



PRONGHORN

4th Quarter 2011
Volume 17 Number 4



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 OUR COVER

Thanks to Terry Herndon for once again sharing one of his photos. Terry is a native Arizonan and currently resides in Phoenix with his wife Margie. He has been blessed with two beautiful daughters and a grandson who already thinks antelope are the best animal in Arizona! Terry loves the outdoors and owns Arizona Outfitter and Guides Service where he specializes in Pronghorn hunts.

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:

Tracy Unmacht, Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 12590, Glendale, AZ 85318, or by email at info@azantelope.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well here we are again, concluding another very successful year. This time of year always stands to surprise me in how little time there is in 365 days. Many things have transpired over this year that have made huge impacts in allowing us to achieve our goals of preserving pronghorn and their habitat. This time of year is a good time to look back over the past, analyze the present, and set goals for the future. For many of us the past year may have been a year we'd prefer to forget. For some, death has invaded our lives, and we've lost someone very precious. Then there is sickness, and for some of us there has been a new realization of our mortality – the fragile hold we have on health and emotional sanity. There have been disappointments; some of them caused by ourselves, some caused by those around us (such things as family crisis, divorce, trouble at our job, and so on). But there were the high points. Let us stop for a moment and recall them. Not a day has passed when somebody hasn't shared with me something beautiful God has been doing in their lives. But whatever our varied experiences, all of us here will have the same thing happen this month - another year will be subtracted from our life's span. Time marches on... no it rushes on, and we are getting closer and closer to our greater destinies. And so it's good to reflect, to take an inventory of our resources, to remember, and to set some

goals. (By the way don't set too many goals; and make sure they're attainable!) My text (perhaps the most commonly-chosen for this time of the year); 'The one thing is not to dwell in what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead...' (Phil. 3:13)

This coming year promises to be an extremely productive one for the AAF. AAF was able to obtain a **3 year grant** from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (read more about this on page 6). This grant will allow us to put roughly \$1 million dollars' worth of improvements into the Southeast Arizona Grasslands via the grant and matching funds. The most exciting part is it will allow us to start to re-establish antelope into historic habitats that have been suffering from a decline in numbers over the past few decades. **THIS IS HUGE!** The impact that a landscape scale project such as this makes is something that has ripple effects on to future generations. Kudos to everyone who played a part in bringing this to fruition. We will keep you abreast as the project progresses!!

The AAF was able to partner with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to acquire the **Horseshoe Ranch** North of Phoenix. **THIS IS HUGE!** The Horseshoe has long been one of our Adopt-A-Ranches. We began this process roughly 3 years ago, with the intent to help AZGFD acquire the ranch and preserve it for perpetuity. We are still engaged in the planning process which involves grazing allotments (70,000 acres +) controlled by the USFS and BLM and the base property controlled by AZGFD. There is still a lot of planning that must take place to insure how the ranch is managed, but it is proving to be a mixed use property with the potential to serve as a model of proper land use and educational opportunities. We are excited to say the least to help mold this unique ranch.

2012 is shaping up to be one of our busiest years to date. We will conduct work projects all over the state. Log onto to our website www.azantelope.org to see which projects you would like to attend. We have completely redesigned our **2012 BANQUET** being held **February 18th at Rustlers Rooste** in Phoenix. It is shaping up to be the "don't miss" event of the year.

We couldn't continue to do what we do without the gracious support of all of our members. I encourage you to lead others to the AAF! This will allow us to continue to increase what we are able to accomplish. Going into

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DON'T FENCE ME IN

BY MARSHA SUE

For over thirty minutes, the nine Pronghorn stood at the four-rung barbed wire fence on the Vaca Ranch in Sonoita, Arizona.

The Game and Fish regional manager watched the antelope walk off to find a place where they could dive under the fence to move the small herd to the good forbs (wildflowers, weeds, etc.) eating area. The problem? Coyotes and mountain lions will 'push' the group into this type of barbed fence and the young goats become part of the food chain.

Because Pronghorn don't typically jump over a fence, the Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) works with local ranchers to strip off their barbed wire and replace the bottom line of wire with smooth wire 18" high. In addition, water catchment areas are enhanced for the animals' drinking pleasure.

My husband Al and I participate in many of these AAF projects ... setting up camp on Friday, working all day Saturday and breaking camp to head home on Sunday. We are lucky to have fabulous leaders in the AAF and an incredible group of volunteers. Many times we have Boy and Girl Scout troops, biology students from Arizona State University, the University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University and others. Our members even bring their kids and that is fabulous!



Before I married Al, I had never camped – well maybe if the Ritz Carlton didn't have turndown service! Thankfully he has opened up an entire new chapter of my life to the outdoors, the importance of managing our forests and taking care of our precious hunting lands.

