Pronghorn is a quarterly newsletter for the members of AAF. Letters, comments, news items, articles, pictures and stories are all welcome and will be considered for publication. Address all such items to: Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 12590, Glendale, AZ 85318, or by email at info@azantelope.org.
Well fall is just around the corner, and many of you I am sure are already out enjoying all of the outdoor opportunities that this great state affords us. Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, riding and bird watching are just a few of the endeavors that we take part in, and many times we take for granted that they are our given right to partake in. What much of the public doesn’t understand is the tremendous efforts that goes on behind the scenes to assure that these pastimes are secured into perpetuity. There are constant attacks or amendments underway that are out to permanently hinder these pastimes. These come from environmental groups, politicians and special interest groups who all have their own agendas. These agendas rarely align with sportsman or true conservation organizations. Many times these movements are fostered and gain ground at “higher levels” or “circles” than conservation organizations operate. This is why it is so important that we maintain a working relationship with many groups that align with our own mission as well as initiatives outside of our normal focus area.

With that being said AAF has been made aware of a movement to implement landowner tags in Arizona by a special interest group. We are working closely with several organizations on this issue and will remain diligent in our efforts to see to it that this initiative is worked through very carefully. We would rather see a “walk-in” program instituted like the highly successful Wyoming program that benefits ranchers monetarily for allowing access rather than putting monetary ownership over the wildlife. I would like to hear your input on landowner tags and would encourage you to email me at: shane-jstewart@gmail.com.

There have been several notable accomplishments so for this year. The AAF was a key player in the recent acquisition by the AZ Game and Fish Department of the Horseshoe Ranch north of Black Canyon City. This is a monumental move that will become a great learning center and environment showpiece for many generations to enjoy. AAF was recently inducted into the Outdoor Hall of Fame by Wildlife for Tomorrow, and was also name “Species Group of the Year” by AZ Game and Fish Department’s Habitat Partnership Committee. This is truly an honor and it is really nice to see that the work of the AAF over the last 20 years has not gone unnoticed. Several work projects have been completed for the benefit of antelope and their habitat. Our fundraiser banquet was a great success, and our hunter clinic helped to assure this year’s antelope hunters were not lacking the information they needed to enjoy their hunts.

The AAF has evolved into a well-rounded organization that is truly plugged in and networked with the conservation community. This is due in large part to the passionate volunteers and founders that have laid the groundwork for AAF to be staged as a major player in the conservation community. Check in often at our website (www.azantelope.org) for upcoming events and come out and join us. I assure you the experience will allow you to understand where this passion comes from. Our work is never ending and we are constantly looking for individuals to join our ranks and help us achieve our goals. If you have a project or concern you feel needs addressed please feel free to contact me and I’ll do everything in my power to help.

I hope each of you have a blessed fall and may you shoot straight, walk softly and leave the outdoors just a little better than you found it.

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

Shane Stewart
Your Arizona Antelope Foundation was recently inducted into the Wildlife for Tomorrow (WFT) Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame. Recognition is given annually by WFT to both individuals and organizations that have worked consistently over many years through political and individual leadership, volunteer service, the mass media, environmental restoration and educational activities on behalf of Arizona’s natural resources.

This major award and induction event was developed in 1998 by The Wildlife For Tomorrow Foundation to honor those who have made significant contributions to the preservation of Arizona’s outdoor heritage.

The AAF was recognized for years of habitat improvement work throughout Arizona. Major investments of labor and materials have been placed in conservation efforts on Anderson Mesa, Perry Mesa, Yavapai Ranch and numerous game units in southeast Arizona.

One of the greatest accomplishments has been the collaborative efforts used to restore grasslands and Cienaga wetlands on Anderson Mesa southeast of Flagstaff. The payoff has been not only increased numbers of pronghorn, but a huge benefit to birds, and the area is now a globally recognized important Birding Area. Another recent success has been participation in the acquisition of Horseshoe Ranch by the AZ Game and Fish Department. The AAF approved $176,000 of Antelope Special Tag funds toward the purchase of the 200 acre ranch and its 70,000 acre grazing allotment. The allotment is not only prime antelope habitat, but also maintains a vital wildlife corridor only 45 miles north of Phoenix.

Current President Shane Stewart accepted the award on AAF’s behalf. A number of current and past board members were in attendance, including AAF’s first President, Pete Cimellaro, who presented a brief history of the Foundation’s origin.
At the July 23, 2011 statewide Habitat Partnership Committee meeting held in Flagstaff, the AAF was honored to be recognized as the “Species Group of the Year” and was presented a plaque by Committee Chair and Game and Fish Commissioner John W. Harris. On hand to accept the plaque representing the AAF, was Board and Life member Glen Dickens.

