

# PRONGHORN

*Official Publication of the Arizona Antelope Foundation, Inc., a Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt Corporation ~ Volume 11, Number 2, Spring 2005*

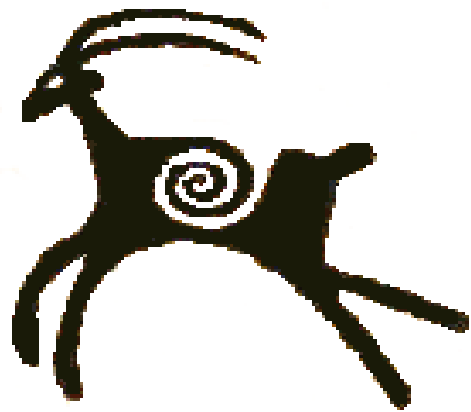
## THE ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION

PRESENTS ITS

2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

FUNDRAISING BANQUET

AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2005



## HELP US HELP ANTELOPE!



**WHEN:** SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2005    **WATERHOLE:** 4:00 PM    **BUFFET DINNER** 6:00 PM

**WHERE:** EL ZARIBAH SHRINE    552 NORTH 40<sup>TH</sup> ST. (JUST SOUTH OF I-202)

**HOW MUCH:** \$60 PER PERSON    \$600 TABLE FOR 8 – INCLUDES \$200 IN RAFFLE TICKETS

**WHAT:** LIVE AUCTION, SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLES FOR ART, GREAT HUNTS, FISHING TRIPS, FIREARMS, HUNTING, FISHING AND CAMPING GEAR, EVEN ITEMS FOR THE LADY OF THE HOUSE.

**WHO:** FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT, PETE CIMELLARO 602-840-8749, BRUCE JOHNSON 623-979-1494, LARRY CULLEN 602-319-4010, OR JIM UNMACHT 623-570-0534

**SEE PAGES 10-12 FOR MORE BANQUET INFORMATION**



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## **VISIT US ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB**

**[www.azantelope.org](http://www.azantelope.org)**

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## **MEETINGS**

**Board meetings are held at 6:30 P.M on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at the Phoenix Zoo.**

**Visitors welcome!**



*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:*

*Jim Unmacht, at Pronghorn Editor, PO Drawer 15501, Phoenix, AZ 85060, or by email at [azantelope@cox.net](mailto:azantelope@cox.net).*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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The anticipation has begun with the 2005 Fall Hunting regulations! While some permit numbers are up, pronghorn being one of them, we have a ways to go to reach the levels of tags available 10 years ago. The rain is an obvious plus, but our countless volunteer efforts over that same period of time have made a difference too.

Some of the survey data has recently shown fawn recruitment up statewide, with one unit showing 103 fawns per 100 does! Another, Unit 21 in our original Adopt a Ranch lands, has shown the herd doubled in the last couple of years. The satisfying piece to that information is that the population increase occurred in the fencing and habitat areas we have concentrated in, talk about a testament!

We've reported on the problems over the last two years in the Sulphur Springs Valley with the Fort Grant Fence; and ironically, that herd's population was greatly reduced over that time period while that fence was in place. As you'll read inside, we've finally "fixed" that fence, and now we hope to see a reversal in the population trend in Units 31/32.

While the pronghorn declines of recent years have reversed, we also have other issues out there. In our State Legislature, we waited with anticipation to see if the Game & Fish Bill, SB1365, would make its way to the Governor. Another bill in Washington was Senator Harry Reid's SB339, which would take the Commerce Clause out of the State's wildlife management. Our legislature went back to the Heritage Fund "well" once again, and Governor Napolitano is pondering action on that bill. State Trust Land Reform has twisted and turned, with sportsmen and women so far left out of the process. We're trying to change that! The Compassionate Hunting Bill was signed into law this year, allowing an adult to transfer a tag to a terminally ill child. You might recall this bill got tangled up in politics in 2004.

You'll read more about the Conservation Bonus Point in the coming months, as that issue is set to go again through the Commission's Rulemaking process which began May 14<sup>th</sup>. We have supported this concept since it was resurrected in the WCC back in the summer of 2003. If it goes as proposed, it is set to take effect in November of this year, with points available for the Fall 2006 Fall Draw...we'll see.

So as these issues play out, your AAF continues to have an impact on habitat and pronghorn statewide. To date we've completed 5 projects in 2005, with another on Anderson Mesa June 25th. We've averaged over 30 volunteers at each of the projects, so we've had some good turnouts; however, there is room for more volunteers. The AAF Board recently took some action to bolster membership, and thank first time non-AAF member volunteers. We will now give these dedicated folks a complimentary first year membership. So far we've added 33 new members this spring because of that action.

At the same time, we have added more Life Members (who will be #15?), more Sustaining Members (26) and more Family Memberships (12 to date) than we've ever had before, all great news! Thanks to all for your support, as we're making a difference on the Pronghorn Front!

Good luck in the Draw, and I hope to see you at the next Project on Anderson Mesa, or for sure at the El Zaribah Shrine, August 6<sup>th</sup>!

*Jim Unmacht*



### **Welcome to the following New Members who received a complimentary membership for participating in their first work project:**

Jeremy Edwards, Ken Kerr, Bob Blassingame(Pinetop); Al Kreutz, Stephanie Rainey (Lakeside); Clay Sarriugarte (Morenci); Tom & Brett Ramey, Ray Blanchard (Glendale); Eugene McCasland (Prescott); Randy, Tyler & Kyle Brandt (Peoria); Jeff Davis, Lance Bemis (Mesa); Scott Mackey (Tempe); Tom Lowe (Douglas); Scott Heap (Morenci); Sam Turman, Rayburn Smith, Zane & Stephani Poor (Safford); Chuck Brooks (Pima); Les Wolslagel, Wayne Woodley (Willcox); Chris Kelliher Family (Ft. Thomas); Fred Hawthorne (Gilbert); Dave Daniels, Lee Alt, Ryan Wilson (Ajo); Jill Bright, (Yuma); Ron & Hazel Boothman (Alberta Canada); Dale Audilett, Jim & Levi Heffelfinger, Don Farmer, Duke Mertz, Lynn DeMuth.

## EPILOGUE: FORT GRANT FENCE “FIXED”!

We “endeavored to persevere” and it finally paid off! It took over 2½ years of diligence to get on the ground and make the fence modifications to the barrier fence on the Fort Grant Road south of Bonita. Finally with the assistance of Game & Fish Commissioners (and AAF members) Bill McLean and Mike Golightly, it came to fruition.

On a chilly morning April 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 AAF members, 10 Game & Fish folks, and 12 SE AZ Sportsman’s Club members, set to work on the nastiest and sharpest barb wired fence you could find. The lowest strand might’ve been 6-8 inches off the ground. Have you ever seen rabbit hair on a fence? Pronghorn learned a long time ago that this corridor wasn’t too friendly, and the lack of sign and tracks bore out those observations.

Without rehashing two years worth of issues, plans were put in place with the approval of the State Land Department and its lessee, Jeff Holmack. In fact Mr. Holmack drove to the site on Saturday, and all reports were he was pleased with the work and results. The only party involved that didn’t make an appearance was Graham County, they were no where to be found.

On Saturday we modified 4 miles of the fence, and went back on Sunday with a few remaining folks to modify another mile. That left a short expanse to finish,

which was going to be addressed by Game & Fish and SE AZ Sportsmen at a later date.

We saw no pronghorn sign along the way, which was disappointing, but understandable, as the fence had been in place since August of 2003. We think we got the modifications completed ahead of the fawning, so

hopefully the resident herd will learn quickly that this transition corridor is once again open!