Before managing the fences became a priority, this animal population was on the decline. I am honored to be part of this restoration. The herd numbers are steadily on the increase. And I think I heard the Pronghorn singing their anthem, 'Don't Fence Me In' as we left the ranch!



Brad & Brooklyn Fulk



The author and her husband Al, who is an AAF Life Member and Board member.

ROSE TREE & SAN RAFAEL VALLEY VACA RANCH PROJECT

BY GLEN DICKENS

Another successful AAF project was completed by 25 volunteers in southeastern Arizona on October 1, 2011. The project weekend had two elements; the first on the Vaca Ranch in the San Rafael Valley where we modified approximately 1.5 miles of existing fence to 4 strands by removing the bottom, barbed-wire stands and replacing with smooth-wire. This effort was located on private property in the northwest quarter of the San Rafael Valley in the Meadow Valley area bordering a main county roadway. The fence modification on the Vaca Ranch improved travel for the last remaining herd of 9 pronghorn utilizing the Meadow Valley and improved pronghorn access to 6-8 square miles of critical pronghorn fawning habitat. It helps complete a critical northwest portion of the overall San Rafael Valley pronghorn corridor improvement project.

On the Rosetree Ranch we laid approximately 1 mile of surface pipe and installed 2 water troughs in direct proximity to a previously funded AAF and AZ Deer Association (ADA) Habitat Partnership Committee (HPC) brush

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AAF RECEIVES 3-YEAR NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION GRANT FOR SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA “SKY ISLANDS” PRONGHORN ENHANCEMENTS **BY GLEN DICKENS, DIRECTOR AND LIFE MEMBER**

On November 16, 2011 the Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) received the very heartening news that the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) had awarded a 3-year grant of \$230,000 to the AAF to support the AAF’s 5-year *Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative* project initiated in April 2010. Grant funds will be matched by \$230,000 in non-federal contributions including: AAF and private land owner project labor and materials; Pima County *Sonoran Conservation Plan* land acquisition funds and Arizona Game and Fish Big Game Tag, Habitat Partnership Funds.

This grant opportunity is provided by one of six national NFWF “Initiatives” and falls under the one entitled “*Sky Islands Grasslands*”. Here in Arizona we know this zone as “Southeastern Arizona” located in Pima, Santa Cruz, Cochise and Graham counties. As defined by the Initiative it includes the landscape in the border region between Mexico, Arizona and New Mexico. The

Sky Islands - or so called Apache Highlands - are an area of more than 40 separate mountain ranges isolated by what was once a sea of more than 13 million acres of grassland. Today, only 2 million acres of high quality grassland remains, but another 4 million acres can be restored. This habitat is split among state, private, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service ownership. These grasslands are a key connecting landscape between the Sierra Madre Occidental Mountains in Mexico and the Rocky Mountains to the North and between the Sonoran and Chihuahuan desert to the East and West.

The Sky Island Initiative focuses its conservation need on grant-making activities that will restore grassland to the benefit of keystone species including: pronghorn, black-tailed prairie dog, Chiricahua leopard frog, grassland sparrows, jaguar and American bison that move through or depend upon these large grassland land-

(Continued on page 7)



Photo by Richard Ockenfels

(NFWF Grant cont. from page 6)

scapes. It also targets investments to create new populations or improve habitat and population viability for existing populations of these keystone grasslands species. With this grant approval the AAF joins other key *Sky Island Grassland* initiative partners including the: Arizona Game and Fish Department, Pima County, Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, University of Arizona, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sky Island Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy and others.

A working group created in February 2010 by the Tucson Regional Office of the Arizona Game and Fish Department called the "Southeast Arizona Collaborative Grassland Workgroup" or SEAGrass was instrumental in providing the framework for the AAF's grant application by collaboratively drafting a southeastern Arizona Regional Pronghorn Strategy to increase Pronghorn population numbers, distribution and connectiveness. Partners in this working group include: AAF, AGFD, BLM, USFS, SLD, USDA, USFWS, Pima County, Arizona Wildlife Federation, The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Society.

Long-term goals for this 3-year grant are to:

1. establish a region-wide dynamic geodatabase with integrated multi-species layers to prioritize grasslands restoration/maintenance activities for pronghorn and other sensitive grassland species
2. permanently record pronghorn travel corridors and act to remove or modify barriers, including fences, shrubs and trees
3. target/plan grassland treatments/burns in priority habitat locations on an annual and long-term basis to benefit the highest number of keystone grassland species
4. supplement at least one pronghorn population, increase numbers in two subpopulations
5. improve grassland habitat in five pronghorn subpopulation zones

Specific objectives include establishing the geodatabase at the Audubon's Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch and contract a part time Field/Project Manager. The Manager will work with volunteers, private land owners and agencies to draft, develop and oversee implementation of site specific projects to include

- fence removal/modification
- brush/tree removal
- burn plans and burn implementation
- land treatment to improve forb/grass and forage conditions

The project development process will use three local

Habitat Partnership Committees (HPC's) in Sierra Vista, Safford and Tucson and their standardized wildlife project proposal application process to solicit and advertise the opportunities for cooperative funding. The SEAGrass may recommend prioritized project proposals for funding within each HPC's assigned grassland habitat area. The AAF in cooperation with both the HPC's and SEAGrass will review annual project awards recommended by the HPC's. The AAF will behave as the responsible entity submitting claimed project expenses, reimbursements and in-kind matches approved by the Grant and Project Managers. The AAF will complete at least 10 distinct site specific projects during the three-year duration of the grant.

