

Mission:

AWF is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring, and assisting individuals and organizations to value, conserve, enhance, manage, and protect wildlife and wildlife habitat.



Arizona Wildlife Federation

Wildlife and Habitat Post

Issue 4, May 2004

Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge Open Grassland Once More

The Sonoran grasslands were once home to great herds of pronghorn antelopes. By 1935, the grasslands had been overgrazed and overhunted because of the lack of regulations, and the pronghorn were gone. After the Buenos Aires Ranch became the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, pronghorn were reintroduced in the 1980's.

Today, the refuge has become a grassland sanctuary for pronghorn antelope, javalina, and several varieties of raptors.

On March 20, 2004, members of Arizona Wildlife Federation and ASU students removed several major sections of barbed wire fence from

the refuge. In all, they took out more than 200 fence posts and two and a half miles of fence, including more than a mile of five-strand wire.

Bonnie Swarbrick, of BANWR, who coordinated the work day, points out that "tangled brush, sun, sharp wire and possible rattlesnakes make this arduous work, but it is an effort that is beneficial to wildlife."

"Pronghorn evolved in open land and are reluctant to jump fences," Bonnie adds. "They often try to crawl under the lowest strand, and can become entangled."

Additional fence removal projects will be scheduled this Fall.



Members of Arizona Wildlife Federation and students from Dr. Robert Ohmart's ASU class pose in front of a pile of barbed wire from over two miles of fence removed from the Wildlife Refuge on March 20, 2004.

**Learn more
about BANWR
from habitat
experts at the
AWF Annual
Meeting
June 5, 2004 at
the Fiesta Inn in
Tempe, Arizona.
See insert for
details!**

Message from the President

Greeting to all AWF members and interested parties,

Since this is my last column as president, I want to take the time to thank all the AWF members and board of directors for allowing me to serve you these last two terms. There isn't enough space here to acknowledge all the individuals who have contributed so much to the success of the AWF. Therefore I thank all the volunteers, staff, affiliates, members and board members for their hard work and dedication; without you there would be no Arizona Wildlife Federation!

Although at times being the president of a statewide organization can be difficult, the experience has been wonderful. For me, it was both rewarding and educational.

I have had the privilege to work with many, many good people. I have learned that, as in much of life, there is little black and white, and more gray than we wish. And I have learned to agree to disagree on some subjects and still remain friends. And that because you can't please everyone, it is possible to have alliances with a group on one particular issue, and not support them on others.

I have had the opportunity to travel statewide and help promote wildlife habitat and the AWF. I have seen wildlife habitats both good and poor, and witnessed the efforts to rehabilitate, restore,

and maintain them. I participated in many meetings and work projects, and learned how agencies work and how they don't. Who could ask for a better way to work for Arizona's wildlife?

In closing, I want to remind everyone that our Annual Convention and Meeting is June 5th, at the Fiesta Inn in Tempe. I urge everyone to attend and participate in the meetings and the election of new officers and board of directors. Some exciting new people have been nominated and we are looking forward to a very successful new year.

Mike Perkinson
President

Isn't That Amazing?

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF ARIZONA WILDLIFE

- A. There are ___ types of Ravens in Arizona.
- B. Ravens found in desert terrain around Phoenix are called the _____ Raven.
- C. Its cousin, the _____ Raven can be found in mountainous areas like Flagstaff.
- D. Ravens can growl (true or false).
- E. The Common Raven can be twice as large as the Chihuahuan Raven, and has a larger beak (true or false).
- F. The Chihuahuan Raven can be distinguished by its voice, which is higher pitched than the Common Raven, and the coloring at the base of its neck feathers, which is _____.
- G. Ravens are part of the _____ Family, along with Blue Jays.
- H. The Chihuahuan Raven will nest in the same nest year after year (true or false).
- I. The Common Raven has a level of intelligence equal to the of a _____.
- J. Ravens inhabit the western part of the United States, extending as far north as Alaska and most of Canada (true or false).
- K. Ravens can be taught to speak, like a parrot (true or false).

(Answers are found on Page 5)

April BOW Session

The Spring session of Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) was the largest on record. One hundred and eight women attended the weekend activities April 4 through 6, 2004, at Friendly Pines Camp near Prescott.

