



PRONGHORN

3rd Quarter 2009
Volume 15, Number 3



ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION, INC.

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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 THE COVER

Once again Richard Ockenfels provides us with a breathtaking shot of our favorite species. This photo was taken while Richard was gathering photos and research for his new series for our magazine called "Pronghorn Viewing". You can enjoy more of Richard's photos and his story beginning on page 10.

Pronghorn is a quarterly newsletter 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: Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 12590, Glendale, AZ 85318, or by email at info@azantelope.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is a bit of a nip in the air here in Flagstaff. As fall approaches thoughts of the field start to filter into my head. The itch is there to pack up and head out. Yes, hunting is something most of us in the Arizona Antelope Foundation love to do. We realize, however, that conservation must come first or there will be no place and no game for us to hunt. So while we are hunters we are first and foremost conservationists.

Since 1992 the AAF has been actively involved with the Arizona Game & Fish Department, the U. S. Forest Service and many others to better Arizona's Antelope population and its habitat. AAF has appropriated and/or disbursed in excess of \$100,000 of its own funds since 2004. In addition, AAF has cooperated with the AZGFD in the allocation of over \$1,250,000 of Special Tag Funds. All of these funds have been used for conservation purposes, in one form or another. In addition and possibly more importantly, AAF has donated thousands of man-hours for fence modification, juniper eradication, education, research and the like. While this record is perhaps impressive, the future is not so bright.

The AAF volunteer man-hours will hopefully still be available but the funds available for conservation purposes are going to be limited. The 2009 Special Tag auctions and raffle and the AAF Fund Raising Banquet had their lowest level of funds raised since inception. While, the results are disappointing, the AAF continues with its quarterly fieldwork projects and donating whatever we can to worthy projects.

In 2009 the AAF launched a new educational campaign that we call *Antelope Awareness Day*. We held the first one at the Horseshoe Ranch in Game Management Unit 21 earlier this year. Our second was held



at Mormon Lake Lodge on September 19th. Both days have been well attended. Our first book, *Arizona's Pronghorn Antelope - A Conservation Legacy* by David Brown and Richard Ockenfels, was published in 2008. If you don't have a copy you can order one on-line from our website.

AAF members will be electing the Officers and Directors for 2010 at our Annual Membership meeting November 9th. I urge you all to cast your ballot either in person or by absentee ballot (see page 19).

If you were fortunate enough to be drawn for any of the fall hunts, we wish you good fortune in your quest.

The final fieldwork project for 2009 is on October 17th just east of the Badger Springs exit on I-17 north of Phoenix. Join us; it will be your last chance to "Pitch-in" in 2009. We do these projects so that Arizona's Pronghorn will have "*Libertas ad Vagor*"-*Freedom to roam*.
Jimmy

2010 BOARD NOMINATIONS

OFFICERS

President – Shane Stewart
Vice President – Todd Hulm
Secretary – Art Boswell
Treasurer – Mary Keebler

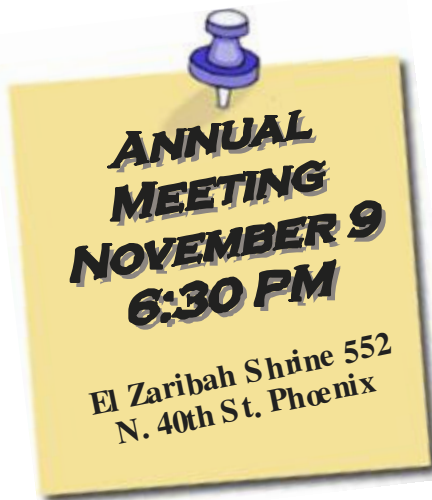
DIRECTORS Term Ending 12/31/10:

Dave Verhelst, Jerry Guevin, Tice Supplee

DIRECTORS Term Ending 12/31/11:

Jim McCasland, Richard Ockenfels, Glen Dickens

Voting information can be found on page 19.



6TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

BY TICE SUPPLEE

The sixth annual Arizona Antelope Foundation fundraiser was held on July 19th at El Zaribah Lodge in Phoenix. As always-it was a hot Phoenix evening, making the event a great escape for a few hours. Our Master of Ceremony Doug Stancill and our auctioneer Daren Shumway kept the evening moving along and helped add a lot of excitement to the live auction.

We could not have had such a successful evening without the generosity of our donors. During these difficult economic times we are all finding it more difficult to give, making the donations received this year all that more precious. Fabulous donations made for a wonderful live auction, bucket raffle and silent auctions. We thank our generous donors in a year of tough finances for everyone. (List of donors in this issue of The Pronghorn)

Co-chairs Shane Stewart and Tice Supplee put together an awesome fundraising committee that did a wonderful job of preparing for the evening. The crew of "limies" in their logo lime colored shirts worked their hearts out and made the evening very special and fun for everyone. The following Arizona Antelope Foundation members were part of the Fundraiser Team: Art & Mark Boswell, Pete & Cathy Cimellaro, Eddy Corona, Jerry Guevin, Todd Hulm, David & Harry Hussey, Kara Jensen, Bill & Mary Keebler, Dave Laird, Warren Leek, Jim McCasland, Jimmy & Susie Mehen, Richard Ock-

enfels, Joe Bill Pickrell, Jodi Stewart, Frank Tennant, Jim & Tracy Unmacht, Jimmy Unmacht, Jerry Weiers, Ron & Karen Yee.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Arizona Antelope Foundation by attending our fundraiser! The net proceeds from the evening were better than expected, at over \$18,000. Although much less than our near record breaking fundraiser of last year, Arizona Antelope Foundation is pleased to have additional funds that can be used for the benefit of pronghorn antelope and fund the Arizona Antelope Foundation student scholarship program.