Specific recent AAF accomplishments mentioned included the acquisition of the Horseshoe Ranch and grazing allotments first initiated by the AAF, the ongoing four volunteer work projects accomplishments and the groups recent 5-year strategic plan focus on southeastern Arizona pronghorn populations and enhancements and a two day field trip to review those populations on April 1st and 2nd. The AAF sincerely appreciates this recognition.
We encourage you to attend, and if you are a member in good standing, cast your vote for the 2012 Officers and Directors and proposed Bylaws amendments. Each Individual, Sustaining, or Life Member, or Family as a whole is entitled to one vote for each item if current with their dues. If you are unable to attend you may use one of the forms on pages 17-18 to vote by mail or proxy.

The proposed amendments are additions to the existing bylaws and are shown in red below.

ARTICLE II
Board of Directors and Officers

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the members of the Board of Directors to attend all meetings, to formulate for the approval of the membership all policies of the Foundation, to ensure implementation of these policies, and to relieve the pressure of minor details at the regular meetings by ordering and approving for payment all bills against the Foundation. The officers and members of the Board of Directors may conduct business via teleconferencing, conference call, or any electronic means. It shall also be the duty of the Board of Director to represent the Foundation in all matters before the public, except in cases where authority has been delegated to a committee appointed for this purpose. The President shall appoint a committee to audit the records of the Foundation sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Membership Meeting.

Section 6. The Board of Directors shall consist of twelve (12) members in good standing of the Foundation, composed of the Executive Committee (as hereinafter defined), together with six (6) Directors at Large duly elected for the purpose, plus the spokesman for the Board of Governors selected by the members of the Board of Governors present at the meeting. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. The officers and members of the Board of Directors shall be deemed present and entitled to vote at any meeting where they are in electronic communication with the other directors and the essence of the matter under consideration has been revealed to them. The Board of Directors shall meet at least bimonthly, unless by action of the Board a meeting is canceled or postponed.

ARTICLE X
Amendments to Bylaws

These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted by a majority of the members present at any membership meeting if at least fifteen (15) days' written notice is given of intention to alter, amend, repeal, or adopt new Bylaws at such meeting. The bylaws may be amended by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors at any regularly scheduled board meeting, provided the proposed amendment(s) was (were) proposed at the previous regularly scheduled board meeting.
February 18th, 2012
Annual Fundraising Banquet
Rustler's Roost
Phoenix

We are back to our traditional format, but at a new venue and with a few surprises.

Ticket prices:
$50 each
$650 Host Table (includes 8 meals and $400 in raffle tickets)
$1500 Corporate Table (includes 8 meals, $800 in raffle tickets, gun & scope)
Custom built table to your needs upon request

Don’t miss our Early Bird Ticket Deal
Purchase your banquet tickets by December 31\textsuperscript{st}, and bucket raffle tickets are 2 for 1!

Details and ticket order forms will be mailed with your membership renewal in late November. Tickets will also be available on our website soon. www.azantelope.org
August 13-14th found the AAF on another of our worthwhile work projects. This particular project took place in Eagle Creek in Greenlee County on the famed Double Circle Ranch.

Not so many decades ago, the Double Circle Ranch was one of the largest ranches in the entire country. It once covered almost a half million acres, and its cowboys trailed as many as 30,000 head of cattle a year to railheads in New Mexico and Arizona. A string of 350 horses and over 20 full-time cowboys helped keep the ranch running, along with various other hired hands.

People far and wide knew of the Double Circle Ranch on Eagle Creek. The ranch was famous for its wild cattle, wide open country, and rough and tumble cowboys. Geronimo killed ranchers on this land. Bank robbers signed on here as cowboys while they were laying low. And with the acreage and the number of animals involved, cattle gathers could literally take years. Celebrated extensively in song and old newsreels, the Double Circle Ranch is one of the landmarks of the American West…an icon of days gone by.

Today, the ranch is smaller but still as western as it gets. (And by “smaller” we mean it’s just under 40,000 acres these days!) The Double Circle Ranch represents the best of the old and the new: it maintains the old west lifestyle and values while demonstrating sustainable and environmentally sound conservation practices. Longhorn steers are herded on horseback, the nearest town is a three hour trip away, electricity is 30 miles from here, eagles still soar, antelope still roam and wolves still howl. Stars shine brilliantly far from light pollution and coyotes serenade at dusk. Some good things never change.

The task at hand during this summer weekend was the modifying of approximately 2 miles of fence that had been originally installed in the early part of the previous century, and had been modified many times haphazardly.

