



PRONGHORN

Official Publication of the Arizona Antelope Foundation, Inc., a Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt Corporation ~ Volume 10, Number 2, Spring 2004

AAF'S "FIRST EVER" FUNDRAISING BANQUET AUGUST 7TH

El Zaribah Shrine, Phoenix
552 North 40th St. (Just south of Loop-202)

4:00 P.M. No-Host Bar

6:00 P.M. Buffet Dinner

COST: \$50 Per Person

\$500 Table for 8 (includes \$200 in Raffle Tickets)

General Auction Silent Auction Ladies' Raffle
And Raffles for: Great Hunts, Fishing Trips, Firearms,
Camping/Hunting/Fishing Gear, Artwork and Much More!

For Tickets/Information contact:

Nancy Lewis: 602-942-7682

Larry Cullen: 602-997-8613

Pete Cimellaro: 602-840-8749

Steve Favour: 928-526-0456 (Northern Arizona)

We could use your help with some donations. Use your imagination.
Remember your donations are tax deductible!

**HELP US HELP ANTELOPE
DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO ATTEND!**



COME JOIN US FOR OUR 12TH ANNUAL HUNTER CLINIC ON AUGUST 17TH CLUB RIO, TEMPE

We'll be in Tempe, just south of the Loop 202 on Scottsdale Road, your last right before you go over the bridge! Registration and Waterhole begin at 4pm. The bar will be open, and if you're inclined, you can also eat your dinner there.

You don't have to have a pronghorn tag to come out and enjoy the evening. The Clinic is FREE for AAF Members! Come out and see the Trophy displays and learn about the animal you're supporting.

Antelope hunting can be immensely enjoyable if you know what you're doing, otherwise it can be immensely frustrating! This clinic will provide excellent up-to-date information about everything you need to know for a successful hunt. We'll cover the following subjects:

- Arizona Pronghorn History
- State of Arizona's Pronghorn
- Optics & Photography
- Taxidermy
- Practical Field Care
- Hunting Tactics for Firearms and Archery
- Question and Answer Session
- Discussions with Game & Fish Wildlife Managers for your Unit

Non-members will be charged a nominal fee which can be applied toward AAF membership. For information, contact any Board member, visit our website, www.azantelope.org, or email us at azantelope@cox.net.



THE GRAHAM COUNTY SAGA CONTINUES...

The AAF continues to keep the barrier fence along the unit 31/32 border south of Bonita on the front burner. This historic pronghorn transition corridor was fenced off to pronghorn in August of 2003. After many months of effort, we finally got a favorable response from the State Land Department in acknowledging the fact that Graham County did not build the fence on State Trust Land to wildlife friendly standards!

In a March 31, 2004 letter, Commissioner Winkleman requested that Graham County remedy the problem. Graham County has acknowledged the request, but has thrown the matter back to State Land to resolve with the landowner. We await the next move from State Land, and will continue to watch the developments.

In the interim, the Arizona Republic printed an excellent editorial piece on the problem thanks to Linda Valdez! Her April 21, 2004 article entitled "Don't Fence Me In", hit the nail on the head! If you didn't see it, you can read it by going to our website in the Action Alerts section at www.azantelope.org.

Then the Eastern Arizona Courier in Safford printed a column on May 11, 2004. Although it shed some ink on the matter, it was not as favorable as the Republic's piece, and contained several inaccuracies. We have followed up with the reporter, and we'll see if he responds.

As Linda Valdez so aptly put it, "It's time for Graham County to get a clue".



ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION, INC.

2004 Executive Board

President

Jim Unmacht
623-581-0534

Vice President

Dave Laird
623-936-3533

Secretary

Bruce Johnson
623-979-1494

Treasurer

Bill Hook
480-816-6306

Immediate Past President

Jerry Guevin
480-946-3648

Directors

David Brown Jim Mehen
602-973-0591 928-527-0340

Embe Kugler Connie Taylor
480-585-5157 480-560-5162

Ignacio Beltram Larry Erickson
602-973-4249 800-528-8242

Board of Governors

Pete Cimellaro '93
602-840-8749

Jim McCasland '94
520-445-3886

Mike Cupell '95
602-993-3803

Nancy Lewis '96
602-942-7682

David Brown '97
602-973-0591

Joe Bill Pickrell '98
602-943-0454

Don Johnson '99
602-278-3010

Bill McLean '00
480-671-7392

Warren Leek '01
602-494-0213

Bill Keebler, '02
602-433-9077

Ex-Officio Member

Richard Ockenfels
602-789-3379

LIFE MEMBERS

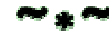
Art Pearce, Phoenix
Jim Mehen, Flagstaff
Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City
James K. McCasland, Prescott
Nina Gammons, Payette, ID
Nancy Lewis, Phoenix
Pete Cimellaro, Phoenix