Thanks to the following folks for helping us bring this saga to a successful ending! Special thanks to Scott Heap and the SE AZ Sportsmen Club for their fine turnout!

**AAF...**Jim & Jimmy Unmacht, Dave Laird, Sue Foote (all from Phoenix), Connie Taylor (Mesa), Lance Bemis (Mesa), Larry Audsley (Tucson), Tom Lowe (Douglas)

**SE Arizona Sportsmen Club....**Scott Heap, Chris, Cade & Chad Kelliher, Sam Turman, Chuck Brooks, Rayburn Smith, Zane & Stephani Poor, Les Wolslagel, Wayne Woodley, and Dale Audilett.

**G & F ...**Gerry Perry, Richard Ockenfels, Joe Hall, John Bacorn, Joel Cantu, Troy Christensen, Jim & Levi Heffelfinger, Gilbert Gonzales, and Duane Aubuchon.

***Jim Unmacht***



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## FOR THE BOOK

BY BILL KEEBLER

The 2004 year was a good one for big antelope in Arizona. Wayne Webber, who purchased both auction tags, leads the list with a 94 and a 90 and 6/8. There were four antelope submitted that scored 87 and 2/8 and another that scored 87 even.

The Arizona Wildlife Trophies Committee is in the process of preparing the eighth edition of the of the Arizona big game records book. The minimum for pronghorn is 80 points. These seven plus all entries submitted since the last book was published in 2000 will be added to this record book.

Annual Competition awards are presented each year for pronghorn and most other species of big game in Arizona. In order to win the Annual Competition the trophy must be legally taken in Arizona in accordance with the Boone and Crockett Club Rules of Fair Chase, during the competition year and the score chart must be received by the Arizona Wildlife Trophies Committee by May 1 of the following year.

Wayne Webber’s 94-inch buck will receive the antelope bronze award and the other six will receive honorable mentions. The Arizona Wildlife Federation is hosting an awards banquet at the Phoenix Civic Plaza on August 27, 2005. The awards for both 2003 and 2004 will be presented at the banquet. Anyone interested in attending should call the Arizona Wildlife Federation at 480-644-0077.

# STATE LAND REFORM ISSUES

During the last 80 years our state lands have been woefully neglected from a resource management standpoint as the primary directive has been to generate monies from these lands as per the trust provisions of the Enabling Act. But I think that most everyone has now agreed that the original Enabling Act has served its purpose and is in need of replacement by a State Land Organic Act that recognizes the value of these lands to all Arizonans. The original purpose of the lands, a bequeathment from the federal government, was to provide funding for a state school system. Although funds derived from state lands should probably remain earmarked for such a purpose, it must be recognized that such funding is only a small portion of the state school budget and that Arizona now has a tax base that proportionally provides an ever greater portion of school funding. Now, as we near Arizona's Centennial, we need to recognize that our state lands have increased in value and are now invaluable assets to Arizonans as open space, wildlife habitat, grazing land, and as a source of future minerals in addition to their value as saleable real estate. The purpose of the state lands should now be reprioritized and recognized for what they have become; a continuing source of rural income and jobs as well as rural recreation. Hence, any new law should seek to maintain or expand the acreage of state lands, not diminish them in size or purpose. Hence, we need a strong Land Department that manages its lands for the people of Arizona over the long term and not be primarily a cash cow for the state school system. It is to the State's and its citizen's advantage to have more state lands in 2050 rather than less.

To establish a strong State Land Department, any new state land law should have the following provisions:

1. Establish a State Land Commission or other body composed of dedicated citizen-users similar to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. This body, which would represent state land users, would hire a State Land Director for 5-year terms and promulgate regulations concerning fees, rules, and other regulatory activities.

2. Contain an organic act spelling out how the lands are to be managed and who has the responsibilities and

privileges of managing them. Although the state's lands would be public by definition, this act should also establish the department's ability to charge fees and determine access rights for land users. Cities and local governments should lease conservation areas rather than have local governments and conservation organizations purchase them. Hunters, hikers, ranchers, and all other users should pay use fees to provide them vested interest in the state lands and their management.

3. Describe a classification system by which all state lands would be periodically classified as to which areas are to be managed as "rural" and retained in perpetuity, which ones are "suburban" and to be disposed of at high dollar, and which ones would have a "special designation (e.g., conservation lands). These lands would not be selected and classified in the original act, but be evaluated and mapped over a 10 year period through a public process.

4. Provide an exchange system by which rural lands can be acquired, blocked up, and managed for rural purposes such as grazing and game management. Such exchanges should always be at fair market value and result in the State Land Department acquiring more acreage than is given up.

5. State Lands would be managed by the State Land Department and not by regional or city governments. In other words state lands classified as rural lands, would not be subject to the zoning restrictions of local governments such as shooting prohibitions, local land use restrictions, etc. State lands would be similar to Forest Service and National Park lands and take precedent over local uses. This is necessary to discourage cities annexing state lands and imposing restrictions on a State Land Department dedicated to open space and the preservation of rural jobs and life styles.

*Thanks to David Brown for outlining these thoughts. Sportsmen and women to date, have been left out of the reform process. Ironically, wildlife has been left out too. The AAF is working to have these concerns heard.*

***The Editor***

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## US SENATE BILL 339

On behalf of Sportsmen and women across the United States, Nevada Senator Harry Reid's sponsorship of SB 339 has effectively eliminated the Commerce Clause from impacting the management of wildlife...reference "Montoya" in Arizona. President Bush signed this bill into law in May. This action returns wildlife management back to the states!!



## ***SMOOTH WIRE...BARBED WEATHER***

The annual trek to Unit 21 took us north to the Dugas Road again on Saturday April 23rd. We had 35 volunteers ready to take on the task. Our two pronged approach to this project had half our group head to some fence work in the morning, and the other half to a "juniper field" that needed some grassland restoration.

The "fencers" became "climbers" right out of the chute, as this fence stretched up a good size hill. By late morning, these folks had the fence stretch cleaned, and reworked, and they headed to join the juniper cutters.

When they arrived, the old AAF chain saws were buzzing, and the junipers were taking a cutting! Hand saws and loppers were also in motion, as our tree cutting efforts had folks ranging in age from 11 to 82 years old! Who said kids and seniors couldn't help out on conservation work projects?

While the efforts saw some larger trees fall, the biggest impact was won, and had, with the smaller encroaching trees getting cut. These prairie invaders needed to be stopped, and on quite a few acres that partly cloudy day, they were.

We saw pronghorn too, a nice touch to the day's work! All told, we saw close to 20 animals in the area, depending on the car or caravan you were in.



As we neared the end of the day, the wind picked up, and the predicted storm front was at hand. We hoped we'd be spared, but we weren't...Life Member Al Sue's tent tried to "roll away" but was saved by some fast action!

Our dedicated cook crew of VP Dave Laird, Director Sue Foote, and Tracy Unmacht were working feverishly to keep the flames going. The cheese crisps flew off the grill just as the rain started coming down. As folks took cover, appetites were eased. Steaks began sizzling, and the corn was set to boil.

The rain ebbed and flowed, but the folks were fed! The meal was topped off with an AAF first, ice cream with assorted toppings! A sweet touch to a successful day!

The intermittent pouring had a negative campfire effect...most folks headed home. A stalwart few moved from fire to cover for a couple hours before turning in to a night of rain, wind, and the coup de gras at 5 am...hail. Mud and water made a messy exodus Sunday morning! A couple travel trailers spent an extra day waiting for dry roads and Sue's car was flinging mud like nobody's business! A big thank you to Jed Nitso for helping us get the AAF trailer "freed" and also to Joe Moody and Al Sue for hanging around and helping out!



