training opportunities, as well as networking opportunities through professional organizations and conferences. The Continuing Education award can be accessed through the AZTWS website. Applications can be submitted at any time and are reviewed quarterly by the Committee (committee chair, 1 board member, and treasurer) in January, April, July, and October.

For the 2024 calendar year, the Continuing Education Committee received two grant applications and distributed \$1,000 for members to attend the 2024 Western Collaborative Conservation Network's Confluence and the 52nd Annual North American Symposium for Bat Research. This is a good reminder that if you or anyone you know is searching for support for continuing



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education, visit the website or speak with an AZTWS board member to learn about this grant opportunity. For the 2025 calendar year, \$1,500 in Continuing Education grant funds will be available, with a maximum allowance of \$500 per application, and are limited to current Chapter members.

The Continuing Education Chair is also responsible for administering the Reed Sanderson Memorial Award Account. Reed Sanderson was a wildlife biologist and Fellow of The Wildlife Society. Reed is remembered as an engaged mentor who took great pleasure visiting with students and early-career professionals at The Wildlife Society National Meeting and the JAM. Donations given to the Reed Sanderson Memorial Awards are used to support students from an Arizona college or university for registration and travel to JAM meetings. For the 2024 calendar year we did not receive any applications for assistance with travel or attendance at the 2025 JAM. This is another reminder that if you or anyone you know is searching for support for participating in JAM, please visit our website or reach out to an AZTWS board member.

*Please Note: The Continuing Education Committee Chair position is vacant. If anyone is interested in stepping up as Chair, it would be greatly appreciated.

2024 Website and Social Media Report

Tom Corell

AZTWS maintains a few social media sites and a webpage to engage with members. These include a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AZTWS), a Twitter account (www.twitter.com/aztws), and our homepage (aztws.com). Social Media continues to be a great way for membership to stay connected. We have 99 X followers, 1417 Facebook AZTWS members, and 20, 746 members on the Backyard Wildlife of the Southwest page. Finally, we are happy to announce the new AZ Chapter Instagram page! Connect with us @AZTWS.

2024 Newsletter Report

Tiffany Sprague, Newsletter Editor

AZTWS prepared and distributed four issues of our newsletter, *The Arizona Wildlifer*. Webmaster Haley Nelson posted each issue online, and Corresponding Secretary Tom Correll distributed the newsletter via email and social media outlets. The newsletter is open access and freely available on the AZTWS website [<https://aztws.com/category/wildlifer>] with intent to engage both members and interested non-members. Each issue featured a “President’s Message” from Christopher Carrillo and updates from the Southwest Section Representative Kathy Granillo. Other content included feature articles about research being conducted in Arizona, updates from student chapters, trip and event reports, announcements for upcoming events, and more.



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Members and supporters are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter. Anyone can contribute submissions relevant to management and conservation of Arizona's wildlife resources, such as articles, meeting/event announcements, project updates, job announcements, volunteer opportunities, pictures (with photographer credits), and more. AZTWS encourages submissions and supporting materials from under-represented and marginalized groups to empower and elevate voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. AZTWS is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in Arizona's wildlife profession and community. Submission deadlines are the third Friday of March, June, September, and December. Please reach out if you are interested in contributing or know someone who might be!

Inquiries and submissions can be sent to aztwseditor@gmail.com.

2024 Awards Report Holly Hicks, Awards Chair

Awards nominations were solicited through several email announcements to our Chapter email list, which includes both members and non-member supporters, and a standing call for nominations in our quarterly newsletter, *The Arizona Wildlifer*. The deadline for submission was extended this year to December 31, 2023. Nominations and endorsements were sent to the President Elect and then to the Executive Board.

We received nominations for four awards this year: Tribal Conservationist Award, Roger Hungerford Student Award, Professional Service Award, and The David E. Brown Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing an individual for his or her accomplishments in wildlife biology and management over their lifetime. This year's awards will be presented at the Awards Ceremony at the 2025 Joint Annual Meeting being held in Albuquerque, NM on Friday, February 7, 2025. Following the meeting, we will issue a press release via email and additionally announce the winners via our website, social media, and newsletter.