2009 BANQUET DONORS

A BIG THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED!

Steve Adams/HMI Contracting

Gary Allen

Apache Gold Casino

Archery Headquarters

David Arganbright/White Cloud Gunsmithing

Arizona Audubon

AZ Cardinals

AZ Game & Fish

AZ National Guard/Art Boswell

AZ Steamboat Cruises

AZ Wildlife Federation

Matt Bailey/Forest Highlands

Scott Ballor/Heritage Pewter

Ron Barr/Bear Creek Furniture

John Becker/Bull Basin Archery

Tom Boggess

Art Boswell

Mike Bracken/Home Co Ace Hardware

Fred & Dottie Brightman

David Brown

Michael Clark - Level 3 Underwriter

Steve Clark

Bill Darmitzel

Joe, Jim & Al Del Re/Del Re Adventures

Dolly Steamboat

Double Tree Farms

Steve Favour/Signature Taxidermy

Federated Insurance - Level 5 Underwriter

Roger Flythe

Mike Forzano - Level 1 Underwriter

John Harris/Johnson Ranches

Ed & Nina Gammons - Level 5 Underwriter

Jerry Guevin

Harrah's Laughlin

High Desert Hunt Club

Don Johnson

Gary Johnson/Macayos

Bill & Mary Keebler—Level 5 Underwriter

Keith & Justine Keebler

Charlie & Linda Kelly/Phoenix Precast

Dave & Sue Laird

Laughlin's Riverside Resort

Dan Lee/Artists' Touch

Jason Lewis Bronze

John Malin/Continental Country Club

Don Martin/AZ Wildlife Outfitters

Jim & Deb McCasland

Jimmy Mehen

Shannon Mehen/Cruiser Frames

Fritz Ockenfels—Level 2 Underwriter

Jim Ockenfels

Richard Ockenfels - Level 2 Underwriter

John Ott/Flagstaff Ranch

Palo Verde Animal Hospital

Art Pearce - Silver Level Underwriter

Craig Pearson/Wildlife Images

Pheasant Recreation

Joe Bill Pickrell

Jack Pittard/Island Explorations

Calvin Quick/Aspen Inn Suites

Richardson's Furniture

Riverside Resort & Casino

Tim Robbins/Shooter's Vault

Joseph Robertson

Gene & Jo Rott

Cecil & Carlotta Schmitz

Susan Bitter Smith

Shane & Jodi Stewart

Tice Supplee - Level 4 Underwriter

John Toner/Continental Divide Knives

Jim & Tracy Unmacht

Al Vallacorsa/Pinewood Country Club

Kyle Vance

Tom Waddell/Armendaris Ranch

Paul Webb

Jim White/Uni-Daptor

Ron & Karen Yee

Zulu Nyala



ANDERSON MESA PROJECT REPORT STORIES



LES LINE - On August 8 and 9, 2009 the Gold Prospectors of Phoenix, Inc and the Roadrunner Prospecting Club, also of Phoenix, attended the Anderson Mesa Habitat Project sponsored by the Arizona Antelope Foundation and the Arizona Wildlife Federation in cooperation with the National Forest Service and Game and Fish.

Other groups attending were Boy Scout Troop 575, Troop 579 and Troop 364 as well as numerous individuals acting on their own behalf, some from as far away as Tucson. In total there were approximately 80 participants.

The purpose of the habitat project was to adjust, repair, remove and install fencing as well as other work in various places to provide easier access for the antelope to move freely throughout their range.



A few participants arrived on Friday and camped in a pleasant camping area surrounded by tall pines, enjoyed clean mountain air, and spent the evening hours chatting around campfires, before turning in for the night.

Dawn broke Saturday morning to chilly temperatures (down right cold to those of us from the valley where we had been tolerating 110+ temperatures for the previous month) and at 7:00 am a briefing as to the day's activities was held and participants were divided into groups each with their assigned tasks. By late afternoon the temperature had warmed to the mid 70s.

Upon returning to camp participants were treated to a fantastic dinner consisting of T-Bone steaks cooked over an open fire, baked potatoes, beans and any and all condiments anyone could ask for. Some of the volunteers had to leave after dinner, but for those who stayed until Sunday, awoke to the smell of eggs, bacon,

sausage, fried potatoes, quesadillas and coffee for breakfast on Sunday morning.

If you have never attended one of these functions, you don't know what you are missing. The chance to meet new people, the knowledge that you have given something back to the wildlife in our state and the pride of doing something to help a non-profit, like us, accomplish something important. If you would like more information check out these web sites:

www.azantelope.org

www.azwildlife.org



RYNA ROCK, AZ WILDLIFE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

- Let me tell you about a beautiful weekend in northern Arizona I was lucky to be part of! By all estimates, around 80 people spent all or a portion of their weekend working at the co-sponsored AWF/AAF project adjacent to Lake Mary and on Anderson Mesa. The participants were separated into two segments, with several work crews in each, the result being an amazing amount of work done through their efforts for wildlife and habitat. They finished the electric fence roll-up started at a prior project and also worked closing a road to a wetland and posting signs. There was other fencing removal and bottom wire work done as well in the project areas.

