



PRONGHORN

1st Quarter 2022
Volume 28 Number 1



ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION, INC.

2022 BOARD

2022 Executive Committee

President	Ken Meadors
Vice President	Glen Dickens
Secretary	Dave Cagle
Treasurer	Terry Schupp
Immediate Past President	Brian George

Directors

Gary Boyer	Jamie Watkins
Joe Bill Pickrell	Darrell Tersey

Board of Governors

Pete Cimellaro '93	Bill Keebler '02
Jim McCasland '94	Jerry Guevin '03
Mike Cupell '95	Jim Unmacht '04 & '05
Nancy Lewis '96	Dave Laird '06
David Brown '97	Brian George '07
Joe Bill Pickrell '98	Tice Supplee '08
Don Johnson '99	Jimmy Mehen '09
Bill McLean '00	Shane Stewart '10 - '15
Warren Leek '01	

INFO@AZANTELOPE.ORG
WWW.AZANTELOPE.ORG

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 3	President's Message
Pages 4-5	David Brown and Richard Ockenfels— 2 Iconic Arizona Antelope Foundation Members Have Passed
Page 6	In Memoriam, David Earl Brown
Page 7	Testimonials
Pages 8-9	David Brown Photos, Support BFUPA
Pages 10	In Memoriam, Richard Ockenfels
Pages 11	Testimonials
Pages 12-13	Richard Ockenfels Photos
Pages 14-15	AAF Purchases New Wildlife Trailers For White Mountain Area, Photos
Pages 16-17	McDonald Fence Removal, Photos
Pages 18-19	Vekol Valley BLM Fence Removal, Photos
Page 20	Membership
Page 21	Thank You Supporters
Page 22	Group Photos from AAF Projects
Page 23	Pronghorn Book Info

AAF Mission Statement:

The Arizona Antelope Foundation is an organization dedicated to the welfare of pronghorn antelope. The Foundation's Mission is to actively seek to increase pronghorn populations in Arizona through habitat improvements, habitat acquisition, the translocation of animals to historic range, and public comment on activities affecting pronghorn and their habitat.



ON OUR COVER DAVID BROWN AND RICHARD OCKENFELS

SEE "2 ICONIC ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION BROTHERS HAVE PASSED" BY GLEN DICKENS ON PAGE 4 FOR A CHRONICLE OF THEIR PRONGHORN LEGACY—ALSO SEE PAGE 22 FOR INFO ON "ARIZONA'S PRONGHORN ANTELOPE—A CONSERVATION LEGACY", A BOOK THEY CO-WROTE.

Pronghorn is a quarterly magazine for the members of AAF. Letters, comments, news items, articles, pictures and stories are all welcome and will be considered for publication. Address all such items to: Lenée Landis, Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 1191, Mesa AZ 85211 or by email at info@azantelope.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello and welcome to the latest Pronghorn. We are rapidly approaching our Antelope clinic and fundraiser on June 11th. Due to restrictions it's been a couple of years since we have been able to have anything live so I hope to see those of you who can come this year.

Our Sonoran Antelope release herd seems to be doing well in the Vekol Valley area. Some of them are getting out and exploring the Northern portion of the area. So far from last update they have not gone to the South by much. Let's hope we can get a few more released here in the future.

Game and Fish was also successful in getting some Antelope (not Sonoran) from Utah which were released into units 18A and 21. From the latest on the 18A group they are hanging out more in 18B at this time. Haven't heard anything on the 21 release, but they were headed for Yellow Jacket Mesa, which should bring a natural movement down toward the Joes Hill area.

There is a new video out showing the 18A landscape project we are involved in. It is an excellent overview of what is, in my opinion, a premier effort nationwide, as far as a landscape project. When Game and Fish along with its partners are done, we should see as it was in the 1800's. The great thing about this effort is government, conservation groups, and ranchers getting together for the accomplishment of the same goal.

I would like to add this about Richard Ockenfels and Dave Brown: I spent more time in conversation with Richard than Dave, but both were a wealth of information. On more than one occasion on a project Richard would fill in where the local WM might be unfamiliar with previous studies. Any question you had about Pronghorn Antelope (even interaction with other species in their habitat) Richard could give you an answer.

I rode in the back seat of a Pickup with Dave Brown and Tice Supplee driving. While Tice is no pushover in the knowledge department, the history I learned listening to Dave was unbelievable. Get him talking about critters themselves and things go to a different level. This particular day we headed out for a day trip with the folks on the Buenos Aires wildlife refuge. They showed us habitat improvements being implemented for Pronghorn An-



telope. Every time the new manager would pause and state "I don't know the history" on such and such, Dave would say "I can fill you in on that". Both will be sorely missed. If you want to know more, please see Page 22 to purchase a copy of *Arizona's Pronghorn Antelope, A Conservation Legacy*, co-authored by both gentlemen.

Ken

"LIBERTAS AD VAGOR"....

FREEDOM TO ROAM



David Brown & Richard Ockenfels

2 Iconic Arizona Antelope Foundation Brothers Have Passed By Glen Dickens

We bid farewell to 85 year old David Brown and 69 year old Richard Ockenfels on September 9, 2021 and January 5, 2022, respectively. Both long-time retired career wildlife biologists with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, were eminently well published and respected amongst their peers. Both shared persuasive/passionate personalities and if you were present with either of them you found yourself constantly engaged in a learning conversation about wildlife conservation or one of its myriad of species. In combination they represented the living pronghorn legacy of the Arizona Antelope Foundation and Game and Fish Department. Now in their passing they become the fabric of both organizations historic wildlife heritage.

For the Arizona Antelope Foundation this binary loss is deep and personal as both were early, inspirational AAF members. David a charter and founding member in 1992, Life member in 2005, President in 1997 and long-time advisor/mentor to the organization up to his passing. Richard while employed by the Department serving as an Ex-Officio Board member until his retirement in 2008 and then a board member for several more years and thereafter attending annual projects and behaving as well as an advisor/mentor to all those around him. **I asked Richard in 2015 why he had never become a Life Member? His instant response; “It’s a matter of simple math. We charge Life Members \$1,000, I choose to pay for an annual sustaining membership at \$100, so the AAF by my calculation has received \$2,300 or \$1,300 more than a single Life Membership since 1992.”** Classic Richard!