### **Thanks to all our volunteers!**

Jim, Tracy, Grace & Jimmy Unmacht, Amber Ford, Troy Christensen, Ray Blanchard, Rob & Kelly Chabak (Phoenix); Sam Harvey, Eric Sanchez, Joe Moody, Tom & Brett Ramey, Oscar Oland (Glendale); Randy, Ty, & Kyle Brandt (Peoria); Life Member Al Sue (Scottsdale); Jed Nitso (Tonto Basin); Dana Bayer (Apache Junction); Mayor Don Johnson (Gold Canyon); Fred Hawthorne (Gilbert); Jim McCasland, Eugene McCasland (Prescott); Richard Ockenfels (Mayer); Jeff Davis, Jon Hanna (Mesa); Scott Mackey (Tempe); Jake Fousek (Camp Verde)

# BUENOS AIRES WORK PROJECT OR...

**BANWR, MARCH 11-13<sup>TH</sup>...SUN, GRASSLANDS, PRONGHORN, ENDANGERED FERRUGINOUS PYGMY OWL, ILLEGAL ALIENS, OR “UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS”, DRUG SMUGGLERS, HABITAT LOST, HABITAT IMPROVED, & AWF...PICK YOUR STORY!**

We had a very good turnout for this southern Arizona project this past March, over 30 people when you included BANWR volunteers, and what a cross section of groups...AAF, AWF, Sierra Club, ASU and SASA to name a few! If you've not seen the grasslands at this Refuge, it's worth the visit. There are also pronghorn to see, as we saw almost 40 head, but unfortunately, there are also illegal border crossers too.

Some of these “undocumented” crossers come over in the cover of darkness; however some are brazen enough to do it during the middle of the day. Fifteen crossed almost right through camp Saturday morning wearing large back packs (drugs?), the Border Patrol wasn't around. Leaving camp on Sunday, another 6 right off the road, this time with small back packs (apparently folks looking for a better life, albeit illegally). We quickly found the Border Patrol a couple minutes later, but it was too late.

What does that mean for habitat? BANWR is crisscrossed by miles of what looks like “cattle trails”. They are everywhere, and they are worn down hard. No one knows for sure, but many acres in total must be lost due to these “trails”. These folks go where they please, but we had to stay out of an area and change our campsite several times due to an endangered owl!

Enough of the soap box...we had some excellent cooperation with the BANWR & AWF folks during the weekend! Many thanks to Don Farmer and Duke Mertz with the AWF for helping us coordinate the event, and to Bonnie Swarbrick at BANWR, for aiding in the logistics. We successfully modified and cleaned up a few miles of fence, but we only touched the surface at this Refuge. We were told there are 250 miles of interior fence the Refuge manager wants out!

We could work this country for a couple years, while working no other projects. The AWF goes down a



couple times a year, and there is some opportunity there for us too.

Many thanks to the volunteers that made the trip! They were also the first to see the debut of our new AAF Trailer!

**AAF folks...**Jim, Tracy & Jimmy Unmacht, Dave Laird, Sue Foote, Joe Bill Pickrell, David Brown (all from Phoenix), Jerry Guevin, Jen Laughlin (both from Scottsdale), Connie Taylor (Mesa), Larry Audsley (Tucson), Kelley Prasad (Glen Mills, PA).

**AWF folks...**Don Farmer, Lynn DeMuth, Duke Mertz, Fred Hawthorne (Gilbert), Paul Webb, David Bozarth (both from Scottsdale), Daniel Doran (Tucson)

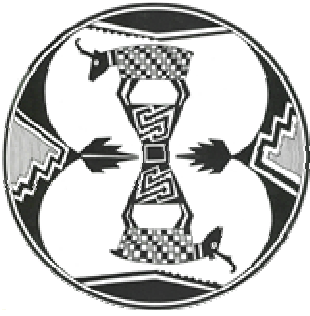
**ASU students...**Elaine Anthonise, Tarah Baker, Jason Tull, Paula Piedrahita, Aaron Chavez, Jonathan Handka III, Thomas Ekren, April Florey, Emily Wunder, Merry Spradling, Scott Lillie, Laura Sloane

**BANWR Volunteers...**Gabrielle Robinson (Feeding Hills, MA), Tyler Van Fleet (Cape Elizabeth, ME)

## CORRECTION

In the last issue of the *Pronghorn*, the article “Hunting with the Desert Pronghorn Society” incorrectly identified Charles Askins, Jr. as “gun editor” for Outdoor Life. His father, Colonel Charles Askins, Sr. held that position.





# SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH  
APRIL 8, 2005

**Captive Breeding:** **FAWNS FAWNS FAWNS!!** All the females in the pen have given birth. Four gave birth to twins, and two had a single fawn, making 10 fawns in total. All the pronghorn are doing well. Forage in the pen is still green, but starting to dry out and we will begin irrigating in the pen soon.

The pen monitors found a hole cut in the woven wire fence by illegal aliens. This was in the area where the pronghorn are and it was large enough that a coyote could have entered the pen. Luckily, they found and repaired the hole before anything happened. Pen monitors continue to observe illegal aliens near the pen and report them to the proper authorities.

**Water Projects:** A work project with the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club to expand the storage capacity of the Granite Mountain emergency water development took place March 12. Volunteers hand dug a trench for the 24" pipe over 120 feet long, and then buried the pipe. An additional dam and pipeline were also built at Antelope Hills emergency water to facilitate water storage there.

We evaluated and choose locations for 2 additional waters on the Marine side of Barry M. Goldwater Range. Work will begin on these after the necessary archaeological clearances and NEPA work is finished.

**Forage Enhancements:** All the lateral poly pipe arrays were laid out at Adobe Well forage enhancement site, the water storage pipes were buried, and the drinking trough finished. We are expecting another delivery of pipe next week, and then the final pipeline from the well will be finished.

Two 10,000-gallon water storage tanks were delivered to the Lower Well site to store water from the well before pumping it to the forage plots. A portable generator was also purchased and delivered to pump the water from the storage tanks. We plan to set the pump in the well this week.



## **Other Projects:**

**Wild Pronghorn:** Air Force monitors report that they have been seeing several pronghorn around the tactical ranges lately, but have not been able to identify if any are fawns. We conducted one aerial flight to assess habitat conditions and look for wild pronghorn. Habitat conditions appear to be excellent over most of the range and we saw one group of 4 on the west side of the Sierra Pinta Mountains.

There have been several wildfires on the Air Force Range and on Cabeza Prieta recently. At least one fire was set by illegal aliens wanting to be rescued. We will attempt to assess the impacts of these fires to Sonoran pronghorn. Due to the good rains this year, there is an abundance of annual forage drying out on the refuge and BMGR and we suspect there will probably be more fires.



# HOW TO HARVEST A “MANAGEMENT BUCK”

BY DAVID BROWN

Ever since Jack O'Connor first promoted the sport hunting of Arizona's antelope, hunters and biologists assumed that the big bucks were the old fellows that no longer competed for the favors of the does. Conventional wisdom was that the best trophies were these “cedar bucks,” superannuated loners, living solitary lives away from the open meadows and the comings and goings of their neighbors. The problem was, that this assumption was wrong. Research conducted on Ted Turner's Armendaris Ranch consistently showed that, given annual variations due to weather and genetic make-up,



the best heads belonged to bucks between 3 and 6 years of age. Similar studies by Carl Mitchell in Montana showed the biggest bucks there to be even younger—mostly 2 to 4-year-olds.