(Continued on page 9)
by subsequent ranch owners. We would be removing as many as 3 unneeded strands of barbed wire and installing a new smooth wire bottom strand. The area we worked on has been observed as a crucial travel corridor for antelope to access grazing areas and watering sources.

Friday night people started to filter in and the overwhelming consensus of the accommodations provided by Doug and Wilma Jenkins (ranch owners) was “WOW this is amazing”. Many folks stayed in state of the art wall tents overlooking the creek with full bathrooms and hot and cold running water. The remainder of the guests stayed in the historical NO Bar ranch house that was originally built in the 1920’s. The cooking ramada has full sinks, solar lighting, natural gas hot water heaters and all the accommodations you could ask for.

After a Saturday morning meeting to cover the scope of work and a little history on the ranch and the antelope that occupy the it, everyone made their way to the work site. Groups dispersed in 2 different directions removing the old fence, while 2 other teams worked with the (Continued on page 10)
wire rollers to roll up all the old wire. The new wire was then spooled out and the crews began installing it. Everyone broke for lunch around noon and then began the process all over again on the second half of the fence that needed modifying. All work was completed by 4pm due to a tremendous crew effort.

(Continued on page 11)
One of the nicest things about the weekend was the attendance of a 12 year old boy from Duncan named Toby Harris and his parents and his friends. Toby told his parents he wanted to spend his 12th birthday with his friends on this work project. This is just the type of involvement we must foster to assure we continue our efforts into the next generation. Thanks again Toby for choosing to spend your special day assisting in our efforts.

After the work was completed many folks chose to cool off with a swim in the creek or a nice shower back at camp headquarters. Dinner was served that night by “head chef” Mark Boswell and many of his volunteer chefs, it was amazing as usual. Mrs. Harris served cupcakes to celebrate Toby’s birthday, and a roaring version of Happy Birthday was sung by all. Everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were very enthusiastic about returning.

There are many, many miles of antiquated fence that require attention and the AAF would like to make a long term commitment to this area. The Jenkins (pictured below) who currently own the ranch truly understand how cattle and wildlife can co-exist and both offer benefits to the other. They are using a sustainable ranching model to ensure the future of the land they rely on.

Sustainable ranching: it’s not an oxymoron!
Poorly managed cattle ranching can cause problems ranging from waterway damage to weed infestations. A sustainable and well run ranching operation can actually increase the biomass and diversity available for other species.

What is sustainability?
• Meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own
• Recognizing our relationship to the world around us and our responsibility to future generations
• Making conscious choices that sustain the quality of our region’s landscape and way of life

(Continued on page 15)
Captive Breeding:
The pronghorn in the pen are doing well. We received another \( \frac{1}{2} + \) inch of rain on September 5, and all the washes ran. This created quite a bit of clean-up work, but will be beneficial for the native forage in the pen.

We have been unsuccessful in moving the adult breeding buck back into the south pen from the north. Hopefully one or more of the yearling bucks in the south pen were able to breed the females in that half of the pen this year.

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

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<th>2007</th>
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<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>In Pen</td>
<td>3F</td>
<td>1F</td>
<td>1F</td>
<td>2F</td>
<td>3F</td>
<td>7F, 4M</td>
<td>6F, 4M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Released</td>
<td>1M</td>
<td>4M, 1F</td>
<td>3M</td>
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<td>From south half</td>
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<td>2M</td>
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<td>1 F fawn</td>
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<td>To south half</td>
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<td>In Pen</td>
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<td>1F</td>
<td>4F</td>
<td>10F, 7M</td>
<td>6F, 8M</td>
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<td>2F, 2M</td>
<td>1F, 2M</td>
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* buck moved himself from south to north

Released Pronghorn: The released pronghorn have been foraging a bit away from the pen, but were still coming back to use the feeders. We discontinued feeding around the pen in late August as the area around the pen is greening up and to encourage the pronghorn to move away from the pen.

We had 3 mortalities of released pronghorn. During the night of August 27, a female was killed by coyotes near the SE alfalfa feeder. The same night or early the next morning, a male pronghorn died on the west side of the pen, about 50 yards north of the Charlie Bell road. There were no signs of predation, and a field necropsy revealed blood in his mouth and internal bleeding around his heart and general chest cavity, leading us to suspect disease was the cause of his death.

(Continued on page 13)
On September 3, the pen monitors got another mortality signal on a female. They located the body approximately 3.2 miles north of the pen, and sign indicated she was killed by a coyote.

**Water Projects:** Our automatic cameras at Devils Hills water are documenting a herd of 13 pronghorn, including 4 fawns. Two bucks released in 2009 are with this herd.