Both David and Richard were recognized individually during their lives, for their considerable contributions to the body of knowledge and management of pronghorn antelope by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. At the 2002 Biennial Pronghorn Workshop Richard received a “Special Recognition” award. Then at the 2008 Biennial Pronghorn Workshop after his Arizona Game and Fish Department retirement, Richard received their most prestigious *Berrendo* award, *Berrendo* being Spanish for Pronghorn. A notable quote from the award presentation write up was, “Richard Ockenfels has dedicated much of his life to pronghorn, for he is a wildlife biologist, a wildlife researcher, a wildlife manager, and a true *Berrendo Aficionado* or Pronghorn Enthusiast!” David was recognized as well at that same 2008 Pronghorn Workshop and received a “Special Recognition” award for “his service to the science and management of pronghorn, and his dedication to the Biennial Pronghorn Workshops since 1982.”

David and Richard being the Arizona Pronghorn experts they had become were asked in 2005 by the Board if they would consider authoring a book about Arizona’s Pronghorn; a task they readily accepted. Thus came to print in 2007 entitled *Arizona’s Pronghorn Antelope – A Conservation Legacy* By David Brown and Richard Ockenfels. A 2009 book review said the following; *Arizona’s Pronghorn Antelope-A Conservation Legacy* is a concise package of accurate biology and management information placed in a historical context. It is an excellent source of valuable information for anyone interested in this incredible animal. This is simply a must-read for all pronghorn hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, biologists, and land management agency personnel.

On October 25th last fall I emailed Richard asking for a personal missive on David's passing for our upcoming *Pronghorn* magazine tribute, he replied to me in a word format on November 8th and it is quoted here in its entirety;

“David E. Brown. How should he be remembered? As a law enforcement officer, a biologist, an administrator, an editor, a writer, an educator, a mentor, an author, or by some other title? Maybe as all of the aforementioned names. I most often think of Dave as a “Naturalist.” Certainly, Dave was versed in biology, botany, and even geology. When one thinks of Dave and his many accomplishments, all of the above come to mind. Dave was my favorite naturalist. People admire those in the arts, the actors, musicians, storytellers, and artists. Other people admire athletes; whether the football hero, the baseball star, the basketball whiz, or someone at the top of a different sport. I admire naturalists. I have lost one. I have a few more naturalists to admire; Barry Spicer (former AZGFD non-game mammologist), Walt Anderson (professor emeritus, Prescott College), and Randy Babb (retired AZGFD Watchable Wildlife Program Manager) for examples in Arizona. People who know biology, botany, and even geology, and art, photography, and other talents. But Dave was at the top of the list of naturalists that I so admire. So, naturalist it is, the way I will remember David E. Brown.”

His email then asked me; “Is this the idea that you have in mind? ...from the heart.” **R**

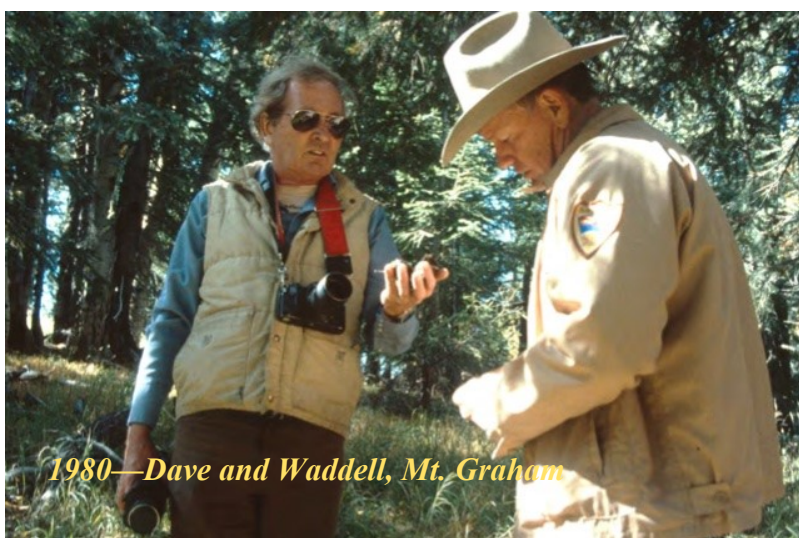
Yes, Richard it's exactly what I had in mind, but how could I have ever known I would be including your compliment to David in this forum.... I miss you deeply! Vaya Con Dios wildlife brother, Vaya Con Dios!



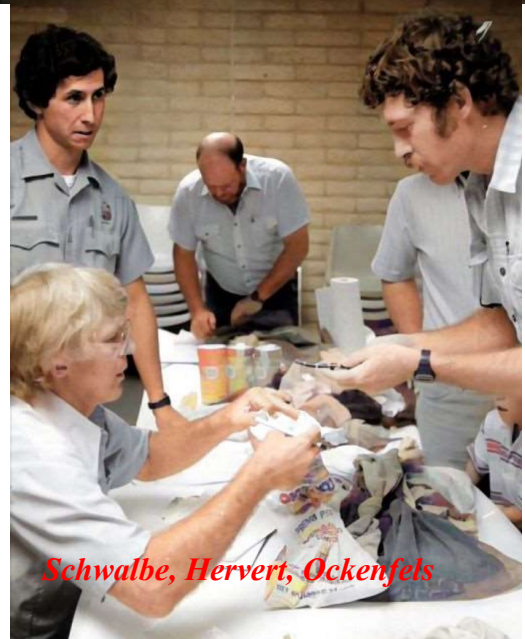
*1962 Region VI—Tucson
Dave Brown*



1980 Ockenfels Family



1980—Dave and Waddell, Mt. Graham



Schwalbe, Hervert, Ockenfels

In Memoriam, Life Member 10

David Earl Brown

David Earl Brown, Phoenix – Died September 9th, 2021 as he lived his life-on his own terms. He is survived by his wife of 56 years Louella, his daughter Jennifer Elaine, and his granddaughter Brianna Zoe, his brothers Jim (& Ann) Brown of OR and Rick (& Jackie) Brown of CA. Born January 26th, 1938 in Neenah WI his family moved to Santa Clara CA when he was 12 years old, where he later graduated from San Jose University. He took a job with the Arizona Game & Fish Department in Tucson- where he was promoted and moved to Phoenix in 1968. Retiring from the AZGFD in 1988, he then began another career at ASU in the Biology Department as an adjunct professor. David E Brown authored 23 books, 250+ articles, 120+ published scientific papers. His work creating the Biotic Communities Map with Charles Lowe in 1982 is used as the standard of the Southwest to this day. Well known as an avid outdoorsman, wildlife photographer, biologist, public speaker, educator, and writer, he never hesitated to share his vast knowledge and was humble when it came to using his talents to conserve wildlife.