This initiative will capitalize on local volunteer labor as do all AAF projects. One example includes the utilization of a 4-H Program called "Range Riders" where 5 youth will be trained on GPS units and will ride to inventory and measure fences in key pronghorn travel areas to assist in prioritizing fence modifications during the life of the grant. Another example includes Tombstone High School Future Farmers of America students who will be a key part of the monitoring program by reviewing radio telemetry data from the newly released radio collared pronghorn and will also participate in field work (see related article on page 9). Another example is the ongoing annual March and September project weekends hosted by the AAF to conduct fence and habitat modifications on specific ranches on behalf of local pronghorn herds. Participation by local individuals and organizations such as the Southeastern Arizona Sportsman's Club help to ensure a successful weekend project.

And finally it must be recognized that without the continued cooperation of private landowners/ranchers this initiative would have no chance of success. In the Sky Island grasslands in southeastern Arizona up to 50% of the 300,000 acres of grassland habitat currently occupied by pronghorn is privately owned. These landowner/rancher relationships are recognized upfront by the AAF and its other agency and project cooperators as key to our overall project success on behalf of this keystone grasslands species and we look forward to working with them.





SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
DECEMBER 23, 2011

Captive Breeding:

We did our annual capture of pronghorn in the boma traps December 14-16. The helicopter needed for transporting the pronghorn to the new pen on Kofa National Wildlife Refuge (Kofa), and to the holding pen on Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (Orpi) was delayed by weather the first day, so we started processing animals on the 15th.

The pen is very green with plentiful natural forage so the pronghorn are not as dependant on alfalfa hay which we use to entice them into the bomas for capture. We did not trap as many females as we hoped, but we did trap 23 out of the 34 in the north half of the pen, and 21 of the 40 in the south half of the pen. All pronghorn that were caught in the boma were checked by a veterinarian, given Bluetongue/EHD and other vaccines, and had blood drawn for genetic and disease testing.

We processed 16 pronghorn from the north boma on the first day. We moved 6 pronghorn (5 females and 1 male) to the new captive breeding pen on Kofa by helicopter. We also moved one yearling buck to a 5-acre holding pen on Orpi for later release to the wild. We moved an older male to the south herd to serve as the breeding buck, and moved a younger male as a back-up. All the pronghorn were given either GPS collars, VHF collars, ear tag vhf transmitters, or regular ear tags for monitoring depending on their age and destination.

We processed the remaining 7 pronghorn in the north herd and all 21 from the south herd on the second day. We moved an additional 7 pronghorn to Kofa (6 females and 1 male). We also moved 4 additional males to the Orpi holding pen. We had planned to move one female to Orpi also, but she escaped from the boma trap. We also moved a male from the south herd to the north herd for breeding purposes.

We had no immediate mortality or major injury in any of the 43 pronghorn we handled. A few pronghorn had minor abrasions from the trapping and handling, but we have not documented any lingering problems with any of them. Most of the pronghorn have grouped up in a single group at Kofa, and are browsing on the natural forage, as well as eating some alfalfa. We moved 3 females born last year to the Kofa pen because we did not trap enough older females in the bomas. The pronghorn released back into the Cabeza pens have joined up with the other pronghorn and all appear normal. The 5 males in the Orpi holding pen appear to be well and behaving

| Cabeza Pen | Dec 2011 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| NORTH HALF | |
| Adult Females | 10 |
| Fawn Females (<i>b</i> 2011) | 4 |
| Breeding Buck | 1 |
| Back-up Buck | 1 |
| Buck Fawns (<i>b</i> 2011) | 4 |
| TOTAL | 20 |
| | |
| SOUTH HALF | |
| Adult Females | 18 |
| Fawn Females (<i>b</i> 2011) | 6 |
| Breeding Buck | 1 |
| Back-up Buck | 1 |
| Other Adult Bucks | 2 |
| Buck Fawns (<i>b</i> 2011) | 8 |
| TOTAL | 36 |
| | |
| Total Pen | 56 |

| Kofa Pen | Dec 2011 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Adult Females | 8 |
| Fawn Females (<i>b</i> 2011) | 3 |
| Breeding Buck | 1 |
| Back-up Buck | 1 |
| Buck Fawns (<i>b</i> 2011) | |
| TOTAL | 13 |

(Continued on page 9)

(Sonoran Pronghorn Update cont. from page 8)

normally. We are holding them until December 29 to ensure any lingering effects of the drugs are completely gone, to allow them time to become oriented to their new surroundings, and time to band together. On December 29, we will simply open the holding pen and let the pronghorn leave the pen.