**Forage Enhancements:** We attempted to irrigate at the new Devil’s Hills forage plot, but the pipeline was broken near the storage tanks, so we couldn’t irrigate. We will fix the problem soon. Luckily, it has rained on the plot. We also determined that the pump in the well at Granite Mountains forage plot needs to be replaced.

**Other Projects:** We have contracted with a fence company to build the new captive breeding pen on KOFA. They should begin work the week of September 19. We are in the process of getting a contractor to drill a well near the site. We have transferred Tyler, one of the pen monitors from the Cabeza pen to Yuma to work at the new KOFA pen, and are recruiting for another person to work there. We have hired one person to fill one vacancy at the Cabeza pen and are in the process of hiring another person to replace Tyler at Cabeza.

We are in the planning stages for the capture in the pen and release of animals this December. We intend to take 10 females and 2 bucks to start the new KOFA captive breeding pen. That will leave approximately 7 males and 7 females to be released out of the Cabeza pen. We are discussing options for where to release these animals.

We are also discussing plans for a biennial range wide survey in Mexico this December. However, we still need to find some funds to cover this. Our partners in Mexico would like us to help them capture and radio-
After years of research and development, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has finished its completely-revised fence guidelines aimed at helping landowners, project managers, land management agencies and others develop wildlife-compatible fencing across Arizona.

“As the department tasked with managing and conserving the public’s wildlife, Game and Fish wants to work with those responsible for land management decisions to consider these recommended fencing guidelines early in their project,” said Josh Avey, Arizona Game and Fish Department habitat branch chief.

The focus is on fence design rather than detailed fence construction specifications. The goal is to provide guidance in designing a fence that will achieve its objective with minimum impact to wildlife.

The new guidelines address: impacts of fencing on wildlife; fence design and types of materials; wildlife-permeable fencing; and, species-specific recommendations, among other specifics.

Fencing is an important part of the landscape and is generally intended to restrict movement of livestock. But improperly designed or located fences may impede wildlife access to critical resources (e.g., water, forage, fawning grounds, cover) or restrict escape or migratory routes essential to the well being of individuals and populations. Entanglement and impalement are two deadly effects of inappropriate fence design or placement.

Impermeable fences can also fragment habitat into small islands of resources, isolating animals and leading to starvation, genetic isolation and disease. Habitat loss and fragmentation are leading causes of species extinctions.

“Wildlife populations need large areas of interconnected habitat to survive. We encourage landowners, developers and planners to use these guidelines early in the planning process,” says Avey.

Impacts can vary based on the animal’s age, season, and resource avail-

(Continued on page 15)
Pronghorn, although capable of jumping, prefer to go under a fence and will walk the fence line looking for a space high enough to cross under. Pronghorn are the species most impacted by habitat fragmentation due to unsuitably designed or placed fences. Restrictions to seasonal movements and access to fawning grounds can dramatically reduce pronghorn populations.

The AAF welcomes the new guidelines and the efforts by AZGF to work with landowners and others to design wildlife friendly fences. We have worked tirelessly for almost 20 years converting existing fences across the state to provide areas where pronghorn have “Freedom to Roam”.

Browsing—by cattle or any other grazing species (such as antelope)—triggers increased plant growth, especially of non-bushy species that help prevent erosion. High nitrogen manure and urine provide fertilizer and water, which also helps to boost plant growth. Large herds of constantly migrating buffalo once kept the range in good condition. Today the buffalo are gone, but with careful management and rotational grazing, the cattle can provide a similar ecological function to the range.

At the Double Circle Ranch, they follow careful grazing practices so the land actually improves over the years it bears their herd of Texas Longhorn steers. They are also 100% off-grid, relying entirely on solar and wind energy for electricity. They recycle, even though at this point that involves driving everything to the next county. The toilets in their outfitter tents are state-of-the-art composters. Everything they do is with an eye to the future, to improving the land and our environment.

These are exactly the type of land users we at the AAF like to align ourselves with. By working together we are assuring a future for both wildlife and ranching. This assures that the work we are doing today will have a benefit far into the future.

Please look for future projects in this area, I assure you this is a project you won’t want to miss if you weren’t on this one. Thanks again to all the volunteers, AZGFD personnel and USFS personnel that made this project such a huge success.
2ND ANNUAL CONSERVATION AWARDS
BANQUET NOVEMBER 19TH  5:30 PM
EL ZARIBAH SHRINE PHOENIX

This intimate affair provides a means to recognize some very deserving individuals and groups for their efforts behind the scenes to help conserve Arizona’s wildlife. Please plan to attend. Tickets are $40 each. See our website or call 602-361-6478 for your reservation.