Brown is a past president and a co-founder of the Arizona Antelope Foundation and an elected fellow of the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Sciences. In addition to being selected as "Educator of the Year," he has been chosen as the "Wildlife Conservationist of the Year" by the Arizona Wildlife Federation and awarded a Maytag Professorship by ASU, the Thomas E. McCullough Award for a career of professional wildlife conservation achievement by the Arizona Wildlife Federation, and the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award in 2000 by the Southwestern Association of Naturalists. In 2002, Brown was inducted into the Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame."

Dave Brown is the first recipient of the Arizona Chapter of the Wildlife Society's David E. Brown Lifetime Achievement Award, named in his honor. Brown started his wildlife career in 1960 at the age of 23. Wildlife politics were as contentious then as they are now, but Brown bridged political gaps through his exemplary performance as a Wildlife Manager and his keen insights into wildlife and their habitats. His broad interests and insatiable curiosity have led him all over the world, including more than half the states in the U.S., 30 Mexican states, Central America, Cuba, Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. These interests have resulted in more than 120 scientific and technical papers and more than 20 books on topics ranging from grizzly bears to Gila monsters. Brown and Charles Lowe's classification of vegetation of the southwest US and northwestern Mexico has become a bible for defining biotic zones in the Sky Island region. Brown has mentored hundreds of college students, often collaborating with them on research projects in an effort to give them a leg up on their careers."

A memorial service for David E. Brown was held on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021 at 11am in Phoenix at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility.

When asked what he wanted in his obituary he said; " David E Brown: husband, father, grandfather, brother – was a biologist, writer, outdoorsman, educator, photographer; who led a fantastic life and died without a single regret."



*Dave, Elaine, and granddaughter
Brianna*

Testimonials

Tom Britt

I met Dave in 1962 at a Tucson Wildlife Unlimited meeting. As a Wildlife Manager trainee I was assigned to go with Dave to Robbins Butte. We spent a great day together and established a friendship that lasted through his life. These encounters with Dave were an asset to my career. Dave was a great mentor and advisor. He could always test the reality of my ideas and theories. Dave left the wildlife professionals of my era and future generations with a great deal of printed material that is priceless. We were fortunate he came our way.

Harley Shaw

As I have with several others—Norm Woolsey, Don Neff, Clay McCulloch—I already miss the ability to pick up the phone or shoot off an email to Dave and check on some obscure memory or fact. These are all big empty spots, and Dave's is perhaps the biggest of all. Dave and I were close to the same age. Theoretically, that makes me a peer. I'd be honored to claim such a title, but in truth, Dave, like a truly fine hand-crafted shotgun, was Peerless. Adios Compadre!

Kerry Baldwin

I'm proud to say David Brown had become a friend and biological mentor. We have lost a conservation legend and unmatched repository of a wealth of ecological knowledge of the Southwest and northern Mexico. You might not always have agreed with him, but you damn well better pay attention to what he thought and reassess your position one more time. As a bio-historian of Arizona wildlife and environments, David had no equal. His time and productivity gathering, and publishing will probably never be matched again. So, those of us who had project ideas brewing with David, or were actively working with David on a project, now have a challenge to get those papers, projects, continuing surveys and information analysis done and out to the environmental community in his honor.

Ray Kohls

I was always amazed at Dave's knowledge of the Department's history and events. He was indeed the "Department's Historian." I will always be grateful to Dave for his friendship and insight into the history and will miss our occasional lunches and discussions.

John Carr

I met David Brown for the first time in July 1961 when we began our career with AGFD. We were the second "class" in the new Wildlife Manager program. David's first assignment was in Gila Bend. Dave told me when he lived in Gila Bend, he knew very little about Arizona's plants and began his learning at the Organ Pipe National Monument reading the signs at the Nature Walk. He never stopped learning and became an expert in plants and wildlife.

Stan Cunningham

Greatest naturalist in the southwest and a strong mentor for me and many others. Hard to believe that I won't be buying another Dave Brown book!

Ronald James Olding Jr.

Dave was one of the most prolific professionals, either academic or agency that I had the pleasure to work with. He left a legacy of work behind him and will be missed.

Tom Waddell

He inspired many young Wildlife Managers to do wildlife studies in the field, above and beyond normal duties, to further knowledge of the species they manage. Most people do not know that as a WM Dave was also a very good law enforcement officer in the field. If you ever had wildlife questions, he was usually the first you called. He will be greatly missed.

Help Keep the Dave Brown Influence Alive by Supporting BFUPA

The Borderlands Foundation for Understudied Plants and Animals is an Arizona based foundation to conduct natural history investigations of understudied plants and animals in the American Southwest (including Mexico).

Why BFUPA? BFUPA was a Dave Brown driven idea that is under the administrative umbrella of the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center and has oversight from the Arizona Chapter of the Wildlife Society. For at least the next few years, BFUPA intends to solicit donations and grants to support projects that had a nexus with Dave Brown including surveys, publications, research product, natural history projects, field study support, and seed funding.

David Brown was the most prolific naturalist in the southwest. His legacy of passionate scholarly work can live on in all the projects and project ideas he left behind with colleagues and friends. BFUPA intends to help see the inspiration and wealth of projects get recognized, supported, and happen.

Make Donations to: Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, Attn: BFUPA, PMB 115,

8711 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255



David with granddaughter Brianna Zoe



1986 Kaibab Check Station



AAF Contributor



1998 Expo AAF Booth



2007 Jackrabbit Project with Lisa Haynes



1998 AAF Secretary Cammons



1986 25 Year Pin

Tom Spalding

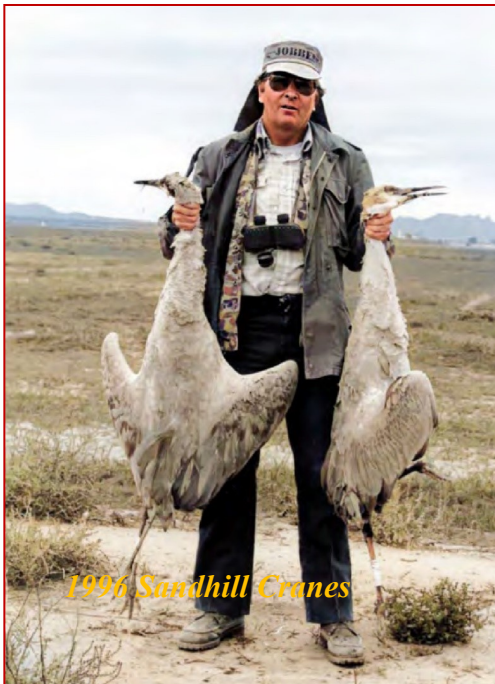
A great guy, a scholar a field biologist, and great author. He did much for AGFD and for the whole wildlife profession. He will be missed by all.