Some of us devoted ourselves to being the cooking crew for Saturday afternoon & evening and Sunday morning. High praise was given the quality and quantity of the food. The AAF has a fantastic cooking



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trailer, completely supplied with everything needed to turn out a meal for 9 or 90. The evening meal was sponsored by the Arizona Antelope Foundation and the morning meal by the Arizona Wildlife Federation. We had ourselves a bunch of hearty eaters! Dinner was appetizers of freshly made quesadillas, with a main course of steak, baked potatoes, ranch beans and green beans. Breakfast was cream cheese scrambled eggs, crisp bacon, sausage, grill fried potatoes and tortillas.

There were quite a few AWF members there, even more AAF members and they were all there for one thing – getting the most work done they possibly could in such a short time. I counted many who held "dual" membership in both the AWF and the AAF. Three Boy Scout Troops turned out, and just regular folks from as far away as Tuba City, who read or heard about the project in various media and came out to lend a hand. It was an opportunity for networking, discussing issues, and just getting to know each other. What an inspiration they all were!

The AAF and AWF can both be very proud of the turn-out and with the help we brought to the project. Past AWF Award recipients Rick Miller of Game & Fish, Henry Provencio of Coconino Forest, and Claire Harris of Flagstaff were part of the work crews, along with other Game & Fish and Forest Service personnel.

Thank you to all of you who were there and worked your tails off all day Saturday and a good part of Sunday. Special thanks to Mark & Kyler Boswell, Alison, & Jen Anderson, Tice Supplee, Jerry Guevin, Chris Fonoti and Ken Stephens for all their hard work at preparing and cooking, and to Tom & Margaret Mackin for bringing in the breakfast provisions on very short notice. Scott Anderson, AAF's project coordinator, really needs a big thank-you for doing all the pre-project planning, set-up, and for being the all around go-to guy for the whole weekend. He spent a lot of time making sure it all went well.

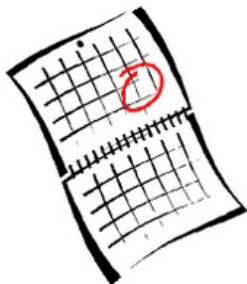
I personally appreciate the support of all who came and worked, and was so glad of the fact that each person I talked to had a great time and felt their time was well spent. Many of the comments were appreciative of the fact that the Arizona Wildlife Federation op-

erates as a wildlife and habitat/conservation group and I got advice to remain just that. I found this input enlightening from the aspect of receiving "feedback" from average sportsmen and the public. It was literally very encouraging to me to get a picture of how the AWF is perceived by these folks.

So, all of you who helped out on this project and all of you who didn't but want to help on the next one, we have a chance to get out there again and do some good work with the AAF at the Buenas Aires Wildlife Refuge in February. It will be here before we know it. The good part is we will be doing something for wildlife and habitat in another part of the state.

PROJECT VOLUNTEERS

Jerry & Anthony Acedo, Scott & Jen Anderson, Art Boswell, Mark Boswell, Sam & Kyler Boswell, Eric Burden, Peter Chapman, Allison Dougherty, Brian & Broderick Drew, Don Duesenber, David, Kevin, & Amy Faulk, Theron Flezinz, The Frazier Family, Jerry Guevin, Bob & Marilyn Hanlin, Clair Harris, Neil Heinrich, Kevin Hunter, Fred & Kathie Johnson, Jody Latimer, Melanie Lawrence, Les Line, Robert Mackin, Tom Mackin, Brian Maris, Keith & Sherry McDonnell, Jimmy Mehen, Keith Menasco, Douglas Miller, Quinn Morrell, Jay Morrison, Anthony Moscara, The Munroe Family, Robert Murray, Al Ordorica, Ryna Rock, Nancy Santiago, Brad Slezak, David Snow, Joyce Starr, Ken Stephens, Al & Marsha Sue, Tice Tuppree, Jan Svendsen, Chelsea Tamietti, Connie Taylor, Mark Tervo, Chris Vollojos, Bryce Waddell, Phillip Warner, Dwight Wilson, John & Elaine Wintersteen, Don Winward, The Wood Family, Boy Scout Troop 364, Boy Scout Troop 575, Boy Scout Troop 579, Troy Christensen (AZGF), Henry Provencio (USFS).



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

OCTOBER 19TH - FENCE REMOVAL PROJECT - UNIT 21

**FEBRUARY 27, 2010 - HABITAT PROJECT - BUENOS AIRES
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE 4 ALL

BY MARY KEEBLER, AAF TREASURER & LIFE MEMBER

Bill and I took a great opportunity to spend a long weekend (August 20 – 23) in the woods on behalf of the Arizona Antelope Foundation cooking for an antelope hunt donated to the Outdoor Experience 4 All. This is a non-profit organization established for the purpose of providing an outdoor experience, whether hunting, fishing, camping, boating, etc. to children with terminal or other serious illnesses, children with disabilities and children of our fallen heroes.

Outdoor Experience 4 All was given an archery antelope tag in Unit 6B. Eddy Corona, President of Outdoor Experience 4 All, requested whatever assistance the Arizona Antelope Foundation could provide during the hunt. AAF purchased and prepared all the food during the hunt. Bill and I were the “chefs”.

The hunter was an awesome young man named Dalton Schrum. Dalton is 15 and was diagnosed at age 2½ with bilateral Wilm’s tumor, a kidney cancer that attacked both of his kidneys. He had chemotherapy treatments to shrink lesions on the kidneys and then surgery to remove one kidney. His cancer is currently in remission.



Following his dad’s love of archery Dalton was introduced to the sport by his dad. He received additional archery instruction through Camp Rainbow, a children’s camp sponsored by Phoenix Children’s Hospital, until his dad bought him a bow of his own. Keith Newby, a professional guide who donated his services for this hunt, is the volunteer archery instructor at Camp Rainbow. This was Dalton’s first antelope hunt and he came pumped-up for the whole experience – camping in a tent, eating camp food, finding and stalking his prey and any other experience available during his weekend.