2024 Wildlife Techniques Workshop Report Holly Hicks, Chair

On April 20th, 2024 the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Arizona Game and Fish Department hosted the eleventh annual *Wildlife Techniques Workshop*. The intent of this annual workshop is to provide young professionals and students enrolled in wildlife-related programs at local colleges and universities with a hands-on training opportunity that familiarizes them with wildlife tools and techniques used to capture, restrain, track, and observe wildlife. The workshop gives students a unique and valuable opportunity to handle equipment used by wildlife



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professionals that most students had only read about prior to attending the event.

In 2024, 44 students and young professionals registered for the workshop (in 2011 there were 40 students in attendance) from a variety of state schools including Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University, University of Arizona, and Grand Canyon University. Over a dozen instructors and organizers (Table 1) provided their professional expertise on their personal time to make the event a major success for the Arizona Chapter. Without the dedication of these individuals, the *Wildlife Techniques Workshop* would not have been possible. As a result of their participation, wildlife students and professionals have additional skill sets that will facilitate their transition into professional service. In addition to being a fun event, the *Wildlife Techniques Workshop* provides an educational experience and a networking opportunity for the attendees.

Every student learned firsthand various techniques used for wilderness survival. The group also instructed students in radio-telemetry methods and darting and everyone experienced shooting a net gun. There were other unique opportunities to learn trap styles from small Sherman’s to large bear traps. After completing this full day of training, the students left with a better understanding of the work of wildlife professionals and the tools and techniques available to them in the field for safe and effective wildlife management. In addition, they reaped the benefits of learning about wildlife in Arizona from a group of knowledgeable and experienced professionals.

The *Wildlife Techniques Workshop* also provided a unique experience for Arizona state and federal wildlife professionals to be involved in training future wildlife professionals – an experience unparalleled for the students here in Arizona seeking a career in wildlife management.

Table 1. 2024 Techniques Workshop Instructors	
Brit Oleson	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Cheyenne Herzog-Lowrance	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Holly Hicks	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Jeff Sorensen	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Jesse Baker	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Kay Nicholson	Jacobs
Randy Babb	Retired Biologist
Scott Sprague	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Tiffany Sprague	Arizona Game and Fish



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	Department
Tim Bradley	Arizona Game and Fish Department



2024 Volunteer/Opportunity Report Blue Martin, Chair

The year 2024 was marked by a wealth of volunteering and professional development opportunities, benefitting a diverse range of our Chapter’s members. In September, we partnered with the City of Gilbert, AZ to host a successful BioBlitz event titled “Parks for Pollinators”. This event saw enthusiastic participation from both students and the public, highlighting the community’s interest in conservation and biodiversity.



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Throughout the year, the Chapter also shared numerous internships, seasonal positions, and volunteer opportunities. These efforts made 2024 an especially valuable year for students and early-career professionals, a demographic we hope to continue engaging as we work to grow our membership base.

At the same time, established members found value in the opportunities shared, demonstrating the broad appeal of our posts. Looking ahead, we plan to further increase engagement by prioritizing opportunities tailored to students and early-career professionals while continuing to provide valuable resources for all members. With these efforts, we aim to make 2025 an even more impactful year for the Chapter.

2024 Conservation Affairs Report Vacant, Chair

The Conservation Affairs Committee reviews regulations, planning documents, environmental assessments, impact states, and other documents affecting wildlife and habitat issues primarily within Arizona and any federal regulations that may affect Arizona. The following is a summary of the activities of the Committee:

1. Discussed with the Board on joining a stakeholder focus group for the Arizona State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/actionplan/> to provide professional expertise during the input-seeking phase for the SWAP 10-year update. SWAP is a comprehensive vision for managing Arizona's fish, wildlife, and wildlife habitats for a 10-year period. The plan includes input from resource professionals, federal and state agencies, sportsmen groups, conservation organizations, Native American tribes, recreational groups, local governments, and citizens. Arizona's SWAP outlines strategies and conservation actions aimed at promoting partnerships and coordinating efforts for everyone that has an interest in conserving Arizona's wildlife.

As the AZ Chapter of TWS is comprised of a handful of AZGFD staff, there was some concern that there would be a conflict of interest, so the consensus of the Chapter was to opt out of involvement with SWAP.

2. Continued to monitor the progress of a legislative bill in the House of Representatives: The Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021 (RAWA) (HR 2773; S2372). The legislation has 186 cosponsors. The proposal is intended to bring forth resources to wildlife professionals tasked with conserving the diversity of America's native species. These resources will fund multi-stakeholder efforts to conserve and monitor these at-risk species, known in states as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN).