Jim Heffelfinger

My relationship with Dave started almost 30 years ago with an argument about pronghorn subspecies. I was fresh out of college so of course I knew everything. Our relationship ended at his bedside the afternoon he passed. Words cannot describe how much my entire career benefited from the time in between.

Randy Babb

I am incapable of putting into words just exactly what Dave meant to me. If I had to describe Dave in a single word it would be curious. He wanted to know why and how it all worked. He once told me "ask the question...why is that over there and not here? Why does this thing look like that? Why does this animal behave like this?" This curiosity is what drove Dave. He didn't want to just read about a place or thing, he had to see the "elephant". These visits allowed him to form his own opinions and ideas which later found their way into hundreds of scientific and popular publications. Dave gave so much to so many through his teaching and writing, he made us all better biologists. I am so thankful to have learned from and spent time with him.



1996 Sandhill Cranes



Glassing Silverbells

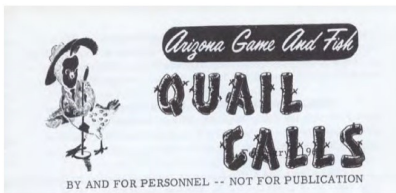


Javelina Tag

1963

The Wildlife Biologist

By Dave Brown, *Quail Calls*, February 1963



PLIGHT OF THE WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

If he says he's a "wildlifer," he's considered a party boy.
If he says he's a biologist, he's considered an ivory-tower intellectual.
If he's in an office, he should be out in the field.
If he's not in an office, he's not on the job.
If he's home nights, he's neglecting outside contacts.
If he's not home nights, he's carousing.
If he has outside interest, he's not devoted.
If he doesn't have outside interest, he's narrow-minded.
If he talks about a subject, he's trying to run things.
If he remains silent, he's lost interest in the job.
If he agrees with you, he lacks originality and conviction.
If he doesn't agree with you, he's ignorant.
If he's too busy for casual talk, the job has gone to his head.
If he engages in casual talk, he's wasting his time.
If he can't give you an immediate answer, he's incompetent.
If he give you an immediate answer, then he's a know-it-all.
If he's cordial, he's playing politics.
If he's aloof, he should be cut down to size.
If he has a strong opinion, he's bullheaded.
If he looks at both sides of the question, he's hedging.
If he's been on the job a short time, he lacks experience.
If he's been on the job a long time, he's in a rut.
If he's well dressed, he's showing off.
If he's not well dressed, he's a poor representative of the profession.
If he takes a vacation... why, that's unheard of because he's been on one all year!!

In Memoriam

Richard Ockenfels

Richard Allen Ockenfels was born on March 4, 1952 at the Murray County Memorial Hospital in Slayton, Minnesota and passed away at Banner University Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona on January 5, 2022. He was born to Francis and Gracella Ockenfels of Currie, Minnesota. Richard passed with his sisters Kathy and Linda and brother Steve by his side.

Richard is survived by brothers Steve (Karen) of Trenton, MO and Jim (Barbara) of Piedmont, OK and sisters Kathy Ockenfels and Linda (Craig) of Phoenix. Niece Leah Brinser of Prescott and nephews Mike (Stephanie) McMillen of Phoenix, Doug McMillen of Phoenix, Kris (Tammy) Ockenfels of Trenton, MO, Kyle Ockenfels and Kevin Ockenfels both of Yukon, OK. Great nieces and nephews Justin Brinser, Hannah Brinser Wenz, Kade Ockenfels, Ally Ockenfels, Morgan McMillen and Gracin McMillen. Richard was predeceased by his parents Gracella in 1988, Francis in 2018, his brothers Tommy in 1955, Randy in 1956, and sister Karen in 1963.

The family moved to Arizona in 1956 from Minnesota. Richard attended all eight years at Alta Vista Elementary School and four years at Cortez High School. He graduated from Glendale Community College in 1974 after attending part time while working. He graduated from Arizona State University with a BS in 1977. He went on to graduate with an MS in wildlife biology from Oklahoma State University in 1980. He did not get the job he wanted immediately and worked for the Bureau of Land Management in Tucson for a short time. He started his dream job in 1981 with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. He belonged to the Game and Fish Department Explorer Scouts unit while attending high school.

The family called him the social butterfly as he always had some activity going. He enjoyed many trips to Rocky Point with friends. He thoroughly enjoyed photography, hiking with his husky Aria, volunteer work with the Arizona Antelope Foundation, the Big Horn Sheep Society, canoeing, kayaking, and travel with his many, many friends. He participated every year in the annual Hassayampa bird count and enjoyed country dancing, tennis, softball, downhill and cross country skiing, cruises and camping with groups of friends. The last few years he traveled often with sister Kathy and Cousin Julie.

He had hoped to visit all 50 states and only missed by one, New Jersey. He also was working on visiting all the National Parks. He retired in 2008 after 27 years with the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

A memorial service was held on Saturday April 30, 2022 at 2pm in Phoenix at the Arizona Game and Fish Department headquarters.



Testimonials

Tracy Unmacht

I used to “work” with Richard during the many years I was involved with the AZ Antelope Foundation as Administrator and Pronghorn newsmagazine editor. I could always depend on Richard to provide beautiful photos and interesting content for the magazine over the years. Many a day I would meet up with Richard for a “quick” exchange of a photo disc he had for me that often turned into an hour-long plus conversation over a myriad of topics. It was always a joy visiting with him as well as sharing stories around campfires at AAF projects.

Kirby Bristow

I will say that Richard was easily the best Supervisor I ever had. He had a hands off approach that I really appreciated. He challenged me to perform without overwhelming me and allowed me to progress at my own pace. I know there were many whom he mentored who are better Biologists because of it. Without his encouragement and faith in me my career would have floundered even more than it did. I will miss him but am grateful for having had the opportunity to know and work with him.

Shelli Dubay

Rock was one of a kind. He was a rare biologist who could get the science done and then rub elbows with lawmakers and landowners alike to share the results of his good work. He was respected by all who knew him. He loved to dance and play tennis and approached these activities with the same zeal he did his wildlife work.