Initial efforts at locating a camp were hampered by the Taylor Fire about 20 miles southwest of Flagstaff and in the middle of the hunt unit. The U. S. Forest Service closed a good part of the unit and fire crews from all over the state were camped about two miles from the excellent location Eddy Corona and Keith Newby found for our camp on the south edge of Roger’s Lake. The firefighter’s camp was the most incredible operation you could witness – hundreds of small tents, huge cooking vans, water stations, lines of porta-pottys, etc. We watched them depart throughout the weekend and were amazed at the tremendous resources used in fighting such a fire.

Dalton and his father, John, arrived Friday afternoon and they, Eddy, Keith and Tim Denny, another volunteer set off looking for antelope. Another fine young man, Wesley Borie, age 16, joined the camp after they left. Wesley, who is the Sporting Clay Sub Junior State Champion and 28 gauge Sporting Clay Sub Gauge World Champion, had an archery deer tag. Throughout the weekend we had several other volunteers help during this archery antelope hunt.

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ANTELOPE AWARENESS DAY

BY JIMMY MEHEN, AAF PRESIDENT AND LIFE MEMBER

Forty plus wildlife enthusiasts gathered at Mormon Lake Lodge on Saturday September 19, 2009 to learn from the experts about one of the world's fastest land animals, the North American Pronghorn; known to most as an "Antelope".

The event was sponsored by Mormon Lake Lodge as part of its Environmental Education Programs series. The experts included wildlife biologists from the Arizona Antelope Foundation and the US Forest Service along with representatives from the Diablo Trust and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Presentations included Facts, Biology and History of antelope in North America, Diet and Watering habits, Problems facing Arizona's antelope population, Habitat improvements on Anderson Mesa south and east of Flagstaff, Instruction on how to find and observe antelope and concluded with a guided tour on Anderson Mesa searching for antelope.

Participants were treated to Power Point presentations, given hand outs and received refreshments. They learned many facts such as only the Cheetah and the Pronghorn can achieve a top speed of 60 miles per hour. The Pronghorn, however, can maintain a speed of 45 miles per hour for seven miles; the Cheetah only lasts a few hundred yards. Participants also learned that the Pronghorn were, at one time, as numerous as the North American Bison. Current antelope population estimates are around 1 million.

Many thanks to Mormon Lake Lodge, as well as all our Presenters:

- Larry Snead, Mormon Lake Lodge
- James P. Mehen, Arizona Antelope Foundation
- Derrick Widmark, Diablo Trust
- Richard Ockenfels, Arizona Antelope Foundation
- Tice Supplee, Arizona Antelope Foundation
- Henry Provencio, US Forest Service
- Clint Adams, Arizona Game & Fish Department
- Bill McLean, Arizona Antelope Foundation

Information on the North American Pronghorn may be obtained from <http://www.azantelope.org> or by contacting James P. Mehen, 2009 Arizona Antelope Foundation President, at 928.774.6637.

Additional information on the Environmental Education Programs at Mormon Lake Lodge may be obtained from <http://www.mormonlakelodge.com/>.



Larry Snead, Mormon Lake Lodge



Henry Provencio, USFS



Event Attendees



VIEWING PRONGHORN

BY RICHARD OCKENFELS

One of the few areas in southern Arizona that you can view pronghorn is a U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management special area. Las Cienegas National Conservation Area is located south of Tucson next to the town of Sonoita. Traveling east on I-10 past Tucson, you exit off the Interstate at Exit 281 for State Route 83 South. This is the same route that is used to get to Parker Canyon Lake and the town of Patagonia.

Travel south on SR 83 for 18.5 miles (MP 40) to the sign for Empire Ranch Historic Site, then exit east onto the NCA. After driving through desert communities for most of these 18 miles, you rise up in elevation and into mixed grassland-oak woodland habitat, unfortunately which considerable mesquite has encroached upon. Be aware that this is still a working ranch, so be sure to leave gates as you found them. Cattle gates are on the main routes, so unless you venture off onto side roads, this shouldn't be a problem. The main road was good enough for passenger cars and SUVs. I took my new Ford Escape across the road without any problems.

The first thing I noticed was the mesquite invasion, which has overwhelmed much of the grassland habitat in the hills. Mesquites normally occupy the

drainage bottoms along with a variety of oaks. This is expected. However, the encroachment into the rolling hills isn't, being the results of decades of fire suppression and grazing. To help remedy the situation, the BLM is undertaking a program called "Back to the Grasslands", a mesquite removal project to restore grasslands and improve wildlife habitat for sensitive grassland species. Species like our favorite, the Pronghorn. But, also for other species, like the recently reintroduced Black-tailed Prairie Dog.

The Black-tailed Prairie Dog was eliminated from southern Arizona by 1960. The reintroduction occurred in spring of 2009, so the outcome is far from certain for this grassland species. The area is closed to prairie dog hunting—east of I-19 and south of I-10—so don't even think about it if you are lucky enough to see some of the hole-diggers.

The Pronghorn in the area were also reintroduced, from a population in southwestern Texas. The reintroduction of the *Mexicana* subspecies was viewed by biologists in the early 1980s to be the best option, as this was believed to be the subspecies that occupied the area historically. In the 1940s, Arizona Game and Fish Department biologists introduced the *Americana* subspecies from Anderson Mesa—near Flagstaff—into southern Arizona at a number of sites, to restore the spe-



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cies to historic range. Those populations gradually winked out, so to speak. Few, if any, remained in the general Sonoita area by the 1970s. So, today, you can see a different subspecies than that which you would see in northern Arizona.