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

James R. Ammons, Yuma
Jim Babbitt, Flagstaff
Tim Blank, Mesa
Arthur L. Boswell, Tucson
William C. Cordasco, Flagstaff
Floyd Green, Phoenix
Roger Hailey, Flagstaff
William Jacoby, Chandler

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

John Reggio, Phoenix
Robert Peterson, CA



Don & Janet Johnson, Phoenix
David S. Justice, Prescott
Bill & Mary Keebler, Phoenix
William H. McLean, Mormon Lake
Dr. David Meyer, Memphis, TN
Bob & Judy Prosser, Winslow
Michael J. Russing, Tucson
Terry Schupp, Tempe
Walt Scrimgeour, Prescott
Jim & Tracy Unmacht, Phoenix
David L. Wolf, Flagstaff

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What can I say...the first several months of 2004 have been pretty incredible for the AAF! Here's a sample of what's happened so far in our 13th year...

- Active involvement in Anderson Mesa Management plans, Pronghorn Operational Plans and Landscape Assessment Plans
- Expo success, and rifle raffle fundraiser netting just over \$1200 for pronghorn
- ADBSS Auction tag sells for \$59,000
- Club Rio donated free of charge for our 13th Annual Hunter Clinic Aug 17, by AAF member Mike Perkinson
- Plans laid for our "First Ever" Fundraising Banquet August 7th
- Larry Cullen & Nancy Lewis volunteer to co-chair our "First Ever" banquet
- AES Auction tag sells for \$67,500, breaking the record set in 2003
- Prescott Wildlife Fair takes our show on the Arizona Road
- Bloody Basin Project success with 50 volunteers
- Winter Pronghorn goes to 16 pages to inform our members
- Our website increases hits to 435 per month
- Life membership reaches 7 & Sustaining members count goes to 30
- AAF participation high at WCC April 24th I-17 cleanup project
- Anderson Mesa Action sees 38 people take out 38 acres of junipers

So what's on tap as we move into the summer?

- Pronghorn permits are down again, but AAF participation is up to help them
- Sonoran Pronghorn efforts continue on the Cabeza - project in planning
- Initial Banquet projections go from 300 to 500
- Hunter Clinic plans in full swing
- Springerville project set for June 26th
- Grab your seats...the AAF is on a roll! August should take us to a whole new level as a conservation organization!

Your help, involvement and participation are appreciated as we continue to preserve places for pronghorn in Arizona!

Jim Unmacht

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.

SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE: 5/17/04

Captive Breeding: All three pronghorn in the pen continue to do well and are usually seen together. They are often seen feeding either the irrigated areas or in a large wash that runs through the pen. They have also been observed drinking from the free standing waters in the pen on a regular basis. They appear to be spending more time bedded in the shade of the wash as the temperatures are rising. The results from the blood work performed at capture indicate the pronghorn are healthy; however unfortunately, the two does are not pregnant. All three showed small deficiencies in some trace minerals and the veterinarian has suggested placing mineral blocks in the enclosure. The captive breeding program for peninsular pronghorn in Baja also uses mineral blocks and biologists have documented the pronghorn using them, especially in hot weather.

The pronghorn are being observed and closely monitored every day. In addition, the perimeter fence is patrolled, electric fences checked and the pen and surrounding areas checked for predators and illegal aliens daily too. No predators or signs of predators have been seen or heard near the pen. Forage plots within the pen are being irrigated on a weekly basis. Illegal aliens have also pulled apart the main pipeline outside the pen in an attempt to get water, but the repairs so far have been minor, and have only caused delays in irrigation.

Water Projects: Two emergency waters (Granite Mountains, Fawn Hills) were filled by helicopter on May 10-11 by Game and Fish Region 4 and USFWS personnel. Two others (Antelope Hills and Sierra Pinta) were checked and had sufficient amounts of water from rain. Infrared triggered cameras were set up at all 4 waters to document use. Two waters still need to be filled.