"We arrived Friday morning in snow flurries," BOW Coordinator Linda Dightmon reports, "and packed up in a barrage of hailstones. In between, there was just about everything else, including rain and sometimes the false promises of blue sky."

Despite the weather, all of the sessions were full. Linda reports that "not one person opted out of the canoeing and kayaking classes."

"April participants have already been contacting us," Linda adds, "ready to do it again in August. Bring on the summer Monsoon storms. We are woman. We can handle it!"

Linda, and co-coordinator, Amanda Moors, will be honored with a special presentation at the AWF Annual Convention Banquet, June 5, 2004, at the Fiesta Inn in Tempe, Arizona. More convention details are available in this issue.

AWF 81st Annual Convention

When: June 5, 2004

**Where: The Fiesta Inn
2100 South Priest Drive
Tempe, Arizona 85282**

We hope that you will come! The convention will be a one-day event, with business in the morning (elections and resolutions), lunch and trophy awards at noon, an educational workshop on grassland health with an expert panel in the afternoon, and an evening banquet (with raffles throughout the day, of course!).

Nominations & Elections: The positions listed below will be elected during the Annual Meeting. If you would like to bring forward nominees for these positions, and we encourage you to do so, please write, call or email our office.

Officers (all 1-year terms)

- President
- Vice President, Operations
- Vice President, Conservation
- NWF Representative
- NWF Alternate Rep
- Federal Agency Liaison
- Legislative Liaison
- State Agency Liaison

Regional Directors (2-year terms)

- Director Region 2 (Flagstaff area)
- Director Region 4 (Yuma area)
- Director Region 6 (Central Arizona)

Six Directors-at-Large

Two Trophy Book Committee positions (3-year terms)

Open appointed positions:

Two Directors-at-Large

- Secretary
- Treasurer

Registration: A registration form for the meeting is on the next page. Please feel free to make copies if you need them.

Reservations: We have reserved a block of rooms at the discounted rate of \$69 a night at the Fiesta Inn. They will be held until May 14, 2004, so make your reservations soon by contacting the hotel directly at (480) 967-1441. Be sure to tell them you are registering for the AWF meeting so you will get the special rate.

Resolutions: Late resolutions may be submitted by a two-thirds vote of the AWF Board, or by a two-thirds vote of the delegation at the convention.

Banquet: This year's banquet emcees will be:

Jim and Darla Solomon, co-hosts of the Outdoors Arizona radio program.

The keynote speech will be given by:

NWF Director Steve Torbit on:

"The Value of Volunteers."

The highlight of the evening will be the presentations of the Thomas E. McCullough Award, the Organization of the Year Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Plus, special recognition for "Becoming an Outdoors Woman," and Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.

Thank you very much for your past and continued support of the Arizona Wildlife Federation.
We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be a productive, informative, and fun 2004 Annual Convention.



Arizona Wildlife Federation
81st Annual Meeting
June 5, 2004
 Fiesta Inn
 2100 South Priest Drive
 Tempe, Arizona 85282
 (480) 967-1441
 www.fiestainnresort.com

Registration Form

Name: _____

Guests: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Affiliate Club, if applicable: _____

Saturday Luncheon	\$25.00 per person	=	\$	_____
Saturday Night Banquet	\$40.00 per person	=	\$	_____
Luncheon & Banquet package	\$60.00 per person	=	\$	_____
Raffle Tickets	\$1.00 each x	=	\$	_____
Complete Package *	\$75.00 per person	=	\$	_____

* Includes Luncheon, Banquet and 20 raffle tickets

Enclosed is a check for registration in the amount of \$ _____
 (Please make checks payable to Arizona Wildlife Federation)

Please bill my credit card for \$ _____
 Master Card VISA

Card No: Exp Date /

My email address: _____ Phone: _____

Please **mail** your registration form to:
 Arizona Wildlife Federation
 644 North Country Club Dr., Ste. E
 Mesa, AZ 85201

or **fax** your registration form to:
 (480) 644-0078

AWF Action Update

The following are issues and projects the AWF has worked on in the last two months

AWF Board Considers Trust Lands Proposal

Arizona still has control of more than 90% of the ten million acres of trust land granted by the federal government at statehood. Late last month, a coalition of conservation groups, developers, ranchers and local governments presented proposed legislation to Governor Napolitano and the legislature to change some of the rules affecting the remaining trust land.