So, we wondered, if hunters are naturally selecting younger bucks by choosing those with the longer horns, could we also select older age animals by taking the shorter-horned bucks that “looked aged.” Ranch Manager Tom Waddell and his foreman, E. D. Edwards, thought they could—not only by the shorter horns of the “old-timers,” but by their dark faces. If so, older age bucks could be selected for, thereby allowing pronghorn managers to cull out the older age animals along with a select number of prime age bucks.

To test this hypothesis, the Armendaris Ranch donated a “management buck” permit to the Arizona Antelope Foundation to auction off at its first fundraiser—the guided hunt going to Steve Adams of Chandler, who purchased the permit for \$1,000. Unable to make the hunt, Steve transferred his tag to John Eli Aboud of Tucson, who gave it to his 13-year-old

daughter Lauren. All that remained was for E. D. to find the right animal and Lauren to successfully take it. Both would prove themselves highly capable of the task ahead.

On the day of the hunt, E. D. took Lauren and her mom and dad to a part of the ranch frequented by what appeared to be an old buck that had been seen on and off in the same general area for a number of years. This buck or one similar to it, had backward sweeping horn tips and had killed a 15-year-old rival a few years earlier.

Although the buck was spotted first thing in the morning, the targeted animal proved elusive. Despite following him for more than two hours, the buck never offered a good shot. But E. D. was now certain that this was the buck they wanted. In addition to having stubby horns with relatively good bases, the upper half of the buck's face was almost totally black (the upper face of younger bucks tends to be more gray).

After another stalk, Lauren finally took a shot, shooting just under the buck's chest and taking off some hair and just barely cutting the skin. After searching for the buck for another 5 to 6 hours, they finally found him in the company with two other bucks. This time they made their stalk in front of their quarry, setting themselves up in the bucks' direction of travel. The result was a one shot kill at about 275 yards and a very satisfied young lady!

And, the hunt had been successful from a management perspective; when the greatly worn front incisor of the buck was sectioned and aged by Marston Laboratories, its age was determined to be between 9-11 or about 10 years old. The horn measurements were as follows:

	Right	Left
Length	12"	11 6/8"
Base	6 1/8"	6"
1 <sup>st</sup> Circumference	4 7/8"	4 6/8"
2 <sup>nd</sup> Circumference	4"	4 1/8"
3 <sup>rd</sup> Circumference	2 1/8"	2 1/8"
Prong	2"	2 3/8"

Gross score = 62 2/8

Now that Lauren's trophy has shown that aged pronghorn can be identified and harvested in the field, the Armendaris Ranch is offering the AAF another “management permit” for the 2005 Fundraising Banquet. Hopefully, this animal will also prove to be an old-timer, and we will be well on our way to being able to select not only the size of the bucks to be harvested, but also their relative age, thus allowing for the more intense management of trophy bucks.

# 2005 FUNDRAISING BANQUET

## PARTIAL DONATION PROFILE

Here is a preview of some of the major items that will be available at this year's fundraiser. This is just a sampling of some of the many items you will be able to bid on.

### **HUNTING**

Arizona Mearns Quail Hunt with Dr. Tom Boggess & Joe Bill Pickrell  
Only Africa Safari for 2 for Impala & Blesbuck  
Pheasant Chukar Hunt at High Desert Hunt Club  
Wyoming Antelope Hunt for 2 with John Harris  
New Mexico Armendaris Ranch Management Antelope Hunt  
Pheasant Hunt at Cross U Preserve  
2 Arizona Archery Javelina Hunts with Don Martin & Stan Gaines  
Arizona Mt. Lion Hunt with Dr. Tom Boggess  
African Legacy Safari for Impala  
Faunafrika Safari for Blesbuck  
Montana Black Bear Hunt with Wilderness Lodge/Skyline Outfit  
Texas Fallow Deer Hunt with Trophy Hunting in Texas  
Missouri Eastern Turkey Hunt with Ben Gibson of By-Pass Farms  
New Mexico Oryx Hunt at Armendaris Ranch  
Pheasant Hunt at Pheasant Recreation  
Arizona Lifetime Hunting License



### **FISHING**

3-Day Alaska Fishing Trip for 2 at Sportsman's Cove Lodge Ketchikan  
½ Day Jerry Tate Guided Lake Pleasant Trip  
5-Day All-inclusive Canadian Fishing Trip at Baker's Narrows Lodge in Northern Manitoba  
2 White Mt. Apache Fishing Licenses

### **VACATIONS & EXCURSIONS**

Island Explorations Bahamas Vacation package for 8  
Weekend at Lake Powell Resort with Powerboat  
Two Zula Nyala Africa Photo Safaris  
Weekend Condo Vacation at Lake Tahoe  
Dolly Steamboat Nature Cruise on Canyon Lake  
Crown King 1-Hole Golf Tournament Package  
1-Hour Helicopter Ride  
Lots of Diamondback Tickets  
NASCAR Race Package at PIR  
Laughlin Casino packages at Golden Nugget, Harrah's and Pioneer

### **OTHER FINE ITEMS**

High Lonesome Bronze Sculpture by June Doerr  
Oak Canyon 3 Piece Rustic Oak Table Set (Coffee, Sofa and End)  
John Toner Custom Knife  
Hand Made Stained Glass Eagle and Flag  
AAF Pronghorn Skull & Horns Bronze Paperweight  
\$500 Taxidermy Gift Certificate from Craig Pearson at Wildlife Images



# 2005 FUNDRAISING BANQUET CORPORATE DONOR LETTER

May 2005

Re: Arizona Antelope Foundation's Second Annual Fundraising Banquet

The Arizona Antelope Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the health, habitat and preservation of Arizona's pronghorn antelope. Since 1992 our membership has worked diligently to preserve places for pronghorn across Arizona. We have worked to enhance habitat across the state; on wildlife friendly fencing, in places hit hard by the drought, areas adversely impacted by housing developments, over grazed public land, and on predation problems, particularly during fawning.

Our membership is small relative to some of the national organizations you may be familiar with, but our cause is worthy, and we have had numerous success stories over the past twelve years. We are also the only active organization in North America that continues to concentrate its conservation efforts on antelope. As we continue to make a difference in our 13<sup>th</sup> year, we are working on our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fundraising Banquet to expand our successes across Arizona.

From a tax-deductible contribution standpoint, here is a great opportunity for you! You can help us by making a contribution at one of the following levels. You will also be recognized on a banner at the event, in the event program, in our newsletter, and on our website.

- Platinum \$5000 and above
- Gold \$2500-\$4999
- Silver \$1000-\$2499
- Bronze \$500-\$999

Your support is greatly appreciated! For more information you can contact one of our Board members or Committee members noted at the left. You can also learn more about us by visiting our website [www.azantelope.org](http://www.azantelope.org) or by email at [azantelope@cox.net](mailto:azantelope@cox.net).

Thank you!