Forage Enhancements: Irrigation has begun at the Charlie Bell forage plot. In addition, 1100 additional feet of pipe was installed with valves to water washes in order to enlarge the forage site. Watering will start at the Granite Mountains site this week.

Wild Pronghorn: Observations of pronghorn with fawns continue to come in. Our early assessment is that there are large numbers of fawns in the wild. Overall, habitat conditions are pretty good throughout their range. There are several widely distributed patchy areas of high quality forage where rain has fallen. These areas are most likely more than adequate for the small number of pronghorn in the wild. Ultimate recruitment of this years fawns will depend largely on the amount and timing of summer rainfall.

AAF RECEIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD AT THE 21ST BIENNIAL PRONGHORN WORKSHOP IN NORTH DAKOTA

Five awards were recently given out to worthy recipients at the 21st Biennial Pronghorn Workshop, held May 2-4, 2004 in Bismarck, North Dakota. The AAF was a contributing sponsor to the event.

The second Berrendo Award was given to **Dr. Bart O'Gara** (deceased), past leader of the Montana Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Bart passed away in 2003, and was considered one of the premier pronghorn biologists in the world, having worked on the species since the 1960s. He was the co-author of the newest tome on pronghorn with Jim Yoakum (the first Berrendo Award winner in 2002). Much of Bart's life was dedicated to the research and management of the species.

Also at the meeting, four Special Recognition Awards were given out to people or organizations who made special contributions to the management or research of the pronghorn. Winners for 2004 were: **Rich Guenzel**, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, for his outstanding work on survey methodology; **Alice Koch**, California Fish and Game Department, for work on the reintroduced herd in the Carrizo Plains; **John Hervert**, Arizona Game and Fish Department, for research and management of the endangered Sonoran pronghorn; and the **Arizona Antelope Foundation**, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of pronghorn in the Southwest. These four join the first four winners from 2002.



BLOODY BASIN UNIT 21 WORK PROJECT

MARCH 27, 2004

Our first project of 2004 took us back to Unit 21 to continue our efforts at enhancing habitat for the migrating pronghorn. Fifty people made the trek to our work sites off the Great Western Trail. We collectively traveled 8244 round trip miles to assist Arizona's antelope!

We started the work day with a 4x4 adventure down Forest Rd. 677. I once said "I'd never take my truck on this road!" Well, we had 15 trucks, including my fleet of Dodges traversing the wash boards! We thought we made it to our first stop when we came across our lone remaining Adopt-A-Ranch sign...wrong – we had to go up the bedrock steps! We all made it and subsequently made short work of our first couple miles of fence! We modified the fences by taking off the two bottom barbed strands and replaced them with a smooth wire. Pronghorn could now move freely between these two pastures in their Unit 21 migration.

After watching a couple strings of horseback riders ride through our first stop, and once everyone's appetites were satisfied, we went on the 2nd leg of our 4x4 adventure. This route started out harmless enough but soon took a turn to a more adventurous narrow trail heading into the bottom valley 6 miles south of Dugas. This pronghorn migration connector needed our attention too, and we set about our business with determination and what was left of our remaining energy.

This stretch of fence stretched us! The youngsters began to get distracted by quail, tarantulas, horned toads and blisters. The rest of us were simply getting tired. We "got 'er done" however and ended another great day in the field towards one of our primary goals.

Our evening campfire was kicked off by another great AAF steak dinner. Thanks to chefs Jerry Guevin, Dave Laird, and Tracy Unmacht. Special thanks to our "Jalapeno Quesadillas peddler" Alexis Thompson! Kudos to our 50/50 Raffle girls Grace Unmacht and Amber Ford. Our 1st regular 50/50 drawing garnered \$112 total, with \$56 going to me...and upon our redraw, Robert Chabrok was our lucky winner who promptly and graciously spent his winnings on AAF gear. Thank you to all the volunteers, from our grade schoolers, to David Brown's biology class, our AAF members and our other dedicated sportsmen, women and kids who came out to help us continue to preserve places for pronghorn! We appreciate your efforts and so will our pronghorn for generations to come.