Jim DeVos

I worked with Richard since his start with the Department and he was one of the most dedicated agents of conservation that I worked with. He was fully dedicated to the agency and to wildlife conservation. I reviewed his list of publications and they spanned four pages. They were also quite diverse. I last saw Rock at Dave Brown's memorial and he looked great. A reminder that we should never take the next day for granted. Rock was a great mentor and touched a lot of AZGFD careers. I was talking to another Game and Fish lifer and we both agreed, we never saw a cross day from Richard. He was a pleasure to work with.

Dennis Darr

I worked with Richard for most of my career as a Game Specialist and Wildlife Program Manager. He was one of the most productive of the management-oriented research crew. The last time I saw Richard was along the road in Unit 7W when we both had bull elk tags and were contending with 41 inches of snow and frigid temperatures. We exchanged cell phone numbers in case we got stuck but luckily neither of us needed the others assistance. Great guy and surely missed by all who knew him. See ya down the road ROCK!!!

Bill & Lina McLean

Rich was a great friend and a wonderful person. We met him over 25 years ago and had some great times together. We saw him in Flagstaff last summer and had a really nice chat. Thankfully, he was well then. That's the way we will remember him.

Kara Jensen

Just shocked and saddened, Richard was always so warm and friendly and taught me so much about Pronghorn when I joined AAF in 2006. He helped fuel my passion for the animal and the foundation. Always loved seeing his photos and reading his papers. He even came to my 40th birthday party, such a sweet man.

Pam Barnhart

Dear Richard, thank You for being such a wonderful person and friend. The birding and camping adventures we had will never be forgotten. Your love of nature, wildlife and photography was so unfiltered and genuine, and it was a joy to spend time with you while we pursued our passions. My heart hurts knowing that you are gone, and the adventures together have ended. You are loved and will be sorely missed. Thank You for the good times and I am so privileged to have been your friend.

Stan Cunningham

Rock was a meticulous worker, a great statistician, and a prolific writer. He was well published and authored several reports, but those were the things that were expected of us as a research biologist. One of the things I admired most about him was all things he did that many would not do and were not required. He wrote an excellent annotated bibliography on Arizona's white-tailed deer, much of it on his own time. He spent countless hours with the AZ Chapter of the Wildlife Society and wrote a complete history of the chapter that would qualify as a book. He also was an early leader for the Arizona Antelope Foundation. These are the type of things that go unnoticed by most, but they were important to him, so he did them well.

Tom Britt

I always enjoyed our conversations about wildlife population dynamics be it mule deer, javelina or antelope. He had a very good grasp of the current literature and was very familiar with the work done by the Research Branch. Richard was a real asset to AGFD and the profession.

Lisa Shender

One thing that will always stand out to me was how much Richard cared about people and making sure that they had what they needed to succeed both professionally and personally. He once gave me a lecture on the "Three P's": People, Process, and Policy. I do recall him saying that he tried to put People first whenever he could. During my employment at AZGFD, Richard was always there as a mentor, teaching me how to become a supervisor and guiding me through some difficult situations.





AAF Greer Project



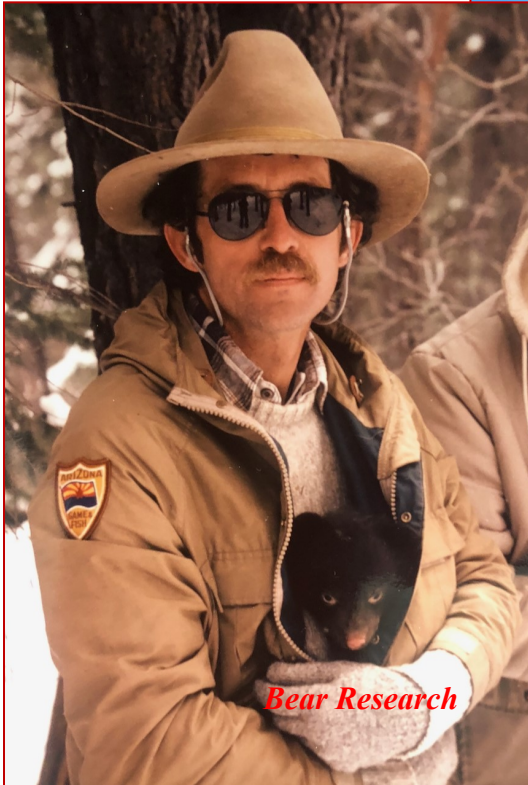
AAF Volunteer



Active Researcher



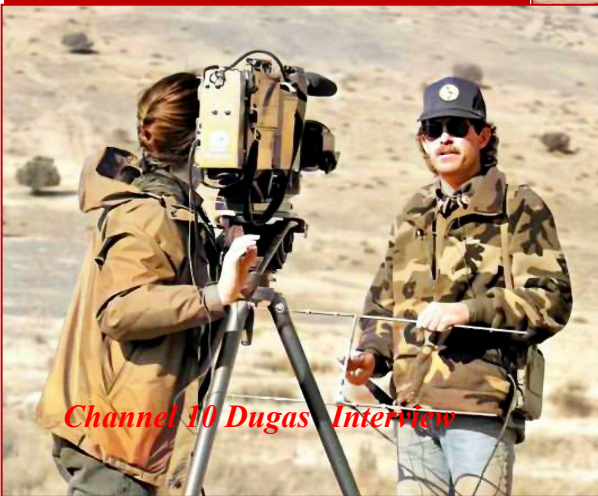
Prescott Valley Capture



Bear Research



Doing What He Loves!