We now have 20 pronghorn in the north half of the pen, and 36 in the south half. We are going to try to trap and release a few more animals from the south half of the pen in early January if we can entice them back into the boma. We have 18 breeding age females in the south half, and hope to release a few of these to prevent overcrowding in that half of the pen when they all give birth next spring.

Released Pronghorn: The 2010 released pronghorn are still ranging mostly in the vicinity of the pen. One buck released in 2010 and one buck released in 2009 have moved west and are with groups of wild pronghorn in the Growler Valley.

Water Projects: We have had over 2 inches of rain in the last several weeks, and all our waters are full or nearly full.

Forage Enhancements: All our forage enhancements have received ample rain recently, so we are not

irrigating at any of them.

Other Projects: We completed the range-wide survey in Sonora, Mexico in the beginning of December. Our preliminary results are: we saw 167 pronghorn on the east side of Highway 8, leading to an estimate of 189 pronghorn; we saw 30 pronghorn in the Pinacate area, leading to an estimate of 52; total number seen was 197, estimate for the entire population was 241.

This was the lowest number seen and the lowest population estimate for a December survey for the area east of Highway 8. The second lowest numbers were the 2002 survey with 197 seen and an estimate of 260. On our last survey in 2009 we saw 258 pronghorn and estimated 381; the highest estimate was 624 in 2004. The Pinacate estimate was also much lower than the last survey in 2009 (101), but similar to the 2007 estimate of 50. Overall, for the entire population, the estimate this year of 241 was also the lowest ever. The second lowest was in 2002 with 285 estimated; last survey in 2009, we estimated 404.

Wild Pronghorn: Most of pronghorn range is very green except the northern San Cristobal and northern Mohawk Valleys. On December 18-19, we captured 9 wild pronghorn (8 females and 1 male) and put either GPS or VHF collars on them to increase our monitoring ability of the wild herd.

TOMBSTONE HIGH STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN ANTELOPE PRESERVATION PROJECT

BY SHAR PORIER

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM *THE SIERRA VISTA HERALD*

BISBEE —Thanks to the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF), Cochise Community Foundation and the Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District (HNRCD), Tombstone High School (THS) students who are in Future Farmers of America (FFA) classes will have the opportunity to monitor and help preserve two different herds of pronghorn antelope.

Tuesday morning, Rachel Thomas, vice chairperson of the HNRCD, presented a \$10,000 check to Brad Fulk, field supervisor with Arizona Game and Fish, to purchase GPS collars for an antelope relocation project.

The plan is to pull 70 to 80 antelope from herds that are

flourishing to add to the gene pool of two small groups in the Elgin area and in the San Rafael Valley, said Fulk. Currently, there is a small group of nine in one area and around 20 in the other.

Southern Arizona used to have big herds of pronghorn antelope a few hundred years ago. The basins of the San Pedro River Valley and the San Rafael Valley were filled with the vegetative blends the pronghorns preferred, continued Fulk. But, now, the state is dealing with remnant herds that are disjointed and not contiguous. Being cut off by development and road building, the herds have been reduced in number and do not have

(Continued on page 10)

(Tombstone High Students cont. from page 9)

any interaction with other herds, which seriously reduces the gene pool. So, re-introduction of more animals to their former grazing grounds is an important step to their preservation over the long haul.

“Our largest hurdle in this program was funding,” said Fulk. “The project is going to cost us over \$170,000 over three years. The generous donation of \$10,000 from the ACF took a bite of that cost for our monitoring efforts ...”

HRNCD secretary Jim Lindsey told the gathering, “We’re really excited about this project. The ag class will benefit from this ... They not only will be working behind the computers in the monitoring program, but will also participate on the ground in the field.”

THS students Lori Cosby, sophomore, Sarah Nikkari, senior, and Ernesto Huerta, sophomore, were also excited at the prospect of not just helping preserve this beautiful animal, but getting to learn more about the environment and wildlife and how it all fits together.

Cosby joined the FFA thinking it was just about farming and was pleasantly surprised when word of the antelope project came about.

“This will be fun. We’ll get to monitor them and go on site and assess what’s going on in their environment. It’s a good opportunity for us,” said Cosby.

“We’ll be checking for predators and looking for fences and roads that may stop them from moving to different areas,” added Huerta, who was so impressed with Fulk’s

chosen career that he plans on doing the same. “This will be learning about them and what they need to survive.”

Gerry Gonzales, NRCS District Conservationist, said, “This is a great day for us to gather and see the results of working together. I’m particularly excited for our young people who want to participate in this ... A big responsibility will rest on your shoulders. You will inherit this someday, so it’s important for you to get involved.”