Jim Unmacht



Lindsey Blum, Juana Blum, Brett Blum, Albert Sillas, Kyle Cooper, Tom Bonomo, Rick Peebles, Brett Bornman

Volunteer List

Troy Christensen, Al Sue, Jerry Guevin, Connie Taylor, Marsha Sue, Jim Unmacht, Tracy Unmacht, Grace Unmacht, Jimmy Unmacht, Alexis Thompson, Trisha Thompson, Trey Thompson, Harold Lee, Dana Bayer, Dave Laird, Scott Anderson, Diana Kutcher, Bruce Johnson, Rachel Gross, Alexander Keyel, Thomas Pettit, Jennifer Groom, Alison Groom, Alyssa Spradley, Jennifer Laliberte, Lisa Laliberte, Sari Neumeyer, Adrienne Cology, Elaine Anthonise, Chris Fitzharris, Robert Swelgin, Sarah Newell, Angela Williams, Toinette Slowman, David Brown, Tom Ramey, Brett Ramey, Peter Unmack, Amber Ford, Joe Moody, Robert Chabork, Rick Blum,



ANDERSON MESA WORK PROJECT MAY 14, 2004

The AAF continues to make a difference on the Mesa as was evident the weekend of May 15, 2004. The turnout looked bleak around our waning campfire Friday night! The women and children were sleeping as VP Dave Laird and I contemplated a project with no turnout. It was one of those weekends with conflicting conservation projects, so we knew some of the regulars wouldn't be able to make it, but with the heat coming to the Valley, the allure of the High Country should've been great! We were also going to work on another grassland restoration effort that should've drawn out a number of people, particularly when so many complain about the demise of the pronghorn on the grasslands. Where were all these outspoken critics?

You've got people ranting about ranchers, reporters crying about coyote killing, purists that want to take away your access and roads, and anti-hunters that simply are anti-everything, unless it means no people and no use. Then you have the inevitable disagreements within our own community: too many elk, not enough elk! And so it goes, seemingly with the AAF chipping away and putting our money (& sweat equity) where our mouth is. Where were the nattering nabobs of negativism? (remember that one?)

Saturday morning broke bright and early with the arrival of help. Past Presidents David Brown & Joe Bill Pickrell came into camp, followed by Richard Ockenfels and Oscar and Marlene Oland - we had some help! Rick Miller (G&F) and Henry Provencio (USFS) led us to our cutting area along with Tom Finley and his son James. We had a crew, but the "gang" we had hoped for at this Northern Arizona location was nowhere to be seen.

Mid morning that changed...with several folks from the Grand Canyon Trust and the Youth Conservation Corps from Flagstaff arriving.

Junipers took a cutting and a beating! While some were taken out in total, most of the larger ones were being "prepped" for a chain saw crew coming in the following weekend. At days end, we estimated our 38 people took out at least 38 acres! Some thought more, but an acre per person per day isn't too bad, when you've got an age span of volunteers from 11 to 72!

It is still hard to fathom that a two foot tall tree may be 20 years old, but if you go back a century and change the picture, you'd have a general idea of "then", compared to the current "now".

At day's end, we went to see the sight of a documented lion killed pronghorn. One of the animals

from our November 2003 collar project was killed a week earlier. While we didn't see the sight, you could envision that predator stalking pronghorn on the edge of the junipers...we made a difference that day!

Our steak fry didn't have the turnout we had hoped, as most of the Flagstaff people went home. However one veteran project attendee and Past AAF President hit the nail on the head summarizing our Saturday meal..."it was the best steak I ever had!" Thanks to the cooks, Tracy Unmacht, Sue Foote, Marlene Oland and Dave Laird! Thanks too for the "buyer", Mr. Bill Hook!



AAF Past President annihilates an unknowing juniper!

In addition to the aforementioned, thanks to the following: Grace & Jimmy Unmacht, Amber Ford, Rick Keller, Michelle Corning and Karen Murray.

Anderson Mesa...then...

- thousands of pronghorn on the plains
- grasslands to the horizon
- bison across the way
- elk in the forests
- cattle on the high plains
- native people & pioneers
- natural fire
- the circle of life
- rain once in awhile.

Anderson Mesa...now...

- a few hundred pronghorn
- junipers to the horizon
- grasslands returning
- elk everywhere
- cattle rotated in allotments
- bison on the ranch
- fire controlled
- predator control
- sportsmen & women
- what happened to the rain?