Arizona Antelope Foundation







## THANK YOU TO OUR 2004 BANQUET DONORS



Steve Adams/HMI Maintenance Landscaping and Vending, Henry Aguilar/Henry's Artistic Wildlife, Jim & Rita Ammons, Antelope Hills Golf Club, Apache Gold Casino Resort, AZ Elk Society, AZ Game & Fish Department, Ray Arrona, Bernie Babcock/BB Rod Company, Ross Babcock/Palo Verde Animal Hospital, Vickie Baker, Gary Barcom/Barcom's Parts & Equipment, Robin & Billie Bechtel/Bechtel's Big Game Guide Service, Bill Berlat/In the Wild, Big Game Adventures Magazine, Tom Boggess/Kachina Guide Service, Holland Boone Polished Pewter, David Brown, John & Leslie Brown, Dr. Fred Bucanek D.C., Butler Bags, Cabela's/Sportex, Jay Chancellor, Brent Chapman/B.C. Outfitters, Pete & Cathy Cimellaro, Carolyn Colangelo, Tom Compton, Cross U Shooting Preserve, Larry & Sharon Cullen, Brian Tucker/Davidson's, Del Re Western Outdoor Sport Stores, Chris Denham, Adam Dennis/True Sage, Brian & Dorothy Dolan, Don's Auto Repair, Craig Dunlap, Ken du Plessis/Faunafrika Safaris & African Legacy, Jill Ellett, Jeff Emerling/Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Steve Favour/Signature Taxidermy, Sonya Fazio/Therapeutically Yours, Fletchers Tire & Auto Service, Sue Foote, Stan Gaines Guide Service, Ed & Nina Gammons, Sergio & Tanya Garibay/Rancho El Puerto, Ben Gibson/By-Pass Inc., Bruce Gibson/Sportsman's Warehouse, Warner Glenn, Golden Nugget Laughlin, Floyd Green/Outdoorsman's, Jerry Guevin, Gust Rosenfeld, Alan Hamberlin, Bob Hancock/Saguaro Taxidermy Studio, Hannagan Meadows Lodge, Harrah's Laughlin, Denise Havir, H.S. Strut/Hunter's Specialties, Bill Hook, David Hussey, Harry Hussey, Sue Janssen, Frank Jimenez/AZ Seivers, Bruce Johnson, Don & Janet Johnson, Mike Johnson, Bill & Mary Keebler, Charlie & Linda Kelly, Kim Klockenga, Bob Krogh/City's Finest Magazine, Dave Laird, Lake Powell Resorts & Marinas, Jeff Lander/Primitive Outfitting, Cameron Lee/Wilderness Lodge/Skyline Outfit, Dan Lee/Artist's Touch, Nancy Lees, Byron & Nancy Lewis, Cheryl Lomax, Rick Long, William Luffy, Joe Machac/Joe's Gun Shop, Don Martin/Arizona Wildlife Outfitters, Ray Majia Motors, Tracey Martin, Mazatzal Casino, Jim McCasland/Yellowhorn Outfitters, Bill & Linda McLean, Bob McMillan, Meagher & Geer, Jim & Susie Mehen, Dr. David Meyer, Frank Middleton/High Desert Hunt Club, Rick Miller, Jim Murphy, Eddie Narramore, Carlos O'Briens, Web Parton/Casa Cielo Gun Dog Training, Art Pearce, Maria Pelton/Universal Laser Systems, Performance Tire, Mercedes Person, Al Personey, Pheasant Recreation, Phoenix Precast Products, Joe Bill Pickrell, Jack Pittard/Island Exploration, Pottery by Yale, Preeda Fan/Horizon Shooters, Ramada Express Hotel Casino Laughlin, Ringler & Associates, Jim Roe, Tom Rossi/Mogollon Rim Outfitters, Barney Rouse, Sakura Inn, Brian Schuck/Gemstar Outfitting, Glenn Sheldon/Wild West Archery, Eric Shipp, Sibonne Dayspa, Dr. John Smith, Bud Swagel/Guide Service, Bruce Talone, Tim Tanner/Don's Sport Shop, Jerry Tate/Arizona Hunting & Fishing, Connie Taylor, John Toner, David & Mary Unmacht, Jim & Tracy Unmacht, John Vassel, Tom Waddell/Armendaris Ranch, B.B. Watson/West Fasteners, Chrissy Weiers, Jerry & Sandy Weiers, Scott Weisenburger/Creative Communications, Bud Weller/Weller's Wildlife Studio, Jim White/Uni-Daptor, White Mt. Apache Tribe, Michael Wood/Trophy Hunting in Texas, Ron & Karen Yee, Don Yearin, Zeiss, Zulu Nyala Group, 4 Peaks Meat Processing.



# BASIN LAKE WORK PROJECT

The following is a reproduction of a letter from AZ Game & Fish about our Basin Lake project in May, 2005.

May 23, 2005

Dear Jim,

The Pinetop Region of the Arizona Game and Fish Department sincerely appreciates the help the Arizona Antelope Foundation Contributed at the Basin Lake boundary fence near Big Lake on May 14 and 15, 2005. The AAF had a good turnout of motivated participants, and they all worked hard to accomplish our objective.

Basin Lake is a premier wildlife habitat given its proximity to the Big Lake road. Many species of waterfowl and elk utilize this area. A livestock fence surrounded the lake and adjoining uplands, to prevent cattle entry and promote cover for nesting waterfowl. Approximately 1¼ miles of this fence was built with woven wire. This design was totally impassable to the pronghorn population, which summers in the grasslands around Big Lake. Portions of the fence were in disrepair, and cattle annually trespassed, reducing the wildlife habitat values. In addition, the Arizona Elk Society recently purchased the Burro Creek livestock grazing allotment, and the north side of Basin Lake was to be retired from livestock grazing. Our objectives were to remove the woven wire designed fence, and re-build the southern boundary with a wildlife friendly four strand fence with smooth wire on the bottom.

On Saturday all of the woven wire was taken down and folded to facilitate removal, portions of the four strand fence were removed, and two loads of wire were hauled to the dump. While the AAF crew was working to tear down the fence, a lone antelope stood on a hill immediately above the site and gave his nod of approval, before he ran off to tell all his friends the great news. Late in the afternoon, a professional fencing crew began construction of the wildlife friendly fence. On Sunday more four strand fence was removed and another load of wire was taken away. A total of 3,500 pounds of wire was taken down and removed from the site.

Wildlife management activities often involve cooperation from several sources, and this project is a perfect example. The Forest Service manages the land and they promoted this project with letters of support and participation during the weekend. The fence installation was funded by a cost share agreement with the Intermountain West Joint Venture, an organization that promotes bird management activities. The purchase of the Burro Creek livestock allotment by the Arizona Elk Society provided for the retirement of livestock grazing in areas critical for wildlife and sensitive habitats, and only one side of the Basin Lake fence needed re-construction. The Arizona Antelope Foundation volunteers put in the sweat equity to do the job done.

Again we thank you and the members of the AAF for their unselfish contribution to the wildlife resource. We look forward to working with the AAF on many future wildlife related projects.

Sincerely,

Jon C. Cooley, Supervisor, Pinetop Region

## **Thanks to the following volunteers:**

John & Chris Vassel (Queen Creek), Joe Bill Pickrell (Phoenix), Ken Kerr, Bob Blassingame, Jeremy Edwards (Pinetop), Frank Tennant (Mesa), Al Kreutz, Stephanie Rainey (Lakeside), Don Johnson (Gold Canyon), Scott Anderson & Jennifer Laughlin (Scottsdale), Clay Sarriugarte (Morenci), Chris Kelliher (Fort Thomas), Scott Heap, Sam Turman (Safford), Vicente Ordonez



# Stalking America's Speed King

Forward by David E. Brown

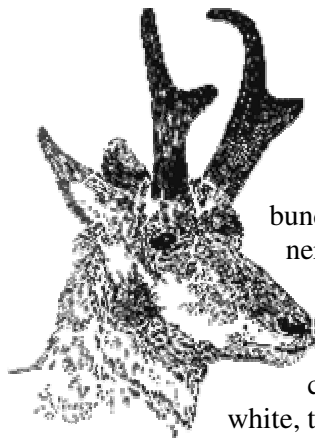


In this issue of the *Pronghorn*, Jack O'Connor gives us the lowdown on how to stalk and shoot "*the most beautiful and interesting of animals.*" First published in the July 1937 issue of *Outdoor Life*, "Stalking America's Speed King" reintroduces American sportsmen to the pronghorn antelope, a species that had recently been totally protected in the U. S. and only available under "special permit" in Mexico. Even in 1937, the only states to have an open season on pronghorn were Montana, Wyoming and New Mexico.