Channel 10 Dugas Interview

ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION PURCHASES NEW WILDLIFE WATER TRAILERS FOR THE WHITE MOUNTAIN AREA

BY DAVE CAGLE, AAF SECRETARY

“*Libertas ad Vagor*” the Arizona Antelope Foundation’s declaration translates to “Freedom to Roam.” That statement summarizes this organization’s focus to retain and increase Arizona’s pronghorn population’s ability to move freely across traditionally occupied and new habitats through conducting livestock fence modifications, tree removal and, where appropriate, providing crossing across roads. The precipitation void season we experienced throughout most of 2020 and into 2021 dried up a great number of normally perennial natural and manmade waters across much of the state. The AAF leadership was very aware of this unprecedented ongoing drought and reached out to other wildlife organizations and Arizona Game and Fish Department personnel to see where we could assist with this critical situation. Our management emphasis to provide pronghorn freedom to roam was temporarily re-directed to tackle the historic drought and keep water on the landscape.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department over the decades constructed and continues to maintain over 1,000 wildlife waters as a means to retain and increase wildlife populations even during dry conditions. If these dedicated wildlife waters go dry and animals cannot locate an alternate water source, their survivability is in jeopardy. Historically during dry periods, wildlife waters would go dry if they didn’t receive supplemental water from an employee or volunteer delivering water to the site. Water delivery was mostly expected and conducted with available trucks, trailers, and personnel. However, in the recent extreme drought some waters in the AGFD Pinetop Region were receiving exceptionally heavy wildlife use and could dry out within a week after receiving a water delivery. Multiply this situation across a broad area with numerous critical wildlife waters, resources were stretched thin. The three small 500 gallon trailers traditionally used at the Pinetop Region were inadequate to keep up with the wildlife water needs and required more trips to keep water in the developments. One success story during the historic drought arose from a group of 30 new volunteers named the “Patriot Pines Wounded Warriors” who stepped up in 2020 and 2021 to deliver water in several dirt tanks and catchments in the Forest Lakes area. Across the Pinetop region a total of 381,280 gallons of water was hauled between July 2020 and June 2021 in an area between Winslow and Show Low by these new volunteers, other seasoned volunteers, and AGFD personnel. With most of the deliveries only averaging 500 gallons per load; that equates to over 760 water delivery trips representing many hours and bumpy offroad miles. Increasing water hauling capacity was a real need, and the AAF stepped in to put its funds to work.

After a manufacturer for heavy duty 1,000 gallon trailers was located through connections with the Arizona Elk Society, Bob Birkeland, the Wildlife Manager Supervisor for the western portion of the Pinetop Region solicited the AAF for assistance to purchase these higher capacity trailers. Your AAF Board approved purchasing two and cost sharing another trailer with the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, the Arizona Deer Association, and Arizona Elk Society. These AAF trailer purchases would not be possible without the generous donations provided by our members and others who regularly purchase online tickets for the various raffles we conduct. The attached photos depict the new cost share trailer housed at the Pinetop Regional Office and one of the AAF purchased trailers on its maiden trip. Veteran volunteers Rusty Rogers and Enno Malling delivered the initial 1,000 gallon water load. These two ardent volunteers regularly drive AGFD vehicles every Saturday to critical wildlife waters when the need arises. These new trailers will be ready to deliver water across the area when dry conditions again return to Arizona, which if history repeats itself unfortunately is more likely to be sooner than later.



Left: New 1,000 gallon water trailer purchased by Arizona Elk Society, Arizona Deer Association, Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation and AAF.

Below: AGFD employee Bob Birkeland and volunteer Rusty Rogers conducting inaugural filling of new 1,000 gallon trailer.



McDonald Fence Removal, GMU 30A-Douglas November 20, 2021

By Gary Boyer, AAF Board Member

The Arizona Antelope Foundation's final project for 2021 was the removal of approximately one mile of 4-5 strand old barb wire fence on the McDonald Cattle Company's ranch. The historic multi-generationally owned ranch is located in Southeast Arizona 28 miles northeast of Douglas, Arizona off the Old Geronimo Trail.

This effort is a continuation of our Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative (SEAGRASS) project begun in 2010. This was a joint cooperative landowner/AAF project whereby AAF volunteers removed the fence and disposed of the old wire. The McDonald ranch will reconstruct the new fence to wild-life/pronghorn standards within six months. AAF purchased all new fence materials and split the cost 50-50 with the Ranch. The partners contributed \$2400.00 each for the materials. AAF's funds are derived from our monthly fundraising raffles. Thanks go out to all who participate in our raffles, your dollars go very far in improving pronghorn habitat and ensure their survival for future generations to enjoy.

We had 28 volunteers at this project plus two ATV mounted wire rollers. While removing a mile of fence may seem like a small project for AAF, consider this, at 4-5 strands of wire per mile, that means we are taking down, rolling the wire, and hauling it off. This results in between 4 and 5 miles of actual wire being handled. It filled up our trailer in no time. Working with our experienced volunteers is always a pleasure and we had the work completed in the early afternoon.

Some of us chose to do a little exploring before dinner. This area is steeped in early Arizona ranching history. The McDonalds have been in the San Bernardino Valley for several generations. A visit to the family cemetery on the ranch was interesting as well as a sobering reminder of those who settled these lands in the 19th century. Life back then involved dealing with the Apache, led by Geronimo, ever-present rustlers, and bad guys.

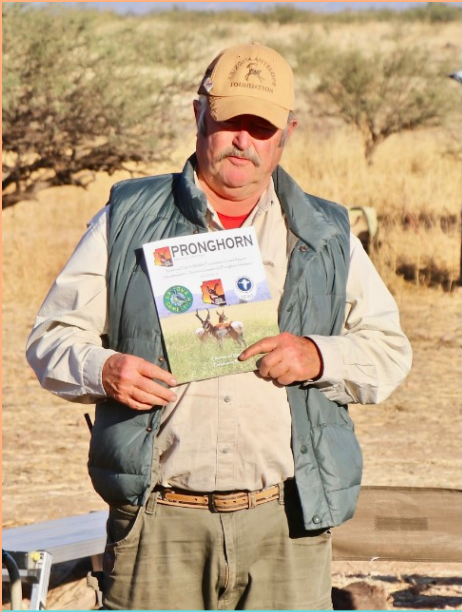
Located south of the McDonald ranch is the famous San Bernardino Ranch begun by the legendary Texas John Slaughter. Originally the ranch occupied roughly equal portions of land on both sides of the Mexican border. John Slaughter eventually sold off the Mexican section which still left him with 65,000 acres north of the border plus open range for grazing thousands of cattle. His home and outbuildings have been preserved and are open to the public. Nestled in amongst giant Cottonwoods with 14 large artesian fed ponds, it is a beautiful spot to visit.

Dinners and breakfasts were prepared by AAF Board members Ken Meadors, Joe-Bill Pickrell and myself. Friday was burgers and beans followed on Saturday by delicious grilled steaks, salad, and more camp beans. Campfires each night kept the November chill off.

AAF couldn't accomplish our valuable work without the support of all our members, volunteers, and raffle participants. We, the Board, want to thank all of you for your continuing support this past year and in the years to come.