There is a very good chance that most, if not all, of these changes could be included in the November ballot. Here are some of the issues that may be determined this fall:

- Setting aside nearly 300,000 acres of trust land as open space (without reimbursement to the trust);
- Easing restrictions for cities wishing to obtain trust lands for conservation;
- Permitting longer grazing leases;
- Using income from certain lands to manage the trust;
- Establishing an oversight board to ensure proper use of the lands.

More information about the State Trust Lands proposal is available at the Web site www.land.state.az.us.

Sabino Canyon Lion Controversy Still Rages

Rarely has an issue divided wildlife enthusiasts as deeply as the controversy surrounding the mountain lions in Sabino Canyon. Even after one of the lions was captured several miles from a school, polls show that a majority of Arizonans oppose trapping or killing them.

AWF Board Director Steve Gallizioli points out that the state faces substantial liability if any of the animals were to attack or harm school children, citing the case of a bear mauling which cost taxpayers over two million dollars several years ago.

The problem is usually caused by people who leave behind food or wrappers in their trash, which attracts lions or their prey to an area.

Some wildlife advocates questioned the current law, whereby the director of Arizona Game and Fish is protected from dismissal by the Governor.

"We strongly disagree," Steve says. "The AWF is confident the state's sportsmen and others interested in the sound management of Arizona's wildlife would be equally opposed to giving wildlife management back to the politicians of the state."

NWF Objects to Relaxation of Mercury Emission Rules

Proposed lowering of power plant mercury emission standards currently considered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have raised objections from sportsmen and environmentalists.

According to the NWF, the current proposals would seriously endanger the 44 million Americans who fish. More than 10 million are children, who are especially susceptible to the myriad of health problems that mercury can cause.

The AWF has filed a formal letter of protest to the proposals, and urges members to contact their U.S. Senators and Representatives to retain the standards put in place by the Clean Air Act.

Isn't That Amazing? ANSWER KEY

- A Two.
- B Chihuahuan.
- C Common.
- D True (the Common Raven has an incredibly varied voice; less so for the Chihuahuan).
- E True.
- F White.
- G Corvid.
- H True (possibly due to lack of trees in the desert).
- I Dog (very intelligent; can apply reasoning to new situations).
- J True.
- K True (however, training must begin while still a juvenile).

(See Page 2 for Questions)

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 751 wildlife species using Arizona's wildlife habitats, including 461 birds, 150 mammals, 110 reptiles, and 30 amphibians.

Almost 1.5 million people engage in wildlife watching each year in Arizona, and spend an estimated \$820.7 million dollars annually in this pursuit. These numbers are greater than the participant and spending numbers for hunting and fishing combined.

The Federal government provided Arizona with \$1.4 million dollars under the State Wildlife Grants Program last year, to aid in maintaining and promoting this significant economic driver--the wildlife habitats and wildlife species of Arizona.

Petrified Forest Expansion

Federal legislation may be revived to purchase about 97,000 acres near the Petrified Forest, to double the size of the National Park.

Contact U.S. Representative Rick Renzi, or U.S. Senators Jon Kyl and John McCain, and urge them to support passage of this bill.

2004 Annual Convention

Please join us on June 5, 2004, at our 81st Annual Convention at the Fiesta Inn, in Tempe Arizona. Events include:

New Officers and Directors Election

Big Game Trophy Awards Luncheon

Buenos Aires NWR Presentation

Evening Awards Banquet featuring

Jim and Darla Solomon (KDUS Radio)

Steve Torbit (NWF Director)

See Insert for details and Registration Form

Mike Perkinson
Board President

Mary Jo Miller
Vice President-Operations

Don Farmer
Vice President-Conservation

Jack Simon
Secretary

Jerry Thorson
Treasurer

Regional Directors:
Al Kreutz
Randy Lamb
Jim Slingluff
Lee Kohlhasse

Directors at Large:
Rick Erman
Steve Gallizioli

NWF Regional Organizer:
Myra Wilensky

Director of Administration:
Duke Mertz



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