After leaving SR 83, the dirt road soon goes by some BLM signage. Be sure to stop and read the information and look over the area map. Continuing eastward, you soon encounter a sign to the historic Empire Ranch headquarters, to the north. Be sure to visit the site and walk around. You will have to open a gate to get into the headquarters area. Walk around and read the signage in the various buildings. Be aware that BLM staff might be in the area.

Looking eastward towards the Whetstone and Mustang mountains, you can see the grassland areas on the east side of Cienega Creek. Back to the west, across SR 83, is the Santa Rita Mountains. The entire valley

between has grassland habitat intermixed with oak thickets and mesquite bottoms. The best areas for viewing Pronghorn are to the south,

along SR 82, at the southern end of the Conservation Area. To get there, return to the main dirt road (LC 900) and continue eastward. At the T-junction, turn south and continue towards SR 82. You have to drive through a mesquite bosque in the bottomlands first, though. Note the large, mature mesquites, cottonwoods, and oaks in the sacaton bottoms. Look for Coues white-tailed deer or javelina in the wooded bottoms, along with Coati, those wonderful raccoon-like critters. I didn't see any, but maybe you will be luckier than I was.

If you desire to camp down in the area, you will see signs for a designated camping area. There is also a group site to the far north, if you took the north fork back at the T-junction, instead of the southern route. You will have to cross several creeks, which are often dry, in this stretch of the dirt road. If water is in them, be careful if you are in a car. After crossing through the wooden bottom, grassland again occurs. Here is one of the best areas for seeing some Pronghorn. A good way to improve your odds of viewing a few, get up on a hill-top—low hills, so climbing should be easy—and at-



tempt to glass up some in the distance. If not, just continue driving the grassland areas looking out your windows. The last time I was down, in early June, I spotted 2 does close to SR 82, near the end of the LC 900 route. Maybe you too can be lucky.

There is considerable grassland habitat south of SR 82, so check that out too. I drove east on SR 82 to the Upper Elgin Road, then looped south through the wine growing country surrounding Elgin. Stop at Elgin itself or one of the nearby wineries for some wine tasting when you're down in the area. The Upper Elgin Road is 4.5 miles east on SR 82, so it isn't far. To return west from Elgin, follow the Elgin Road, or better yet, the Lower Elgin Road—which is a dirt road instead of paved—and look for Pronghorn in these grasslands. I spotted a herd right at the junction of the Elgin Road with SR 83. It had a buck and 4 does. Some friends with property in the area told me at dinner that they had seen a fawn in the group too, about an hour after I saw them.

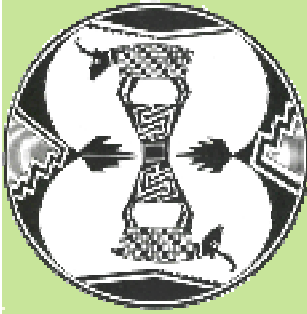
This loop has wonderful examples of a yucca-grassland, which is what much of southern Arizona should be like.

Much of this southern area is part of the historic San Ignacio del Babocomari Land Grant, and is a working ranch. Hopefully, the ranch continues long into the future, as there is considerable habitat available to support Pronghorn. Unfortunately, significant amounts of grassland habitat

near Sonoita have been developed in a "40-acre ranchette style". Today, considerable habitat has been lost to this worst type of development

for Pronghorn and other large species. However, in some areas of homes, Pronghorn can still use the available habitat. The best herd I saw on my last trip down was in between the ranchettes. Here, a single buck had 7 does, along with 3 recent fawns. I got some good wildlife viewing and photo opportunities.

Work the grasslands for a day or so, and you should see some of those magnificent prairie runners, and here, in real prairie. There are several lodging places in Sonoita and Patagonia if you stay down, as well as fine eateries. I hope you go see this beautiful part of Arizona. Good luck.



SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
AUGUST 17, 2009

Captive Breeding: The pronghorn in the captive breeding pen are doing well. We have 18 fawns in the north herd, 11 females and 7 males. The 13 fawns in the south herd are 7 females and 6 males.

Status of Pronghorn in Pen
(M = Male, F = Female)

	Wild pronghorn put into the pen	2005 recruitment	2006 recruitment	2007 recruitment	2008 recruitment	2009 recruitment	Total in Pen
NORTH HALF							
In Pen	5F	2F		3F	5F, 7M	11F, 7M	
Released	1M	4M	3M	4M, 1F	1F		
From south half						1M	41
SOUTH HALF							
In Pen	5F		2F	2F	4F, 6M	7F, 6M	
Released			2M	1F, 2M	2M		
From wild						1M	33
							74

2009 Released Pronghorn: One of the males released from the pen was found dead July 19, northwest of the pen. There did not appear to be any signs of predation and the cause of death is unknown. We have not been able to locate another male released this year since the end of May. He was last seen on the Tactical Ranges, but we cannot hear his radio collar when we do the telemetry. He has also not been photographed at the feeding stations on STAC or at any of the forage plots or waters. The other released animals are doing well, one doe has moved with some wild pronghorn onto Organ Pipe Cactus NM.

2008 Released Males: Nothing new to report.

2007 Released Males: Three of the 4 males released in 2007 have been photographed using the Charlie Bell forage enhancement.