Attending this project were; Jason Angell, Cameron Becker, David Breeden, Joelle Buffa, Kathy and Ken Cook, Mike Ebright, Jeffrey Gillan, Albert Kreutz, Patrick and Mary Mannion, Blake Merrick, Ken Morris, Al and Marsha Sue, Darrel Wood, Clyde Morris, and Zion Johnson.
-Representing AZGFD were Troy Christensen and Adam Wardle.

AAF Board members; Dave Cagle, Glen Dickens VP, Betty Dickens our photographer, Ken Meadors Pres., Joe-Bill Pickerell, Jamie Watkins and Gary Boyer.



NOVEMBER 20, 2021

McDonald Fence Removal



VEKOL VALLEY-BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FENCE REMOVAL PROJECT FOR SONORAN PRONGHORN

BY DAVE CAGLE, AAF SECRETARY

On Saturday January 29, 2022 we conducted another planned fence removal project in the Vekol Valley approximately 30 miles southwest of Casa Grande. These projects are in cooperation with the Phoenix District Office of the Bureau of Land Management and their efforts to make this zone more pronghorn friendly in this once occupied historic Sonoran pronghorn range. Just two weeks prior to this project an initial release of 22 Sonoran Pronghorn was conducted in the area, setting in motion the long-term establishment of a viable population. The Sonoran Pronghorn subspecies is not hunted, is currently federally listed as Endangered and its restoration is being co-managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department. For a thorough discussion of the Sonoran Pronghorn's recovery efforts please review the 4th Quarter 2021 issue of the *Pronghorn*.

For this project we had 38 volunteers who enjoyed bluebird daytime winter temperatures.

We removed two miles of existing fence east of the Vekol Valley road and three miles south of Interstate 8. All wire was rolled and removed along with the old wooden fence posts and metal t-posts.

An interesting observation of Sonoran Pronghorn behavior was noted during this project. As mentioned above, an initial release of 22 Sonoran Pronghorn were set free from their holding pen on January 14 about three miles west of this fence removal project. The released animals are all equipped with GPS capable collars, and their recorded movements indicate they are readily adjusting to their new surroundings. While driving an ATV equipped with the motorized wire roller to the old fence, a set of animal tracks made a few days before by about 20 pronghorn was followed to the fence. When the pronghorn encountered the fence, they did not attempt to cross it, but instead walked parallel to the fence. What was interesting is that the old unmaintained fence had partially fallen, and was only about 24 inches off the ground, but those animals chose not to cross it. All of these pronghorn were raised within a fenced enclosure near Ajo and were not exposed to hazards like livestock fencing. This one example of pronghorn reluctance to cross even a low fence further demonstrates the benefits the AAF is accomplishing by removing these obsolete obstacles. Our boots on the groundwork is making the recovery of this endangered species more of a reality!

As stated previously this effort is in direct support of the Endangered Pronghorn re-establishment efforts. These projects will help ensure that pronghorn and resident mule deer can safely utilize open desert and grassland corridors without interference due to fence line obstructions.

Dinners were served on Friday and Saturday nights with the sides provided by Chefs Mary and Bill Keebler and they hosted Saturday and Sunday morning breakfasts as well. Thanks Mary and Bill!

Thanks go out to several groups of folks that contributed to this successful project:

- Representing the AAF Board: Glen Dickens, Darrell Tersey, Jamie Watkins, Joe-Bill Pickrell, and yours truly.
- BLM Area Biologist: Roger Joos
- Game & Fish personnel: Troy Christensen and Tania Pevet
- Other AAF members and volunteers: Betty Dickens, Mary and Bill Keebler, Deana Watkins, Jason Angell, David Breeden, Chris Carusona II, Ken & Kathy Cook, David Cruce, Linda Dightmon, Brian Fergus, Mike Ebright, Brian Fergus, Mike Hamill, Kent Krumm, Jay Leadabrand, Connie Leadabrand, Dale Maas, Christine Murdock, John O'Brien, Tiffany Rosier, Steve Rusiecki, Darrel Wood, Darrell Tersey, Al & Marsha Sue, Jonathon Oladen, Efren Chavez, and Mark Hullinger, Thanks everyone for your efforts!

Photos by Betty Dickens



January 29, 2022
SONORAN PRONGHORN
Vekol Valley Fence Removal



MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERS

1. Art Pearce, Phoenix
2. Jim Mehen, Flagstaff
3. Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City
4. James K. McCasland,
5. Nina Gammons, Payette, ID
6. Nancy Lewis, Phoenix
7. Pete Cimellaro, Phoenix
8. Jerry Weiers, Phoenix
9. Harry Carlson, Phoenix
10. David Brown, Phoenix
11. Art Boswell, Tucson
12. Charlie Kelly, Scottsdale
13. Chrissy Weiers, Phoenix
14. Al Sue, Scottsdale
15. Mary Keebler, Happy Jack
16. Bill Keebler, Happy Jack
17. James Stewart, Phoenix
18. Terry Schupp, Tempe
19. Dale Hislop, Calgary Canada
20. Mick Rusing, Tucson
21. George Welsh, Kingman
22. Matthew Massey, Gilbert
23. Don Parks, Peoria
24. Bill & Kerrie Jacoby, Chandler
25. Adam Geottl, Cottonwood
26. Shane Stewart, Gilbert
27. Don Davidson, Mesa
28. Terry Petko, Mesa
29. Gary M. Johnson, Phoenix
30. Richard Guenzel, Laramie WY
31. Randy Cherington, Scottsdale
32. Joe Del Re, Chandler
33. Bob Walker, Phoenix
34. Cookie Nicoson, Williams
35. Tim Blank, Mesa
36. Jodi Stewart, Gilbert
37. Keith Joyner, Scottsdale
38. David Hussey, Cave Creek
39. Susan Pearce, Tucson
40. Glen Dickens, Tucson
41. Will Garrison, Peoria
42. Tom Waddell, Arizona
43. Josiah Austin, Pearce
44. Connie Taylor, Mesa
45. Mark Boswell, Mesa
46. Jessica R. Pearce, Scottsdale
47. Douglas Hartzler, Phoenix
48. Karen LaFrance, Phoenix
49. Kurt Schulz, Waddell
50. Walt Scrimgeour
51. Clifford Nystrom
52. Jon Coppa, Patagonia
53. Neal Brown, Phoenix
54. Tice Supplee, Phoenix
55. Richard Miller, Flagstaff
56. William Cullins, Chandler
57. Robert Neal Bushong, Yuma
58. Art & Rosanne Porter
59. Matt McNeil, Chandler
60. Susan Morse, Jericho VT
61. Gary Higby, Cottonwood
62. James Kavanaugh, Gilbert
63. Chad Elliott, Ehrenberg
64. Donald C. Slack, Tucson
65. Keith A. Heimes, Bellemont
66. Jon & Jan Hopkins, Mesa
67. Jim Lawrence, Phoenix
68. Larry Audsley, Tucson
69. Mike Morales, Tucson
70. Gary Boyer, Prescott
71. Charles Mackey, Cottonwood
72. Dave Laird, Buckeye
73. Alan Calvert, Buckeye
74. Lani Beach, Prescott
75. Terry Lane, Jasper Lehi, UT
76. Robin Bechtel, Show Low
77. Billie Bechtel, Show Low
78. Betty Dickens, Tucson
79. Larry Thowe, Page
80. Cam Smith, Prescott
81. Russell Lee Jacoby, Flagstaff
82. Andrew Smigielski, Phoenix
83. Will I Garrouette Jr., Aptos, CA
84. Robert Bueche, Phoenix
85. Steve Bridges, Sierra Vista
86. Charles W. Wirken, Mesa
87. Antonio J. Soto, Glastonbury, CT
88. Glenn Bevin, Tempe
89. Richard Roller, Glendale
90. Roger Kesterson, Casa Grande
91. Anna Welch, Sonoita
92. Kathy Cook, Casa Grande
93. Ken Cook, Casa Grande
94. Patrick Mannion, Prescott
95. Jeffrey S Buchanan, Patagonia
96. Mark Hullinger, Heber
97. Ross McCollum, Peoria
98. Kevin Kelly, Williams
99. Leonard Ordway, Elgin
100. William C. Cordasco, Flagstaff
101. Marsha P. Sue, Scottsdale
102. Cheryl Suzanne Sorrento, Kingman
103. Dave Cagle, Lakeside
104. Hub Grounds, Kingman
105. Michael Anderson, Flagstaff
106. David L. Wolf, Flagstaff
107. Jerry Guevin, Holden Beach, NC
108. Steven E. Hopkins, Gilbert
109. Dan Currier, Fargo, ND