Representing the Cochise Community Foundation, Pat Call had only good things to say about the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) that provided the funds for the project through a private donor wanting to support environmental issues.

“It’s important to get out the good news so that the donors and others see what good work is being done through their donations,” added Call.

“If this program becomes a success, it opens the door to other possibilities for funding through the ACF for environmental projects.”

This funding from the ACF represents a new area of giving, said Tresa Massiongale, grants and operations coordinator for the foundation. Donors are becoming more and more aware of environmental and wildlife problems within the state and have been setting up charitable donations for those purposes. There are many people who give money to help the environment and this project seemed a good fit for this new endeavor.

Sarah Nikkari, 17, a Tombstone High School senior, talks to Emily Bertelsen, Tombstone High School Agriculture teacher, left, and Sharon Bee, Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District’s board clerk, at the announcement event for the Antelope project on Tuesday at the Cochise County Complex.

(photo by Beatrice Richardson, Herald/Review)



ONE FOR PATRICK

BY LLOYD WUNDROCK, AAF MEMBER



Three years ago my son, Patrick was a critical element to my success in filling a muzzleloader antelope tag in GMU 34B. We scouted extensively beginning in April of that year and working together, took a nice buck on opening day in Las Cienegas located southeast of Tucson.

The following year, in 2009, Patrick was lucky enough to draw a junior muzzleloader antelope tag in the State of New Mexico. At the time I did not realize that juniors and adults hunted simultaneously. This hunt was not to be considered easy.

With the help of friend Chris Trujillo and his family, Patrick got a shot at a nice buck at 125 yards, but pulled the shot high and missed. Patrick's tag went unfilled.

This year I decided that hopefully the outcome would be

different. I made arrangements for antelope tags to hunt on the Double V Ranch located near Fort Sumner, New Mexico. Family friend, Bobby Boido was to ramrod the hunt that was also sponsored in part by the Arizona Chapter of Safari Club International.

We left Tucson early on a Friday morning this past September for the hunt that would be for only three days. By the time we arrived at the Double V Ranch in the mid-afternoon, Bobby had three bucks picked out for Patrick and myself to hunt the next day. Neither of us got much sleep that night and we were up the next morning at 5:00 AM. Patrick had practiced extensively and was planning to shoot his '96 Swedish Mauser chambered in 6.5 x 55 Swede. This rifle was manufactured in 1916 and given to him by close friend, James Welch this past spring. My personal handload of a 120

(Continued on page 12)

(One for Patrick cont. from page 11)

grain Speer HotCor bullet over Reloder 22 was the ammunition of choice.

Opening morning we chased one buck and his harem of five does around a bit but could not get closer than about 500 yards. Later in the morning some distance away we bumped into a solitary doe within rifle range. Patrick and I lowered our voices and within a few seconds a buck with another doe in tow was trotting left to right in our general direction towards the single doe in front of us. The buck was in range and Patrick instinctively chambered a round into the Mauser and went

prone onto the bipod. The range was about 180 yards. Patrick whispered, "Dad, stop him". I whistled at the loping buck and he hit the brakes and stopped statue-still within a couple of steps. Moments later I heard the report of Patrick's rifle and the sound of the bullet's impact. The buck just rolled over to his left side not even taking a step. It took just a moment for all of it to sink in for both of us, but Patrick now had his first Pronghorn Antelope!

I will never forget Patrick's smile after he got to the fallen antelope. And by the way, a father has never been more proud of his 12 year-old son!

2011 ANNUAL MEETING

The following were elected at our annual meeting on November 14th to serve in 2012. The membership also approved the proposed bylaws changes as were printed in our last issue.

Officers:

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

Directors with terms ending

12/31/13:
Eddie Corona
Jim McCasland
Connie Taylor

Directors with terms ending

12/31/12:
Glen Dickens
Jay Morrison
Al Sue

Thanks for stepping up to serve!

(President's Report cont. from page 3)

2012, I would love to hear your thoughts, ideas or concerns. **Your opinions matter!** I would love to hear from you on what we could improve on, do more of or what we are doing right! Feel free to drop me a line anytime to open a dialog about what is on your mind to shane-jstewart@gmail.com.

The AAF board will continue to "ride herd" on all things wildlife and habitat. This group of energetic, compassionate and educated people work harder to accomplish our goals than any group of folks I have ever had the privilege of serving with. I am surrounded by the best, and in turn the AAF shines because of them,

THANK YOU!