Water Projects: We hauled water using a helicopter to several waters as we have not had any rain over most of pronghorn range this summer. We have photo-documented pronghorn using most of the waters. We are in the process of doing the necessary paperwork to enlarge the storage capacity of several of the waters on the Cabeza Prieta refuge to reduce costly water hauling.

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(Continued from page 12)

Forage Enhancements: We have continued irrigating at Charlie Bell forage enhancement. We have recorded numerous released pronghorn using the plot as well as wild pronghorn. We have seen up to 15 different pronghorn using the plot, including at least 8 fawns. We have also been irrigating at the Granite Mountains forage plot and it is looking very green. Up to 5 different pronghorn have been using this plot, including two collared animals. The two collared pronghorn have now recently moved to Organ Pipe Cactus NM, where it has rained and is very green.

Other Projects: We are still moving forward with the preliminary steps for establishing a second population, a draft EA is expected to be out this fall.

Wild Pronghorn: On the most recent telemetry flight, we saw 28 pronghorn on STAC, including 9 fawns. There is also a group of 9 using Organ Pipe Cactus NM. Most of the range is very dry; there has been rain on Organ Pipe, parts of the Agua Dulce Mountains, and one small area in the San Cristobal Valley.



Pronghorn at Charlie Bell forage plot.



Friday's efforts turned up nothing but they were back at it early Saturday. They saw a few buck antelope on Saturday but couldn't get close enough for an archery shot. Dalton and his crew were back at it early Sunday morning. The plan was to hunt until early afternoon, return to camp for lunch and return to the Phoenix area because Dalton had to return to school Monday morning. That plan changed when they spotted an antelope they went after. They came up empty handed after about 30 minutes of stalking the buck. So they decided to sit and glass the meadow hoping the buck would return.

About 1:30 p.m. Wesley came roaring into camp on his quad with instructions from the others to "bring food". We loaded him up with freshly cooked hamburgers and all the fixin's and Wesley was off to deliver the food.

About an hour and a half later everyone moved to another meadow where one of the crew had spotted a buck about 300 yards across the meadow. Dalton and Tim tried to get closer but the buck took off. Dalton, John and Tim tried unsuccessfully to cut him off. The

crew returned to the original meadow and less than a minute after arriving John spotted another buck so Tim and Dalton were off again. They noticed another hunter in the meadow that had the buck's attention. When the buck took off they realized he had been shot at.

Spotters in the group pointed the direction the buck ran and Tim and Dalton climbed into the truck and headed that direction. They elected to sit on the berm of the tank the buck was headed for but the buck never arrived.

Dalton said he was "bummed" that he didn't see the antelope buck at the tank but was excited when he saw two cow elk and a calf walk in. About three minutes later Dalton heard a "crackling" sound that Tim hadn't heard. Dalton's alert hearing paid off when he saw a set of antlers pop over the other side of the tank. It was a young bull elk coming in for a drink. Dalton ranged the bull at 40 yards.

We expected the group back late afternoon but when they didn't return we prepared dinner. They rolled in well after dark, hungry and a little disap-

(Continued on page 15)

pointed, having no antelope on the ground.

During dinner Dalton commented that, even though he didn't take an antelope, this was the best experience he'd ever had in his life and it was "really cool" to have had stalks on two different antelope bucks and have a herd of elk close enough to almost touch. He can't wait for his next outing.

Outings like this will happen again before the end of the year. Outdoor Experience 4 All has been generously blessed with over 30 donated big game tags available through the end of the year. They are looking for additional people to help out on these hunts and Eddy would welcome a phone call at 480-529-8340 if you are interested in assisting on one of the upcoming hunts. They need lots of help this year during these hunts.

One of their upcoming outings is a squirrel hunt in the Mormon Lake area the opening weekend of squirrel season in mid-October. Eddy expects to have over 10 kids needing assistance on their hunts. Believe me, you will be in for the time of your life if you participate in one of these youth hunts. The kids are so enthusiastic and willing to learn. Bill and I had a wonderful time

during this hunt and intend on participating in several others, time permitting, whether sponsored by AAF or not.

The Arizona Antelope Foundation was a proud sponsor of this particular outing and looks forward to partnering with Outdoor Experience 4 All on similar activities in the future. We'd like to see more AAF members participate in these activities, whether co-sponsored by AAF or not. You can't help but be blessed during one of these outings.



www.outdoorexperienceforall.org

IDA GRASSLANDS PROJECT BY JIMMY MEHEN, AAF PRESIDENT AND LIFE MEMBER

The IDA includes a 24-mile stretch of USFS road 144 running southward from US Highway 180 to I-40 west of Bellemont. The IDA is grassland that provides a natural corridor from north of the San Francisco Peaks to the Garland Prairie area along I-40.



Over the last century the IDA has become overgrown with Pinion pine and Juniper trees. The United States Forest Service (USFS) in cooperation with the

Arizona Game & Fish Department (AZGFD) and the local ranchers has undertaken the removal of a portion of these invasive species in order to let nature restore the grasslands.

On August 15, 2009 I was part of a group that was invited by Carl Lutch of the AZGFD to join personnel from the AZGFD and the USFS to see some work in process, the results of some recent work and the results of work done years ago. The results have been successful and dramatic.

The USFS primarily uses independent contractors to accomplish the removals. The primary method of removal includes chain saws and the Agri-Ax. The Agri-Ax is a set of scissor like cutters attached to the front of a rubber tire Bobcat. In either case the tree is felled in place. Once down the challenge is how to dispose of the carcass.

Numerous methods of disposition have been employed over the years with varying degrees of success and varying pros and cons. No one method seems to be the best. The one major consideration in all the methods is cost. What follows is a discussion of the various methods of carcass disposition and the pros and cons of each.