ANCIENT ANTELOPE RUN

By Charles Kelly

Map by John Nansen

Reprinted from the March 1943 edition of *The Desert Magazine*

We were driving over some high, rolling hills at the base of Boulder Mountain a few miles southeast of Bicknell, Utah, when Wallace Bransford brought the car to a sudden stop. "What's that?" he asked, pointing. At first we couldn't see anything unusual. Then, as we looked more closely, we saw what appeared to be a row of black boulders extending along the brow of a hill almost in a straight line to the horizon. The surface of the ground was sprinkled with boulders, but nature doesn't often lay them in straight lines, so we decided it must be the work of men. But for what purpose? There were not enough for a wall; so it couldn't be the ruins of an ancient Indian pueblo.

As we drove on we saw several similar lines of boulders, some running parallel with the road and others at right angles, but always along the brow of a hill. A few days later, at Fremont, Utah, we accidentally met a man who knew the answer to the puzzle. "My father," explained J. Worthen Jackson "was one of the early pioneers of Fremont valley. When the settlers first arrived in 1880, a band of Pahutes was still living here. Among them was an old fellow called Tahgee, apparently about 85 years old, who became very friendly with father and told him many stories of Indian life before the arrival of white men.

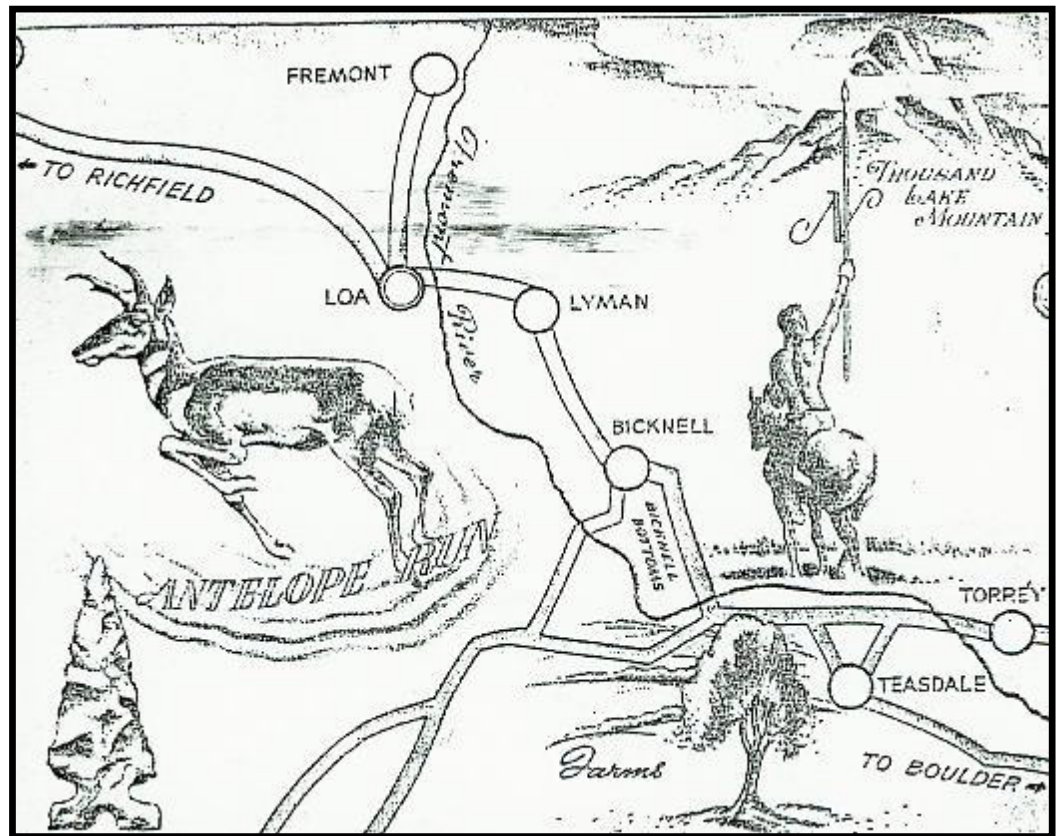
"Among other things this old Indian said that in early times, when he was a very small boy, this country was full of antelope which grazed in large numbers all over those hills at the base of Boulder Mountain.