Drawing on his and Mexican guide Charlie C. Ren's experiences in Sonora, O'Connor describes the joys and frustrations of not only stalking pronghorn, but in accurately estimating distances. Getting in range is also a problem, and O'Connor may be the first of dozens of writers to equate the pronghorn's eyesight with 8x binoculars. Although he emphasizes the need to hunt pronghorn on foot, he is not bashful at taking running shots when the animal is within range and tells the reader how to do so.

Jack's observations in Sonora are interesting as they include seeing 16 bucks in one herd, half of which have excellent heads. A couple of these bucks have horns that he estimates to measure more than 20 inches!

O'Connor also uses the article to promote a pronghorn hunt in Arizona—a cause that he would take up time and again. Anderson Mesa has an estimated population of 5000 pronghorn and Arizona needs an open season, he argues, "to conserve the range and thin out superfluous old bucks."



A bundle of nervous energy, a gaudy coat of white, tan, and black, a pair of telescopic eyes, and legs that can propel him faster than any other American game animal – that's the antelope.

Mexicana calls him *el borrendo* (pronounce by-rain-dough), many Americans know him as the pronghorn, but by any name he is one of the most beautiful and interesting of animals.

It is hard to exaggerate the speed of the antelope, and it is difficult to believe that anything of flesh and blood can move so fast. I have clocked whole herds of

pronghorns traveling at a mile a minute, and I have had individuals cut across in front of me when the speedometer was holding steady at sixty-two miles an hour. I am certain that a barren doe, in good condition and thoroughly frightened, could near seventy. Bucks, particularly the big, old ones with the towering horns that are the delight of the trophy hunter, run much more slowly than the does, and I imagine that most of the old fellows would have to extend themselves to reach fifty miles an hour.

Not many years ago, the antelope seemed finished as a game animal in the United States. Mexico was the only place on the North American continent where the animals could be hunted legally, and only a handful of American sportsmen had ever shot one. Everyone seemed agreed that

the pronghorns were on the verge of extinction.

The picture has now changed for the better. The come-back of the antelope herds has been one of the most spectacular in modern game conservation. In many Western states, they are once more on the list of legal game, and, within the next few years, I imagine hunters will be able to take them on special license almost any place where they range. Antelope have now been hunted in Wyoming and Montana for about ten years. New Mexico has had an annual and highly successful open season for about six years. Arizona, with which I am more familiar, needs an open season to conserve the range and to thin out superfluous old bucks.

Yet, in spite of the fact that the pronghorns seem thoroughly reestablished as game animals, few persons know (cont. on page 15)



(Cont. from page 14)  
anything about hunting them. They don't know what rifles to use, what equipment to take, or what tactics to employ.

All the experience in the world as a deer hunter won't help you greatly when you go after antelope, as you are meeting an entirely different animal, with an entirely different set of habits, under entirely different conditions.

Deer depend on stealth, on cover and their inconspicuous coloring for protection. Their first lines of defense are their ears and their noses. Antelope, on the other hand, depend on their marvelous telescopic eyes, and on their speed. Cover means little to them. I doubt if their sense of smell is very keen, and I'm quite certain that their sense of hearing is little if any better than that of man.

But can they see! And, when they see something they don't like the looks of, can they travel!

The eye of an antelope is the finest to be found among big game animals in North America. It is equal to the human eye aided by 8X glasses, and probably superior to the eye of bighorn sheep. Most game animals, including the bighorns, can make out moving objects at great distances, but, if a thing is stationary, it means nothing to them.

On the other hand, moving or still, a strange object is quickly picked up by the incredible eyes of the pronghorn. Several times I have come over a ridge when a herd of antelope was feeding, heads down, a quarter of a mile away. I would stand still, with only my head showing against the sky line. Sheep or deer would not have noticed me until I moved, but on antelope would pick me up in a few seconds. Then another. In a minute or so, all the members of the herd would be staring my way – and then they would move off.

Antelope are exasperating creatures to hunt. For one thing, they are not hard to see. They are conspicuously colored, and their white rumps and bellies can often be picked up as tiny, white spots at a mile or more, as the herds are found most often in plains and relatively open country.

Furthermore, even antelope which have been shot at a lot seem deceptively, tantalizingly tame. They seem to know to a dot the range of a good rifle in the hands of an average hunter. They have their dead line, and, if you don't cross it, they don't seem particularly wild.

Once in Sonora, I was out afoot after antelope when I saw a herd of



sixteen bucks, bedded down on the side of a sand dune about 450 yards away. About half the animals wore excellent heads, and to this day I believe a couple of them would have measured more than twenty inches. Well, those antelope saw me, and I also saw them. I'll have to admit that I was far more excited than they were. I sat down on the sand, took out my glasses, and looked them over. They returned my scrutiny. A couple of them stood up for a better look, but the rest simply lay there.

Now, in spite of many romantic tales to the contrary, a 450-yard

shot is a very long one. I went back over the sand dune from which I had seen them, made a laborious circle, and finally popped up a couple of hundred yards from where they had been bedded down.

But they had moved. They were still 450 yards away, all looking at me with the greatest of interest. Unhappily, I stalked again – with a similar result. Finally I gave up, completely licked.

I got a buck the next day, but by sheer luck. I had hunted for several hours and had seen a good many antelope when I started to hunt back to camp. As I was crossing a volcanic mesa, a drowsy lone buck popped up from some weeds where he had been bedded, stared at me for a moment, and ran. My second shot hit him almost exactly in the middle of his glittering white fan, and he dropped.

Your only hope, when antelope are wild at all, is extremely careful stalking. Seeing them isn't enough. You've got to get within range. When you hunt, approach every little rise in the ground with the greatest of caution. Never look over until you have succeeded in screening your head behind shrubs or bushes. Then, when you see game, figure out a way you can approach them without being seen. Keep in the arroyos, and don't let your curiosity force you to take a peek until you have reached your objective. And then, when you get there, shoot more carefully than you've ever shot before.

If your first shot misses, stay down and shoot again. If the animals haven't seen you, you'll probably get a second standing shot, and possibly even a third, as antelope are like sheep in that they have a tendency to mill about when they are surprised, instead of running off as deer do.

(Cont. on page 16)

(Cont. from page 15)

Experience has convinced me that antelope are the most deceptive-looking animals in North America. For one thing they are very small. Even the largest bucks seldom dress out at more than 100 pounds, and the average is probably nearer to seventy-five. Charles C. Ren, the famous Mexican guide who probably knows more about Sonora antelope than any other man, tells me he doubts that on big buck in fifty will weigh more than 100 pounds.

Yet, in spite of their small size, they are so conspicuously marked that they look large. Seen on bright days with the sun glittering on their white bellies and rumps, they always seem nearer than they are. But, at dawn and dusk and on cloudy days, they fade and shrink. And at such times, they look farther away. Doping out the range is one of the most difficult feats I have ever undertaken. In addition, the white of the belly that makes them so easily seen also makes them easy to miss, as the hunter has a tendency to shoot at the most conspicuous part. It is the same principle, I suppose, as shooting away from the sun with a gold-bead front sight.

I have hunted antelope off and on for fifteen years. I have spent days in the field without a gun, stalking them with a camera, and observing their habits. I still find it difficult to figure out how far away they are.