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The parent TWS association was also following the bill and covered updates regularly on their website here: <https://wildlife.org/policy/recovering-americas-wildlife-act/> .

3. Monitored the US EPA database for Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) pertinent to the State of Arizona and wildlife topics here: <https://www.epa.gov/nepa/national-environmental-policy-act-epa-region-9>
4. The position did not review any documents. The Board did support the Restoring America's Wildlife Act bill.

*Please Note: The Conservation Affairs Committee Chair position is vacant. If anyone is interested in stepping up as Chair, it would be greatly appreciated.

2024 Borderlands Foundation for Understudied Plants and Animals Report Kay Nicholson, Chair

The Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society (AZTWS) has been a sponsor of the Borderlands Foundation for Understudied Plants and Animals (BFUPA), which is an Arizona-based foundation whose mission is to conduct natural history investigations of understudied plants and animals in the American Southwest (including Mexico). A charter for BFUPA is available for members to view on the AZTWS website here: <https://aztws.com/resources/borderlands-foundation-for-understudied-plants-and-animals-bfupa/>.

Initially, this committee was started with AZTWS because the Chapter was considering managing funds, providing guidance, and approving projects. However, the nonprofit status was taken over by the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center and coordination for funds and approvals with AZTWS was not needed. Funds for BFUPA have dwindled and a final disbursement of all remaining funds was issued to the Leopold Project. The location where Aldo Leopold killed wolves that plays so importantly in Leopold's conservation ethic parable "Thinking Like a Mountain" in the *Sand County Almanac* has been identified. The goal of the Leopold Project is to design and build an interpretive site commemorating the place where those wolves were killed and the impact that event eventually had on our Nation's conservation and environmental awareness. The site will include an interpretive deck perched on the east rim of the Black River, upstream and across the canyon from the presumed location where the shooting occurred.



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2024 Wildlife Memorial Garden Report Vacant, Chair

Fortunately, there was no activity regarding the Wildlife Memorial Garden this past year. The Wildlife Memorial Garden is dedicated to individuals who have lost their lives while working for Arizona's wildlife resources.

The concept for the Memorial Garden was conceived and developed by members of the AZ TWS in the 1990s. Cooperators throughout the history of the Garden have included AGFD, Arizona-New Mexico Chapter American Fisheries Society, and Arizona Game Rangers. The Garden was originally dedicated in 2003 at the AGFD headquarters on Greenway Road in Phoenix. When AGFD moved to Carefree Highway in 2007, a new Memorial Garden was created as an integral part of the new facility.

When you visit the AGFD headquarters in Phoenix, take a few minutes to visit the Memorial Garden, which is located just right of the main entrance to the building. While there, remember those who have lost their lives while doing their job working for wildlife - a job that many of us share, find important, and enjoy.

There are nine honorees at the Memorial Garden: William Smith, Ross Moores, Donald Miller, Allen Severson, Richard Seegmiller, Estevan Escobedo, Mark Whitney, Eric York, and Ronnie Sidner. Dates of their deaths, while working for wildlife, range from 1949-2014. They died while working for AZGFD, U.S. Forest Service, University of Arizona, U.S. National Park Service, and as private contractor. Causes of death were in aircraft accidents, vehicle accidents, and plague.

Donations to the Memorial Garden were originally encouraged through purchase of engraved bricks, approximately 70 of which were incorporated into the original garden. Bricks were not incorporated into the new Garden at Carefree Highway, but all prior donors were noted on two bronze plaques installed at the Garden. Currently donations are being accepted, though not actively pursued because AGFD handles maintenance of the garden as part of their overall complex maintenance. Funds may occasionally be needed for purchase of memorial plaques, as last occurred in 2014, but hopefully that will be very rare.

*Please Note: The Wildlife Memorial Garden Committee Chair position is vacant. If anyone is interested in stepping up as Chair, it would be greatly appreciated.

2024 Student Chapter Liaison Report Holly Hicks, Chair

In 2024, Holly Hicks continued to be the Student Liaison for the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife



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Society. Guidance was provided to students in the form of report writing, contributions to the Student Voice in the quarterly Newsletter, and assistance in completion of grants to receive travel reimbursements.