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Laura Webb Brown, Tucson
Joelle Buffa, Sierra Vista
Linda Dightmon, Payson
Gary Evenson, Tucson
Lester R. Gaskill, Show Low
Roger & Ilene Hailey, Flagstaff
Michael Johnston, Palm Coast, FL

David S. Justice, Prescott
Alice Koch, Templeton, CA
Keith Newlon, Sierra Vista
John O'Brien, Scottsdale
Jon Ochoa, Tucson
Richard Ockenfels, Mayer
Patricia Barker Parran, Portal

C. Edward Perkins, Happy Jack
Dan Priest, Phoenix
Bob & Judy Prosser, Winslow
Jay Starks, Phoenix
Darrel E. Wood, Marana

FAMILY MEMBERS

Jim & Rita Ammons, Yuma
Bruce & Vickie Belman, Flagstaff
Mary DeJong, Flagstaff
Cindy & Jim Dickert, Mesa
Matt & Mindy Dusek, Yuma
Kathleen Boyer Dutton, Hayden, AL
Ron & Sharon Eichelberger, Alpine
Damon & Jennie Haan, Peoria

John Heim, Tucson
Michelle Kiffer-Boulier, Lake Havasu City
Jay & Connie Leadabrand, Cottonwood
Quentin Lewton, Sonoita
Kenneth Morris, Cave Creek
Amy B. Ostwinkle, Chandler
Ken & Donna Pitzlin, Sierra Vista
Pete & Ann Rathwell, Phoenix

James Rinehart, Laramie, WY
William & Jan Skibbe, Tucson
Barry R. Sopher, Tucson
Brian K. Taylor, Munds Park
Christopher & Jolene Vallejos, Flagstaff
Thomas & Jamie Watkins, Phoenix

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

John Tobin Alcott, Scottsdale
Kenneth John Antos, Eustis, FL
Kerry Baldwin, Tucson
Sherry L. Christensen, Phoenix
Kelly Fleming, Patagonia
Seth Tyler Good, Harrisburg, PA
Donald Christopher Haven, Surprise
Tanner Henry, Payson

Josh Honeyman, West Fargo, ND
Lee Jaeckel, Evanston, WY
Ken D. Langford, Mesa
Brad Lough, Eagar
Christine Murdock, New River
Kyle Ockenfels, Yukon, OK
Joyce Partain, Casa Grande
Brittany Ann Pettengill, Surprise

John Readout, Knoxville, IA
Tom Spalding, Phoenix
Benny Van Pelt, Phoenix
Alexander Watkins, Aiea, HI
Thomas L. Woodman, Greensburg, PA

Thank You!



'Our Supporters'



800-291-8065
outdoorsmans.com



623-516-1400
Phoenix, AZ



800-922-2247
butlerbags.us



866-558-3267
canyoncoolers.com



801-785-5050
bucksandbulls.com



CHRISTENSEN ARMS
888-517-8855
christensenarms.com



ALL AMERICAN
FIREARMS, LLC
602-405-6781
louraggio@hotmail.com



AAF 28th Annual Recognition and Fundraising Banquet

June 11, 2022

Embassy Suites

4400 South Rural Road

Tempe, AZ

You can sign up for the Hunter Clinic and/or the Recognition and Fundraising Banquet (2 separate sign-ups) at azantelope.org



Did you know you can go to Smile.Amazon and log-in to your regular Amazon account and generate revenue for the Arizona Antelope Foundation? You will see "Supporting" tab in the top horizontal menu, and you can select who you would like to receive Amazon's contribution based on your purchases.

To date, Amazon has contributed over \$334 million this way.

The Pronghorn thank you ;)

Arizona's
PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

A Conservation Legacy

**The AAF has made it possible to obtain
a copy of this amazing chronicle for
\$20 through the website at:**

<https://www.azantelope.org/Store>

David E. Brown and
Richard A. Ockenfels

*McDonald Fence Removal
November 2021*



Thank you to all the project volunteer crews who tirelessly pack up, get on the road, arrive with enthusiasm, pitch in to work, learn a new skill, and make new friends all while representing the human equation well in the complicated world where nature and biology meet civilization and progress. Your success is the story contained in these pages.

*Lenée
Pronghorn Editor*



*Vekol Valley Fence Removal
January 2022*