As this year comes to a close I wish each and every one of you the safest and joyous of holiday seasons. May your travels be safe! May you be surrounded in the company of those you love! Above all, may you have the time to fondly ponder the past, and look optimistically to a hopeful 2012. **Merry Christmas and Happy New year to each of you!**

"LIBERTAS AD VAGOR"... FREEDOM TO ROAM"

Shane Stewart

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AAF PROJECTS

March 17, 2012 - San Bernadino Area
May 29, 2012 - House Rock
Summer 2012 - TBA Northern Arizona
September 29, 2012 - San Rafael Area

OTHER EVENTS

February 18, 2012 Annual Fundraising Banquet

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

January 9
February 13
March 12

All meetings are at 6:30pm at El Zaribah Shrine in Phoenix

WCC MEETING SCHEDULE

January 24
February 28

(Work Project cont. from page 5)

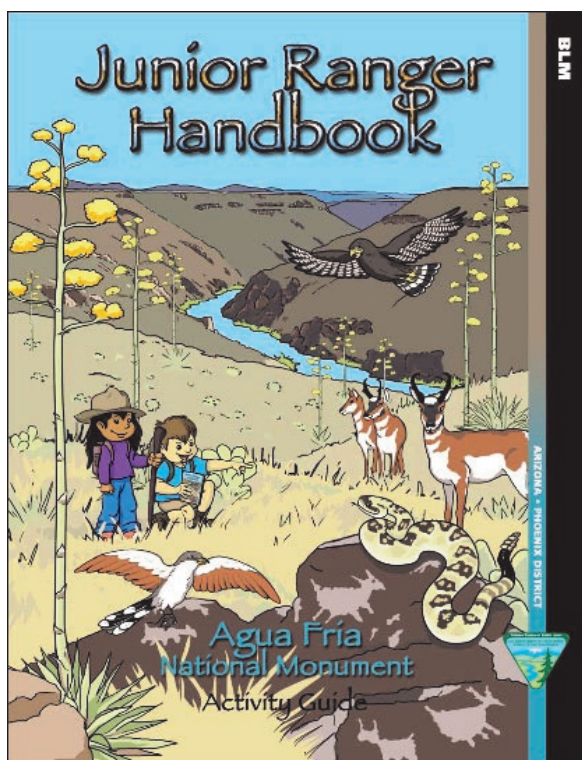
treatment and a 2.5 mile 2010 October fence project completed by the AAF. The completion of the multi-specie HPC well/water trough project finished a water project funded by the ADA and AAF in 2010. These 2 water troughs increase water sites for 36 wintering pronghorn in the southeast section of the Las Cienegas Grasslands and the Babocomari Ranch to the south.

Camp was located at the historic Rose Tree corrals and stone bunkhouse near Elgin and the weather was breezy. A delicious green chili pork carnitas dinner with the sides was provided by Caterer Frank Hernandez of Tucson.

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

- The Boswell's Art and Mark.
- Representing the AAF Board: Art of course, Al Sue, Connie Taylor and yours truly.
- Other AAF members and volunteers: Past Presidents Joe Bill Pickrell & Brian George, Marsha Sue, Betty Dickens, Will Hayes, John Millican, Al Kreutz, Ken Pitzlen, William Pinkerton, Mark Tervo, Dave Cruce, Roger Cogan Audubon Ranch, Warren Adams, Ray Emmerich, Bryetz Waddell and Brooklyn Fulk.
- Game & Fish personnel: Troy Christensen, Brad Fulk, Bryan Marshall and Arron Miller

Thanks everyone for your efforts!



The BLM has produced a series of "Junior Ranger" activity books for BLM's national conservation lands in Arizona. The Agua Fria National Monument Junior Ranger book is now available for download from the BLM website, as well as their offices, the Black Canyon Heritage Park in Black Canyon City, and from the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument. The book is geared towards kids ages 7-14. When a kid completes the activities in the book she or he will be able to present the book at their office or the Park and receive a Junior Ranger badge and a signed certificate.

<http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/az/pdfs.Par.51172.File.dat/jr-ranger-afria.pdf>



SHORT SHOTS

GOVERNOR NAMES NEW GAME & FISH COMMISSION NOMINEE

Governor Brewer has named Kurt Davis, founding partner of First Strategic Communications, to fill the Game & Fish Commission seat being vacated by Robbie Woodhouse in January. Kurt is an avid hunter and has served on various other state boards and commissions including the Board of Regents. Mr. Davis was one of two Commission applicants referred to the Governor by the Game and Fish Commission Appointment Recommendation Board last month.

COMMISSION AWARDS

Congratulations to Life Member Charlie Kelly and the AZ Wildlife Federation for being selected to receive honors from the AZ Game & Fish Commission at the annual Meet the Commission Banquet in January. Charlie will receive an Award of Excellence for his many contributions to conservation organizations like the AAF, AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation and the AZ Big Game Super Raffle. The AAF is an affiliate member of the AZ Wildlife Federation, whose publication, *Arizona Wildlife News* has been named Media of the Year.

ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

The AAF is a partnering organization for the AZ Big Game Super Raffle. What does this mean? All of the money raised by the sale of the **Antelope** raffle tickets goes directly to managing the species. The AAF has a voice on how that money is spent through participation in the Habitat Partnership Committee process. So purchasing tickets not only gives the buyer a great chance at the hunt of a lifetime, it also gives them yet another opportunity to support this great species! The 2012 campaign will be launched very soon. Please visit the website for more information and to purchase your tickets.

www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com

FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Your AAF has now entered the world of social media via Facebook and Twitter. We'd love to hear from you. Check it out at

<https://www.facebook.com/azantelope>

<http://twitter.com/azantelope>

CONDOLENCES



The AAF was very sorry to learn Sustaining member Eugene "Gino" Dightmon passed away earlier this month. We'd like to extend our deepest condolences to Linda and the entire Dightmon family.

AGUA FRIA RIVER BEND PROTECTION BLM PROJECT

The BLM has completed a project to construct the vehicle barrier at the River Bend site to protect the Agua Fria River east of Cordes Lakes, Arizona, in the Agua Fria National Monument. The final vehicle barrier closed a former route—closed with the BLM's 2010 decision and Monument Resource Management Plan and Travel Management Plan—which is off of the Kelton Ranch Road just north of the Teskey Home Site. This area was the last section of vehicle barrier to be installed to protect the southern section of the River Bend area. Motorists may not ride in the Agua Fria River, and violators are subject to a \$1,000 fine, plus costs to restore damaged habitat. Unlawful motorized travel, including off highway vehicle use, has altered stream bank characteristics, destroyed vegetation, and contributed as a source of pollution to the Agua Fria River. The River Bend area is also the site of a BLM-Audubon River Pathways river restoration project beginning in January, in which youth will transplant native riparian vegetation such as cottonwoods, willows, sedges, and rushes into river areas denuded of vegetation by past land use practices, to accelerate the natural regrowth of riparian habitat.

SIGN UP FOR ENEWS

Stay informed about AAF and Conservation issues between quarterly publication of *Pronghorn* issues. It's easy to do, just go to our website and complete the form. We will not share your email address with anyone. And we will NOT flood your inbox with mail. Enewsletters are mailed on the average of once a month, mainly as reminders about upcoming events, or when urgent news needs to be shared. You control your subscription and can remove your address at any time.

WWW.AZANTELOPE.ORG

MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Art Pearce, Phoenix | 15. Mary Keebler, Happy Jack | 29. Gary M. Johnson, Phoenix |
| 2. Jim Mehen, Flagstaff | 16. Bill Keebler, Happy Jack | 30. Richard Guenzel, Laramie WY |
| 3. Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City | 17. James Stewart, Phoenix | 31. Randy Cherington, Scottsdale |
| 4. James K. McCasland, | 18. Terry Schupp, Tempe | 32. Joe Del Re, Chandler |
| 5. Nina Gammons, Payette, ID | 19. Dale Hislop, Calgary Canada | 33. Bob Walker, Phoenix |
| 6. Nancy Lewis, Phoenix | 20. Mick Rusing, Tucson | 34. Cookie Nicoson, Williams |
| 7. Pete Cimellaro, Phoenix | 21. George Welsh, Kingman | 35. Tim Blank, Mesa |
| 8. Jerry Weiers, Phoenix | 22. Matthew Massey, Gilbert | 36. Jodi Stewart, Gilbert |
| 9. Harry Carlson, Phoenix | 23. Don Parks, Peoria | 37. Keith Joyner, Scottsdale |
| 10. David Brown, Phoenix | 24. Bill & Kerrie Jacoby, Chandler | 38. David Hussey, Cave Creek |
| 11. Art Boswell, Tucson | 25. Adam Geottl, Cottonwood | 39. Susan Pearce, Tucson |
| 12. Charlie Kelly, Scottsdale | 26. Shane Stewart, Gilbert | 40. Glen Dickens, Tucson |
| 13. Chrissy Weiers, Phoenix | 27. Don Davidson, Mesa | 41. Will Garrison, Peoria |
| 14. Al Sue, Scottsdale | 28. Terry Petko, Mesa | 42. Tom Waddell, New Mexico |

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Josiah Austin, Pearce | Randy Gaskill, Show Low | Derek Oyen, Anthem |
| Mark Boswell, Mesa | Roger Hailey, Flagstaff | Walt Scrimgeour, Prescott |
| James Bowen, Cave Creek | Rick Miller, Flagstaff | Tice Supplee, Phoenix |
| Bill Cole, Glendale | Jay Morrison, Peoria | Jim & Tracy Unmacht, Phoenix |
| William Cordasco, Flagstaff | Susan Morse, Jericho VT | David L. Wolf, Flagstaff |
| Eugene & Linda Dightmon, Peoria | Keith Newlon, Sierra Vista | |
| Michael Domanico, Scottsdale | Richard Ockenfels, Mayer | |