"Antelope are among the swiftest four footed animals in America and because of their keen sight and hearing and the open country in which they lived, it was impossible to hunt them as the Sioux hunted buffalo. Nevertheless the Indians had plenty of antelope meat. Instead of the hunters following the antelope, they made the animals come to them. That was the purpose of those long lines of rocks you saw on the hills.

"An antelope has a large bump of curiosity. Anything out of the ordinary attracts his attention and arouses his suspicion. The Indians used this to their advantage. They laid up those long lines of rocks across the hills and built small walls at intervals as blinds, stationing a hunter in each blind. Men were sent to drive the animals toward the blinds: when the antelope came to the line of rocks they would not cross over, but ran parallel with the line. This would bring them past the blinds where the Indians could shoot as many as they wanted with their short range bows and arrows."

Since man's bump of curiosity is even larger than an antelope's we decided to go back next day and examine the country more thoroughly. Near Bicknell, the Fremont River flows along the north base of Boulder Mountain through what is called Bicknell Bottoms. In this valley, watered by the river, is a heavy growth of grass. As we reconstructed the situation herds of antelope would come down off the hills to feed in the bottoms. Upon the least alarm they would rush back to the safety of the hills.

Along the brow of the first line of hills above the valley, Indians placed these long lines of boulders, with larger piles at intervals behind which hunters were stationed. Arriving at the brow of the hill, antelope would see the line and turn to run parallel with it rather than jump over it. The lines were by no means a wall. There were plenty of (Continued on page 8)



(Ancient Antelope Run continued from page 7)

spaces through which they could have passed, or they easily could have stepped over any part of it, since the boulders used in its construction were no larger than a man could lift. Yet for reasons known only to the antelope, such a simple line would turn the herds and bring them past the hidden hunters.

The scattered rocks on these hills are composed of black lava. After lying in the soil for a long period, the under side of each rock becomes covered with a white encrustation of lime. When the rocks are freshly turned over they make a distinct white line, contrasting with the undisturbed black rock. No doubt this unfamiliar white coating was sufficient to make the animals suspicious and rather than cross the line they would attempt to circle it, thus passing close to the blinds.

The longest line of rocks we found ran for over a mile, with heaps of rocks every few hundred feet indicating old blinds. But there were other lines paralleling it for part of the distance and some shorter ones running at right angles. In one place lines had been built in the form of two V's. Where they converged three large blinds had been constructed which were still in a fair state of preservation. This arrangement apparently had been more successful and had been used longer than the others. Any one of the three was large enough to hide two or three hunters. Antelope rushing up the hill would be caught between the lines and rush past the blinds in such a closely packed group that hunters could scarcely miss.

Many hundreds of tons of rock had been moved to construct these runs, representing a great amount of labor, but the work probably was carried on over a long period of time. The longest line, with its subsidiary wings, seems to have been built first and later abandoned in favor of the V-shaped run, where the blinds were still in good shape. All the white lime covering the under side of these rocks when first overturned, long since had been removed by the elements.

"Have you any idea how old those antelope runs are?" we asked Jackson. "Old Tahgee told my father," he explained, "that when he was a small boy, probably six or seven years old, the whole country was covered with snow one winter, so deep and remaining so long that all antelope and other game died. For many years afterward there were no antelope in this country. A few small bands drifted back after pioneer times, but they soon were exterminated."

Knowing the age of Worthen Jackson's father and estimating Tahgee's age at 85, it seemed evident that the hard winter and deep snow which killed the game in Fremont valley occurred in 1833. According to records of Rocky mountain trappers, the deep snows of that winter killed off all buffalo in Utah. If this calculation is correct, the antelope runs on the hills above Bicknell Bottoms were not used after 1833 and may have been constructed a hundred years or more before that time. Since the land is useless for agriculture, they probably will remain forever as a memorial to primitive hunters who learned to outwit America's fleetest game.

HUNTER BAGS COMMISSION SEAT

By Nancy L. Lewis

Native Arizonan William H. "Bill" McLean has been named by Governor Janet Napolitano to a position on the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. He will replace outgoing Commissioner Joe Carter when the Arizona Senate confirms his appointment in the near future.