SPECIAL TAG FUND FOR 2011

One of the most successful habitat improvement programs has been those financed by raising money through the issuing of special pronghorn tags. All of the monies obtained through the sale or raffle of these tags are used solely for the management of the species. In 2011, these tags raised over $100,000 for pronghorn. The AAF takes part in the decision making process for expenditures from these funds.

$30,000 Tag Auctioned at AAF Banquet
$40,000 Tag Auctioned at AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society Banquet
$32,620 AZ Big Game Super Raffle

DID YOU HUNT ANTLELOPE THIS FALL?

We’d love to share your success with our readers. Please send us your stories and photos for consideration in an upcoming issue of the Pronghorn. Make sure the photos you submit are in good taste. All blood must be removed from the animal, hunter and surrounding area. We accept digital images/stories via email at info@azantelope.org.

INFORMATION SOUGHT IN PRONGHORN POACHING IN PRESCOTT VALLEY

A reward of up to $3,250 is being offered for information in the poaching of a pronghorn buck in Prescott Valley on Sept. 9. The pronghorn was reported through Operation Game Thief and an officer was dispatched to the scene. The animal, shot and left to waste, was illegally killed west of Glassford Hill Road, about ½-mile south of 89A near the Granville subdivision. The location of the animal was visible from the road. This isn’t an isolated area and there’s a good chance someone saw something, or overheard a conversation that can lead to a suspect.

Anyone with information regarding this case (or any wildlife violation), should contact Operation Game Thief. Please reference case number 11-001299.

OPERATION GAME THIEF
1-800-352-0700
24 HOURS A DAY

POACHERS are thieves, and they are stealing from the citizens of Arizona. Operation Game Thief is a public awareness program that allows people to report these violations 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Callers may remain anonymous if so desired. You can also now report violations online. Visit the Arizona Game & Fish website for more information.

WWW.AZGFD.GOV

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AAF PROJECTS
April 7, 2012 - SE Arizona
October 6, 2012 - SE Arizona

OTHER EVENTS
November 14 Annual Meeting and Elections
November 19 2nd Annual Conservation Awards Banquet
February 18, 2012 Annual Fundraising Banquet

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE
October 17
November 14

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

WCC MEETING SCHEDULE
October 25
November 22
Our annual membership meeting and Elections will take place at 6:30 pm on November 14th at El Zaribah Shrine, 552 N. 40th St. in Phoenix. We encourage you to attend, and if you are a member in good standing, cast your vote for the 2012 Officers and Directors and proposed Bylaws amendments. Each Individual, Sustaining, or Life Member, or Family as a whole is entitled to one vote for each item if current with their dues. If you are unable to attend you may use one of the forms below and on the next page to vote by mail or proxy.

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

Proxy Vote

I, _____________________________, hereby designate _____________________________
as my proxy to vote on my behalf for the 2012 officer/director candidates at the 2011 annual meeting of the Arizona Antelope Foundation on November 14, 2011.

Signed: _____________________________ Date: _________________

Member Phone: ____________________ Proxy Phone: ____________________

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

Mail Ballot

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

Officers & Directors:
___ President, Shane Stewart  ___ Vice President, Todd Hulm
___ Secretary, Art Boswell  ___ Treasurer, Mary Keebler

Directors with terms ending 12/31/13:
___ Eddie Corona
___ Jim McCasland
___ Connie Taylor

Signed: _____________________________ Date: _________________
Proxy Vote

I, ________________________________, hereby designate ________________________________ as my proxy to vote on my behalf for the Bylaws amendments at the 2011 annual meeting of the Arizona Antelope Foundation on November 14, 2011.

Signed: ________________________________ Date: _________________

Member Phone: ________________________ Proxy Phone: ________________________

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

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The proposed amendments are additions to the existing bylaws and are shown in red below. Please indicate your vote for each amendment below.

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___ YES      ___ NO

ARTICLE X
Amendments to Bylaws

These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted by a majority of the members present at any membership meeting if at least fifteen (15) days' written notice is given of intention to alter, amend, repeal, or adopt new Bylaws at such meeting. The bylaws may be amended by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors at any regularly scheduled board meeting, provided the proposed amendment(s) was (were) proposed at the previous regularly scheduled board meeting.

___ YES      ___ NO

Signed: ________________________________ Date: _________________
The AAF was deeply sorry to learn Steve Favour of Signature Taxi-dermy in Flagstaff passed away recently. Steve was a long time supporter and donor to the AAF. Our sincerest condolences go out to Steve’s family and friends. He will be sorely missed.