I remember on one occasion, early on a gray morning, I was slipping along in antelope country when, through an opening in the brush, I saw a herd feeding sedately along, across a sandy open park which the Mexicans call a *playa* or beach. With the glasses, I could tell one of them was a whopping big buck. He stopped dead still, and started looking at something at right angles to where I lay. I had all the time in the

world to get him in my 'scope, wrap myself up in a sling, and get off a perfect shot.

Deciding that he was somewhere between 325 and 350 yards off, I held the point of the post just over his back, and tired. Far beyond him, through that vista in the brush, I saw the sand kick up, and my buck was gone, astonished but unhit. So I paced the distance from where I had shot to where he had run. It was exactly 200 yards. My shot was perfect, but my judgment of distance had been sour.

Stalking is not only the best way to hunt antelope; it is the only decent one. Any other should be prohibited by law. Running them by automobile is unfair to the game, as no one can place his shots from a moving automobile, and many wounded animals escape to die.

As a rule, antelope have to be shot from 250 yards up to as far as you can hit them. As a consequence, the antelope rifle should be one of ultrahigh velocity so your mistakes in the judgment of range will be minimized. Good calibers are the .250/3000 and .300 Savage, the 7 m/m Mauser, the .270 Winchester, .257 Roberts, and the .30/06 with high-speed 150-grain bullets.

Your 'scope should be of fairly high power. One of 4X is satisfactory, and, if you are a real long-range expert, you might well take one of the big 8X target 'scopes. A good pair of binoculars also is necessary if you are to do any selecting of heads, and, if you have a guide to fetch and carry for you, a 20X spotting 'scope might well come in handy.

Running antelope are hard to hit, especially for deer hunters, since they travel about twice as fast as the swiftest deer. The best system, I find is to swing with them, pass them a good long way, and to pull the trigger while the

rifle is still moving. That way, you can kill a crossing antelope by holding about three lengths ahead at 300 yards. Even at 100 yards, you have to hold ahead of a running antelope although you may be shooting the fastest-swinging rifle that has ever been manufactured.

If you are after a trophy-and otherwise I know of no reason why an antelope should be hunted-the time to go is in the early fall. Bucks shed their horns by about November 1, and even by October 16 they are beginning to curl at the base, and to loosen on the cores. The time of shedding varies greatly in different localities and with various individuals, but this rule applies fairly well to all the places where I have shot and observed them from sea-level deserts to open grassy plains 7,000 feet in altitude. The problem of getting the best possible trophy is complicated by the fact that often, during the legal season, most of the scalps are not in the best condition, as the winter coat is not fully grown yet, and not firmly set and hardened. Even the hair of a winter-killed antelope is brittle enough, but, if you want to go slowly nuts, get an August-killed head mounted, and then have it shed thousands of hairs all over the place.

So the sportsman is faced with the dual problem of getting a good pair of antlers and a good cape. It behooves him to pick his trophy carefully. Look first for the longest horns, next for well-developed prongs, and, after that, for the brightest coat. Don't, for the love of Mike, bang away at the first buck you see. A man who makes a long trip West for a pronghorn ought to go home with one that is good enough to be placed in his trophy room and can be exhibited to his envious acquaintances with pride.

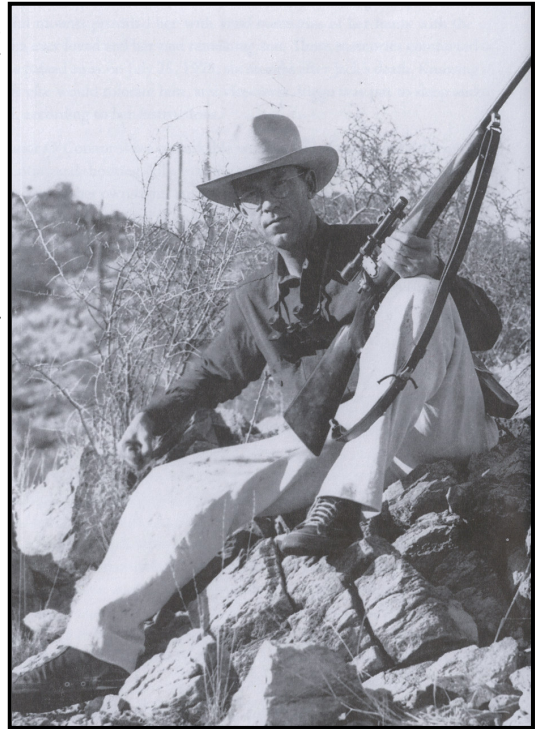
(Cont. on page 17)

(Cont. from page 16) Any antelope head with a fourteen inch curve is a good one. However, sixteen-inch heads, all record books to the contrary, are fairly common, and I believe that I have seen five or six old bucks with heads larger than the present world's record, in spite of the fact that it has stood since 1899. The biggest heads I have ever seen were on live antelope belonging to Arizona's great Anderson Mesa herd of 5,000 animals. When the Arizona State Game Commission sees fit to open the season there, some very fine bucks will be taken from this large herd.

If I were ranking the heads of American game as trophies, I'd put antelope second only to bighorn

sheep. They are far from common, even after being on the upgrade for almost twenty years. They are strange and beautiful creatures, and getting a good one requires patience, foresight, and no little skill at stalking and shooting. If you possess these qualities in reasonable quantity, your trophy room stands an excellent chance of acquiring an antelope head.

So, if you're a bit weary of deer hunting and crave something new in the way of game and experience, try an antelope hunt out in the plains and mesas of the West. If you stalk skillfully, pick your head carefully, and shoot straight, you'll come home with memories that will last.



**Jack O'Connor**

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## GAME & FISH BILL SB1365

**Talking Points on SB1365, a bill signed by the Governor and supported by over 25 sportsman groups, including the AAF and the Wildlife Conservation Council.**

- **This does not impact the State General Fund.** Game and Fish does **not** receive money from the General Fund.
- **Fees will not be immediately increased to the full amounts proposed by SB1365.** All license and permit fees must be changed through a rulemaking process administered and voted on by the Game and Fish Commission at public meetings. The public has an opportunity to affect fee changes at Commission meetings. The fees proposed by SB1365 are the maximum prices and may not be the exact prices the public will pay. The higher fee caps provide the Commission with the flexibility to change license and permit fees according to the Department's management costs and market demands. The Commission plans to increase fees **incrementally** over a period of 8 to 10 years.
- **Fees will not be raised more than 50% of the statutory cap during the first year of implementation.** The earliest license and permit fee increase would be game permits in the Fall of 2006 and licenses in 2007.
- **No more than 5% of all deer and elk tags may be offered at the highest price** (premium price).
- **Youth fees are not increased and new family licenses are established.** The family hunting and fishing combo license package and the super conservation hunting and fishing and combo license package is created.
- **The fee increases do not out price Arizona residents.** Proposed fees were formulated using a smart pricing strategy based on measuring what the market could support, positioning among other western states, and the Department's financial needs to accomplish existing and priority expansion programs.
- **The last fee increase was in 1998** and did not provide for additional programs.
- **Additional revenue will be applied to existing programs and expansion projects.** Top priorities include a raise for all Game and Fish funded employees, annual payments on Turn-Key HQ, habitat enhancements, perpetual easements, hatchery renovations, wildlife area enhancements for access and hunt opportunities, and predator management.





## SHORT SHOTS

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### **MOHAVE SPORTSMAN CLUB AND THE KINGMAN WILDLIFE FAIR**

Many thanks to Don Martin and the Mohave Sportsman Club for representing the AAF at the Wildlife Fair in Kingman on April 7, 2005! Over 1,900 people walked through the doors of the Fair. In addition to educating folks on the AAF & pronghorn, they handed out free gun locks, some remaining "beach safes" while supplies lasted, and distributed over 250 WCC license plate applications to many of the attendees. A job well done!