Bill was born and raised in Ajo, Arizona, where his father, John McLean, worked at Phelps Dodge's New Cornelia Copper Mine and was also the Juvenile Officer for the community. For obvious reason, Bill led an exemplary childhood. Other teenagers in Ajo only had to hear the two words "John McLean" to persuade them to mend their errant ways. Bill had to live with the two words! Harriett McLean, Bill's mother, taught in the Curley Elementary School, so Bill was double-whammied. As a child, he couldn't misbehave because his mom was always there, and as a teenager he couldn't misbehave because he knew his dad would find out before he ever got home, and death would ensue. So Bill and his older sister, Sally, had no choice but to be the kids everybody else's moms wished their kids would imitate. But far from being unpopular because of such a reputation, they were both well-liked and involved in the activities in which all kids in a small town take part.

Bill graduated from Ajo High School and left for the big city (Tucson) to attend the University of Arizona, where he earned a Bachelor of Science and Business Administration degree before earning his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arizona School of Law. He began his legal career by distinguishing himself as the last male law clerk Arizona Supreme Court Justice Lorna Lockwood hired. He then plied his trade in the Maricopa County Attorney's Office for three years, followed by going into private practice as an associate with the law firm of Stewart & Pickrell. He later became a partner, and the firm name was changed to Stewart & McLean. In 1993, after twenty years in private practice, Bill was named Chief Civil Deputy in the Pinal County Attorney's Office, where he still retains his (Continued on page 9)

(Hunter Bags Commission Seat continued from page 8)

title, which gives him the position of being second in command in the Pinal County Attorney's Office. Bill's legal skills will be a great asset for the Commission, as he will be able to quickly research and give good advice as to how to handle the many legal issues that present themselves on a continuing basis, as well as immediately grasp the many briefings of the Department's legal counsel.

Bill and his wife, Linda, reside in Gold Canyon and spend most weekends and holidays at their second home (which Bill built himself) on the shores of Mormon Lake. He looks forward to retiring to this haven in the near future -- probably in 2005. His two daughters, Sara and Shannon, have graduated from college and are now on their own. He stays busy with his two Brittany spaniels, Too (Linda wouldn't let him name the dog after Bill's recently deceased dog, Whitewing Feathers, so he named her Whitewing Feathers, Too) and Angel (so named because she definitely isn't one!)

Our newest Commissioner grew up hunting, fishing, camping, and enjoying everything about the outdoors with his dad. His father taught him well, and Bill is one of the most experienced, ethical, and knowledgeable outdoorsmen the Game and Fish Commission has ever had the good fortune to have grace its panel. He cherishes every hunt and every fishing and camping trip, because they bring back memories of good times with his great dad and great times with his good friends. He even recently obtained his Arizona guide's license in order to give him more outdoor opportunities with his dogs. (And, "To pay for their dog food!") One other trait Bill McLean has, and everybody will quickly know it, is his wonderful sense of humor.

Bill hunts with a rifle, muzzleloader, pistol, and shotgun. He has hunted every Arizona game species except sheep and has harvested all of them except bear, mountain lion, Coues deer, and sheep. In addition, he has hunted in almost all of the western states, including Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Washington, and Kansas. He holds memberships in the Arizona Antelope Foundation, of which organization he is a past president and a sustaining member; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Quail Unlimited; Ducks Unlimited; and Western Game Bird Alliance. He is also a life member of the National Rifle Association.

Our future commissioner's main goal is to see that the Department hires a person who is a habitat specialist with a degree in land use planning. As Chief Civil Deputy for the Pinal County Attorney's Office, Bill has been deeply involved in the matter wherein a developer wants to drop 75,000 people into habitat where the last remnant of native desert bighorn sheep reside near the Silverbells. He finds it outrageous that any such enterprise is even being considered. He says: "The only time we worry is when the habitat contains a threatened or endangered species, and the way land is planned and zoned has got to change. The Commission and the Department absolutely must get involved in giving, as well as getting, input into land use planning, when it comes to zoning within Arizona counties and cities. In Pinal County, people want to zone large tracts of land, and the county permits them to do it without receiving input on the effect of such planning and zoning on wildlife, wildlife habitat, water, and light near our observatories. If developers must identify burial grounds and pottery shards before being allowed to build, and if those developers must take care of skirting those places and protecting them, why can't our agency demand the same consideration of structure development to protect our wildlife and its habitat? We need a similar process of adequate game surveys by these developers, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department as an agency must be involved in order to mitigate the loss of wildlife. We must make a showing and become part of the process. If animals must be translocated, that needs to be in the plan before the first road is bladed, and fawning areas must be protected. Just look at all the decisions the Forest Service makes that affect wildlife and wildlife habitat with absolutely no input from the Game and Fish Department. We have got to find a way to get the Commission and the Department involved in that process."