(Continued on page 16)

LEAVE INTACT AND IN PLACE:

The major advantage is that this is very inexpensive. The major disadvantages are that the bulk carcasses are unsightly and very slow to decay. In addition, the area covered by the carcass grows little if any new grass and plant life.

CUT UP AND LEAVE INPLACE (image below):

This method is a bit more costly. Primarily the chain saw crews use this method. The challenge is how much cutting is enough and how widely to scatter the remains. If the cutting is extensive, then the cost goes up; if not enough, the problems of Intact & In Place surface. If the remains are left tightly packed, then little or no growth occurs; if too widely scattered, then the result is similar. On the other hand when accomplished properly new growth at the site will exceed the surrounding area.



CUTUP AND CHIP:

This method is very expensive and once again the scattering of the remains (the chips) is critical.

LEAVE IN PLACE AND GRIND:

After the tree is felled the carcass is ground in a circular fashion. This method is also expensive, as it requires an additional machine to do the grinding after the tree is felled. Once again, the extent of scattering is a concern.

LEAVE IN PLACE AND CRUSH:

After the tree is felled the Bobcat operator then crushes the carcass by driving over it with the Bobcat as many times as is necessary to properly crush the carcass. This method is reasonably economical as the Bobcat is already in place and the crushing takes just a couple of minutes if the tree is not too large. Proper spreading of the remains results in significant new growth at the site.

COMPLETE REMOVAL:

This is very expensive, as it requires exporting by truck and the location of a disposition site. Further little new growth is encouraged at the site.

OTHERS:

- Windrowing: expensive, unsightly, extremely long decomposition and the land is generally damaged in the process.
- Burning: dangerous and expensive.
- Woodcutters: inexpensive but the damage to the site is generally uncontrollable and the remains are generally not disposed of properly. The results are very inconsistent.

I said that the results on the IDA have been successful and dramatic. The photos that accompany this article help tell the story but a visit to the IDA is invaluable to really get a feel for the amazing work that has been done by the USFS, the AZGFD and the contractors. Their efforts are allowing nature to bring back the lush grassland that existed on the IDA before 1900. We in the Arizona Antelope Foundation hope that there are long-term lasting benefits to the Pronghorn that utilize the IDA.

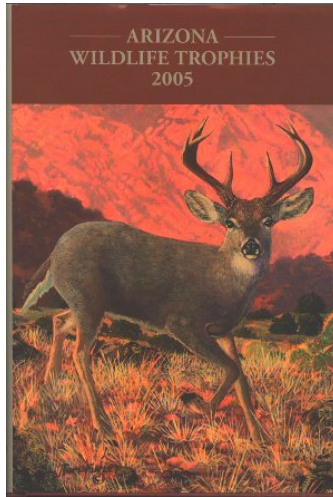


FOR THE BOOK BY BILL KEEBLER



SHORT SHOTS

The 2008 antelope season was another very good year for hunters in Arizona. There are five pronghorns entered in the 2008 competition. The largest and bronze award winner scoring 94 4/8 was taken by Dr. David Meyer in Yavapai County. This is only 4/8 less than his shared world record held jointly with Dylan Woods. Both of these world record pronghorns are from Arizona.



The four largest entered in the 2008 competition scored over 85 points.

The Arizona Wildlife Trophies Record Book has been published every five years since 1970 by the Arizona Wildlife Trophies Committee of the Arizona Wildlife Federation. Each year there is an annual competition. All entries received by May 1 of the year following the year the animal is taken are automatically entered in the competition. Entries received after the May 1 deadline are not eligible for the annual competition but are still entered into the next record book. The next record book will be published in 2010. The deadline for entries to be included in it is May 1st, 2010.

The annual competition awards given each year are bronze awards and honorable mention awards. The bronze award is awarded only to outstanding trophies in each category at the discretion of the Arizona Wildlife Trophies committee and any number of honorable mention awards can be awarded in each category. The bronze award is so titled because it is a bronze medallion presented in a shadow box. For 2008 there were 11 bronze awards presented.

For the deer hunters the minimum score for non-typical deer was lowered by 10 points at the last Trophies Committee meeting. It is 210 effective immediately. Any deer meeting the new minimum are eligible for listing in the record book regardless of when it was taken.

The requirement for trophy entries, minimum scores and a list of measurers are on the Arizona Wildlife Federation web site at www.azwildlife.org. The price of the 2005 field copy of the record book has been reduced to \$15.00. The 2000 field copy of the record book is also still available for \$10.00. To order a copy of either an order form can be downloaded from the web site or call Kim at 480 644-0077.

ATTENTION FALL ANTELOPE HUNTERS

If you were among the fortunate to harvest an antelope we'd love to share your stories and pictures, and we'd like your help with our Aging/Horn Growth Study.

Since 2005 the AAF has been cooperating with the Armendaris Ranch in New Mexico to conduct a study aging harvested pronghorn antelope and comparing their respective horn size and B&C score.

What the study has shown so far is trophy buck pronghorn can be any age with most trophies being between 3 and 7 years of age. In the state by state breakdown, Arizona has the highest average score (82.9) followed closely by West Texas, with New Mexico and Utah also producing big heads. Colorado and the Arizona Strip tend to have smaller sized trophies.

Detailed results, as well as how you can help with this study can be found on our website.

If you have a photo and/or story you'd like us to consider publishing, send good quality, tasteful digital images to info@azantelope.org.

AZ BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

The 2009 results are in. There were 2000 antelope tickets purchased adding \$40,000 to the Tag Fund account for antelope management in Arizona! This brings the grand total to \$185,800 during the first 4 years of the Raffle's existence.