### **SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT & PHOENIX SOUTH BLM PLANNING AREAS**

Aside from yours truly, only AAF/ADBSS member Dave McCasland, Janet & Gary Drake also from ADBSS, and Rich Veit from the Phoenix Varmit Callers, represented sportsmen & women at the Deer Valley BLM meeting on March 1, 2005. We sat amongst a sea of red shirts from the OHV crowd, and while they were all civil, one shirt said it all..."OHV...the real endangered species". These folks are passionate and show up for meetings. All told there were probably close to 100 folks in attendance, 75 OHVer's, 5 sportsmen/women, 10 or so BLM, 1 G & F, and maybe 1 or 2 from the Sierra Club.

Four land use alternatives were being proposed. During the small group roundtables, we spoke up for a combination of Alternative A (what's there now) and Alternative B (some management). The C & D Alternatives move towards more excessive control, wilderness across the territory, and a lack of access for sportsmen. While the BLM sought feedback, much of the planning area seemed predisposed to more control. How ironic "we" are controlled to the nth degree, when all our good intentions are out the window with the flood of folks from the South!

If you want to see the detail, here is the link to the BLM website:

[http://www.az.blm.gov/LUP/sonoran/son\\_des.htm](http://www.az.blm.gov/LUP/sonoran/son_des.htm)

We brought up access issues, waterhole development and maintenance issues, hunting preservation, and wildlife concerns, both for sheep and pronghorn (the Cameron Allotment is in this planning area). If there is any good news from a pronghorn standpoint, our previous efforts to close grazing on the Cameron Allotment were successful for the Sonoran pronghorn!

*Jim Unmacht*

### **13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HUNTER'S CLINIC AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 5PM SPORTSMAN'S WAREHOUSE, 27<sup>TH</sup> AVE & YORKSHIRE, PHOENIX**

Tag or not, you are welcomed to come to the Sportsman's Warehouse on August 16<sup>th</sup> to increase your knowledge of pronghorn and pronghorn hunting! We plan on having another great slate of speakers to give you pointers on what to do, and why!

If you're an AAF member, come out and visit our fellow AAF members, it won't cost you anything, and who knows, you may be the lucky winner of the rifle that the Sportsman's Warehouse is donating to the event!

Watch the website for more news on this upcoming event. [www.azantelope.org](http://www.azantelope.org)

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Your membership dues help us cover the cost of project mailings, newsletters, tools and supplies.

In last year's big game draw, 31,007 people applied for a pronghorn tag, and 27,200 were Arizona residents. While applicants desiring to hunt pronghorn have exploded to record numbers, and the pronghorn population has dropped in the drought, our membership has remained relatively stable with around 300 members.

Think about the impact we could have if we had 1000 members, or even more! Recruit a friend and help us expand the number of people helping us help antelope!

### **AAF BOARD CHANGES**

Welcome to our newest Board member, Tice Supplee! Tice recently retired from the Arizona Game & Fish Department as the Game Branch Chief after serving 20 years working for wildlife and sportsmen & women in Arizona. We look forward to her impact for pronghorn!

Many thanks to Larry Erickson from Chandler, for his contributions! Most notably was his work at upgrading our Membership Brochure, and then having his Company and contacts donate the publishing and printing costs! Thanks again Larry, and maybe we can recruit you again when the work slows down.



### **PREDATOR CONTROL**

In the 1970's trapping was a very effective tool at controlling coyotes and other predators as they impacted pronghorn, particularly during the fawning season. As trapping was eliminated and taken out of the "tool box" in managing wildlife, the lack of control has been exponentially demonstrated with the reduction in pronghorn numbers. Sure the drought hurt, but the increase in predators, impacted the prey; i.e. pronghorn.

Other measures were needed to have an impact. The controversial concept of "aerial gunning" for one, sometimes impactful, as long as the weather permitted, but usually expensive. This year proved more effective than some. The AAF has supported these efforts.

Another way we have tried to increase pronghorn fawn recruitment is by cooperating and supporting sportsman clubs with predator calling events. (To be distinguished from "contests"!)

This is proving to be a successful tool also, again weather permitting. The AAF has supported the Mohave Sportsman's Club with their "Antelope Eaters" event and the AZ Predator Callers with their "Save a Fawn" event. Both events will help give our rising pronghorn populations a better chance at recruiting fawns!

### **LAS CIENEGAS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA (LCNCA) ... FUTURE AAF PROJECTS**

The long-term goal of the LCNCA management plan is to eventually bring all fences up to a "wildlife friendly" condition. The work that is available spans a wide variety: from 3 strand and smooth, all the way to 7-8 strands that will require much more work. Pronghorn is the species of most concern since their movement is greatly affected by restrictive fencing, and with a start in the habitat mostly over on the SE side of LCNCA.

The immediate area of priority is the fawning grounds; the good news is that these fences are newer and in general were built in a manner that is not so restrictive to wildlife. However, having said that, I would also look at the experience and talent of each group of volunteers and match them with a fence. A group such as AAF would probably be best put to use on some of the more complicated, labor intensive sections. I'm thinking that the best way to go about this would be to set up some dates for the work and as the time approaches hammer out the details of determining where your group would work. As I said, there is a lot to be rectified out here in

the way of fences...I'm sure we could find a place that works for your group and meets the needs of the wildlife! *Cynthia Wolf BLM*

### **TRASH IN THE HILLS OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA...OBSERVATIONS FROM TUCSON AAF MEMBER CHRIS MCCOTTER**

I know I take a lot of flack for being a hunter and I'd have to say just about every day it seems. I don't mind it, but really I hope I get remembered more as a conservationist. Most people think that all hunters do is 'take' from the woods and never give anything back...Some of you probably never step foot in our National Forest in Southern Arizona, but some of you have. For those that have, have you ever seen this? I



didn't think so. Unfortunately it's an all too common sight in Southern Arizona and its taking place every hour of every day all over the place.

Well every year a bunch of dedicated conservationist (i.e. hunters) get together and clean up the forest and desert. 'Hunters Who Care' along with the Arizona Game & Fish and several sponsors, organize a massive cleanup down south. This past Saturday (March 5, 2005) about 288 volunteers helped pick up 48,000lbs of trash from our desert floor.

So again I don't mind the hunter jokes, really, but this is something we should all take very seriously. If you ever want to help on an event like this please let me know. You can view all the photos of the trash and cleanup on at [www.cmccotter.org/azuho/05cleanup/05cleanup.htm](http://www.cmccotter.org/azuho/05cleanup/05cleanup.htm)



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## SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!

<b><i>WHAT?</i></b>	<b><i>WHEN?</i></b>	<b><i>WHERE?</i></b>
The Arizona Antelope Foundation Board Meetings	June 13 6:30 PM July 11 6:30 PM August 8 6:30 PM	The Phoenix Zoo 455 N. Galvin Parkway
AAF Work Projects	June 25	Anderson Mesa
The Wildlife Conservation Council Board Meetings	June 28 6:30 PM July 26 6:30 PM August 23 6:30 PM	AZ Game & Fish Department 2221 W. Greenway Rd
AAF Banquet AAF Hunter Clinic	August 6 4:00 PM August 16	El Zaribah Shrine Sportsmen's Warehouse

Would you like the Pronghorn via email....let us know! Or if you have an upcoming event, send us the information at [azantelope@cox.net](mailto:azantelope@cox.net).