Currently in Arizona, there are three active student Chapters (Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University, and University of Arizona). Holly has provided information on volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, Chapter obligations, and JAM opportunities. She also met with Adrienne Crawford at Grand Canyon University to pursue their effort to be their own Student Chapter.

The 2024 Joint Annual Meeting was held in Flagstaff, AZ. Holly provided information to students to apply for travel grants to attend the meeting and provided updated information on registration, workshops, volunteer opportunities, and call-for-papers.

Throughout the year, Holly has also provided advice to students that were working on career opportunities and resume building. She worked with officers that were working on reports and travel reimbursement applications. The Student Voice is a standard article that is in the quarterly Newsletter and Holly has encouraged and worked with students to submit articles in the Newsletters. Holly also has continued to provide reminders to officers of their obligations to their state chapter and current and upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Northern Arizona University Report

This is Jae Geesey, president of the NAU chapter of The Wildlife Society for Fall 2024, with a report detailing meetings and activities for the fall semester of 2024.

- 9/18/2024, First meeting of the semester, included introductions of both officers and members and the remainder of the meeting was spent going over presentations created by members about their summer internships and volunteer opportunities.
- 10/02/2024, Second meeting officers discussed volunteer opportunities and the remainder of the meeting was spent going over a presentation on wildlife track and sign with Jae Geesey.
- 10/16/2024, Third meeting of the semester TWS invited graduate student Jake Lee to discuss his research with venomous reptiles, as well as his experiences in other jobs and as a grad student.
- 10/30/2024, Members participated in a spooky wildlife themed kahoot game with specimens relevant to the information found within the Kahoot game.
- 11/13/2024, TWS invited AZGFD liaison Rob Nelos to talk with members about career development in wildlife as well as different positions that can be found in a wide array of wildlife careers.
- 11/23/2024, TWS members took a behind the scenes trip to Bearizona and received an



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enlightening and educational tour from Animal behavior supervisor Shelby. Members were informed of the Summer internship offered by Beariozona.

- 12/04/2024, A joint party with TWS and AFS was held at Dr. Alice Gibbs residence. The party was meant as a casual get together where two clubs can join forces and possibly share opportunities.

Arizona State University Report

No Report Received

University of Arizona Report

University of Arizona Fish and Wildlife Society Annual Report 2024-2025

Student and School Engagement

- Tabling at University Events: officers/members were able to promote the club to their peers by setting up a booth where students learn about the club
- SNRE 50th Anniversary: The club tabled and presented at multiple events during SNRE's anniversary celebration, connecting to students, faculty, and alumni
- Club Socials: The club organized herping and birding socials at the beginning of fall semester to help recruit and connect with club members
- Club Meetings: We hold meetings every other week, where we bring in speakers and update members on club events. We average 15-30 attendees.

Volunteering

- Wash Cleanups: The club in helps organize and participate in the regular trash clean-ups of a section of the Arroyo-Chico Wash
- Blackberry Pull: The club has partnered with a local rancher to remove invasive blackberry bushes from his property in the San Rafael Valley. We have completed 2 trip so far (March and November 2024), and are planning at least 2 more this semester
- Pupfish Pond Restoration: The club has been working with the Palo Verde High School to restore their Pupfish Pond, through removal of plants and sediment and addition of new plants. We have had 3 workdays in the year, and hope to go back soon.

Fundraising

- Beast Feast: We raised money via tickets and a raffle at our 2nd annual beast feast in April 2024 and are planning our 3rd for this upcoming April.
- Pint Night: We held a pint night in November, and raised money through donations, merch sales, and trivia. We hope to make this a recurring event.



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Bioblitz

The club worked with the Santa Rita Experimental Range to hold our 2nd Bioblitz in September 2024. Students are invited to spend 24 hours with us at the range to observe plant and animal life. Faculty and staff join us to lead walks, trappings, and give talks. We had over 50 attendees this year and are working to continue developing the event for the future.

Research

The student research committee is a subsection of the club that provides a space for undergraduate students to develop and run their own research projects. This year our focus has been on developing a turtle project on the Santa Cruz River, investigating diet of the invasive Spiny Softshell. We got permits and began trapping late 2024, and plan to continue trapping through this semester and hopefully into the summer.