FAMILY MEMBERS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jim & Rita Ammons, Yuma | Joe & Chris Heilman, Surprise | Henry Provencio, Flagstaff |
| Michael & Cherie Barker, Mesa | Robert Hutchison, Overgardd | Daniel Robinett, Catalina |
| Robin & Billie Bechtel, Show Low | David Justice, Prescott | David & Debra Scott, Glendale |
| Robert Bushong, Yuma | Bill Kerr, Buckeye | Joseph Silva, Tolleson |
| Richard & Julia Chabak, Sun City | Dave & Sue Laird, Peoria | James & Joyce Sivley, Scottsdale |
| Ken & Kathy Cook, Casa Grande | Tom Mackin, Flagstaff | William & Jan Skibbe, Tucson |
| Brian & Dorothy Dolan, Tucson | Jeff & Cynthia Mason, Scottsdale | Barry Sopher, Tucson |
| Ron & Sharon Eichelberger, Alpine | Tom McDaniel, Phoenix | Floramae & Tomas Teskey, Mayer |
| Dave & Debbie Fisher, Prescott | Amy & Stephen Ostwinkle, Gilbert | Jim Wood, Glendale |

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Darlene Brinkerhoff, Holbrook | Ralph Nielsen, Prescott Valley |
| Tanner Henry, Payson | Kent Smith, Tonto Basin |

Renewal Notices have been sent - please return yours today!

Congratulations to Tom Waddell for becoming our newest Life Member. Thank you Tom for all your support over the years, and taking this big step to provide a permanent endowment for the welfare of Arizona's pronghorn.

WANTED

YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE AZ ANTELOPE FOUNDATION BANQUET

Saturday February 18, 2012

4:00 PM

Rustler's Roost

8383 South 48th Street Phoenix, AZ 85044

**DINNER
TICKETS
\$58**

FAMILY FUN

Live Auction

Silent Auction

Raffles

Blitzes

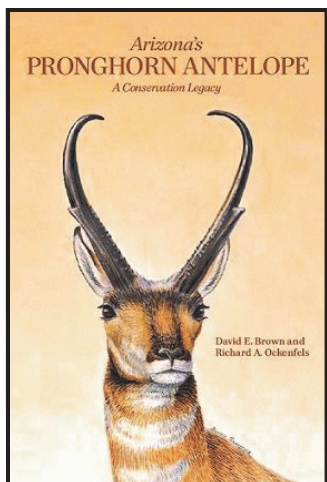
Auction of Commissioner's Special Antelope Tag

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available on page 198 of this publication, and our website. Corporate tables available.

For more information see our website, www.azantelope.org
or call 602-361-6478

“ARIZONA’S PRONGHORN ANTELOPE—A CONSERVATION LEGACY”

BY DAVID BROWN & RICHARD OCKENFELS
COVER DESIGN BY BONNIE SWARBRICK



Arizona’s Pronghorn Antelope is a complete presentation of the animal’s life, history from prehistoric times to the present, and habitat requirements as well as a documentation of the early conservation efforts put forth by hunters and researchers who sought to retrieve the species from the brink of extinction. The abundant photos and graphs illustrate habitat scenes, fences, foods, pronghorn artifacts, management data, and habitat alterations. And although the authors state that their intention is not to publish a technical work, the book contains topics found nowhere else.

The book’s narrative equips the reader with the basic knowledge needed to understand the pronghorn in Arizona. These passages will lead you through the pronghorn’s development over the past 14 to 18 million years to arrive at its present-day form—an animal of long standing. And, as told, the pronghorn’s story makes one wonder about the animal’s future and speculate on what past and present activities have done to its numbers and distribution.

To order your copy, complete the following information and mail to:

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Your chance to WIN!

Swarovski EL 10X42 Range



Arizona Wildlife License Plate Drawing

Do you have an Arizona Wildlife License Plate? Are you planning on getting it? If not, do not wait another day, **GET IT NOW**. Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is conducting a drawing for the NEW Swarovski Optik 10X42 EL Range. All those who proudly display the Arizona Wildlife License plate between now and the AZSFWC 2012 Sportsmen's Bash on March 30th will have a chance to enter the drawing.

You don't have to wait until it's time to renew your plate!

You can purchase anytime at your local MVD office or online at www.servicearizona.com. Every plate holder can enter the drawing by following the instructions below.

Submit ALL of the following information:

Complete name and mailing address

Phone number

Email address

Photo of your Arizona Wildlife License Plate

Send to:

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
PO Box 13116
Phoenix, AZ 85002-3116

OR

Email: info@azsfwc.org

**Deadline to enter is
March 30, 2012**

The AZSFWC Wildlife Conservation Committee manages grant funds through sales of these Conservation Plates for Education, Wildlife Habitat restoration and preservation projects, and Hunter Recruitment and Retention projects.

For more information visit www.azsfwc.org or call Eddy Corona at 480-529-8340.