For those who aren't familiar with this win-win raffle, tag winners are able to hunt Arizona's big game species for 365 days in nearly all units statewide that support each given species! Tickets are reasonably priced and ALL proceeds from the sales of the big game tickets go back into conservation efforts for each particular species.

The 2010 campaign is kicking off very shortly. Watch your mail, or visit their website for more information:

www.arizonabiggamesuperaffle.com

HAVE A QUESTION OR COMMENT?
"SHOOT BACK AT US" AT

INFO@AZANTELOPE.ORG

WWW.AZANTELOPE.ORG

MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Art Pearce, Phoenix | 14. Al Sue, Scottsdale | 27. Don Davidson, Mesa |
| 2. Jim Mehen, Flagstaff | 15. Mary Keebler, Happy Jack | 28. Terry Petko, Mesa |
| 3. Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City | 16. Bill Keebler, Happy Jack | 29. Gary M. Johnson, Phoenix |
| 4. James K. McCasland, | 17. James Stewart, Phoenix | 30. Richard Guenzel, Laramie WY |
| 5. Nina Gammons, Payette, ID | 18. Terry Schupp, Tempe | 31. Randy Cherington, Scottsdale |
| 6. Nancy Lewis, Phoenix | 19. Dale Hislop, Calgary Canada | 32. Joe Del Re, Chandler |
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| 8. Jerry Weiers, Phoenix | 21. George Welsh, Kingman | 34. Cookie Nicoson, Williams |
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| 10. David Brown, Phoenix | 23. Don Parks, Peoria | 36. Jodi Stewart, Gilbert |
| 11. Art Boswell, Tucson | 24. Bill & Kerrie Jacoby, Chandler | 37. Keith Joyner, Scottsdale |
| 12. Charlie Kelly, Scottsdale | 25. Adam Geottl, Cottonwood | |
| 13. Chrissy Weiers, Phoenix | 26. Shane Stewart, Gilbert | |

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Paul & Joann Delaney, Flagstaff	Susan Morse, Jericho VT	
Eugene & Linda Dightmon, Peoria	Richard Ockenfels, Mayer	

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Jim & Rita Ammons, Yuma	Sonia & Anna Gregory, Scottsdale	Amy & Stephen Ostwinkle, Gilbert
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Bruce & Alex Goodman, Chino Valley	Russ & Colton Nelsen, Prescott	Ron Wilkins, Goodyear
		Jim Wood, Glendale

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jerry & Anthony Acedo, Phoenix	Les Line, Phoenix	Nancy Santiago, Tuba City
Kris Baizel, Chandler	Tom Mackin, Flagstaff	Daren Shumway, Mesa
Charlie Conover, Star Valley	Robert Mackin, Flagstaff	Brad Slezak, Phoenix
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Jody Latimer, Phoenix	Al Ortonica, Glendale	Don Whitfield, Mesa
Melanie Lawrence, Flagstaff	Mike Phillips, Glendale	John & Elaine Wintersteen, Paradise Valley
Jim Lindsay, Phoenix	Ryna Rock & Ken Stephens, Camp Verde	Don Winward, Tempe

Memberships follow the calendar year - Annual Renewals Notices should be mailed by December

2010 ANNUAL MEETING ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Our annual membership meeting and Elections will take place at 6:30 pm on November 9th at El Zaribah Shrine, 552 N. 40th St. in Phoenix. We encourage you to attend, and if you are a member in good standing, cast your vote. Each Individual, Sustaining, or Life Member, or Family as a whole is entitled to one vote if current with their dues. If you are unable to attend you may use one of the forms below to vote by mail or proxy.

You must complete all information requested, and follow these mailing instructions: Write "Proxy Enclosed" or "Ballot Enclosed" on the outside of the envelope and mail no later than **November 1st** to AZ Antelope Foundation, PO Box 12590, Glendale, AZ 85318.

Proxy Vote

I, _____, hereby designate _____
as my proxy to vote on my behalf for the 2010 officer/director candidates at the 2009 annual meeting of the Arizona Antelope Foundation on November 9, 2009.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Member Phone: _____ Proxy Phone: _____

Our current Bylaws allow each member to carry 2 proxies. It is important for you to include both phone numbers so that we can verify eligibility of your proxy, as well as contact you if the person you have designated already has 2 proxies.

Mail Ballot

Mark an X next to the candidate(s) you wish to vote for below.

Officers & Directors:

___ President, Shane Stewart ___ Vice President, Todd Hulm

___ Secretary, Art Boswell ___ Treasurer, Mary Keebler

Directors with terms ending 12/31/10:

___ Jerry Guevin ___ Dave Verhelst ___ Tice Supplee

Directors with terms ending 12/31/11:

___ Jim McCasland ___ Richard Ockenfels ___ Glen Dickens

Signed: _____ Date: _____



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SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!

<i>WHAT?</i>	<i>WHEN?</i>	<i>WHERE?</i>
The Arizona Antelope Foundation	October 12 6:30 PM	El Zaribah Shrine
Board Meetings	November 9 6:30 PM	552 N. 40th St.
	December 14 6:30 PM	Phoenix
AAF Work Projects	October 17-18, 2009	Unit 21
	February 27, 2010	BANWR
	July TBA, 2010	White Mountains
The Wildlife Conservation Council	October 27	3001 N. 35th Ave.
Board Meetings	November 24	Phoenix
AAF Annual Membership Meeting	November 9 6:30 PM	El Zaribah Shrine, Phoenix