Bill's second hope for accomplishment during his Commission tenure is to obtain more cooperation between and input from the various sporting organizations for the benefit of wildlife instead of individual organizations and/or individual people. He sees a great need for all sportsmen to put a stop to personality issues and plain old-fashioned fighting among ourselves. In his words: "Stop that crap! Compromise. Find middle ground. Do it for the animals, not the organizations or the individuals. People don't have to like certain other people, but if it will help the animals, forgo the coalition-splitting nonsense. Duke it out in the alley with the person you have issues with, if you want to, but give it a rest when civility and cooperation are necessary for the good of wildlife."

Other than those two endeavors, Bill will strive to dedicate himself to all the things commissioners routinely do: make sound decisions that benefit wildlife and habitat. He will serve us well.





JUNE 26TH WORK PROJECT SPRINGERVILLE

Following a day of fixing fences, the AAF will provide a Steak Dinner. Camp and project are located near the junctions of State Highway 261 (Mexican Hay Lake Road) and State Highway 273 (Big Lake-Sunrise Road). There is a knoll about 1/2 mile north of Crescent Lake. We will camp on the north side of that knoll. Please be sure to check our website, www.azantelope.org for Forest Restriction/Closure information prior to the event.

BOQUILLAS RANCH CLEANUP JUNE 26TH IN UNIT 10

We have another important project scheduled for the 26th of June...helping clean up the Boquillas Ranch! So if you can't make it to Springerville to help out on our fencing project, head north & west to Seligman, as the Mohave Sportsman Club needs your help in making a difference on this Navajo owned land, where they continue to allow public access and hunting. The Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast are compliments of the AZ Deer Association. Thanks to both these organizations, and any AAF members that can represent us in the cleanup!

BELLEMONT SHOOTING RANGE MOVING FORWARD!

The 9th Circuit Court rejected the appeal of the developer suing to stop the Bellemont Range. We also understand the Governor's office will now release the necessary land swap paperwork for the continued development of the Bellemont Range.

PRONGHORN #49...

Congratulations to Jim Ammons, one of our Yuma members! He guessed #49 scored 76 3/8. Bill Keebler, Past President and Boone & Crockett Official Measurer, scored # 49 at 76 4/8! None of the other 7 members were even close. (Why only 8 people entered the contest, we don't know?)

Kudos to Jim, he donated the winnings back to the AAF, and while he was at it also donated some cash to boot to help in our "First Ever" Fundraiser...Thanks Jim!

STATE LAND INITIATIVE

What's going on with this topic? It has to do with about 9 million acres of State Trust Land the State of Arizona still controls. Over the last several months a "consortium" of groups got together to change the rules relative to these lands. On the surface, there might be some positive that could come from this, since these lands are under control of the Enabling Act, which is about 100 years old.

On the other side of the coin however, sportsmen and women were not invited to the table to talk about these changes! We were given no input as individuals, and we had no input as conservation or wildlife organizations. So who was there? Ranchers, developers, local governments, environmental groups (the Sierra Club walked out!), and maybe the closest group to a bonafide-on-the-ground-wildlife-conservation organization was the Nature Conservancy.

Here's the latest...this initiative will likely go to a bipartisan committee in the State Legislature soon, for public comment. Then it looks like it will go to a Special Session called by the Governor. Then, on to the ballot.

So it's time to get involved, read the initiative, understand the issues, and let your legislators and the Governor know what you think! Check out our Action Alert in the near future... www.azantelope.org.

- Where is wildlife mentioned in the initiative? Is "it" a recognized value?
- Can hunters still freely access State Trust Land and hunt without hassle while in possession of a valid hunting license? Where does it say this?
- 300, 000 acres will be set aside as open space without reimbursement to the trust
- Ranchers can get longer grazing leases.
- What happened to competitive bids on leases?
- Can wildlife organizations bid on leases?
- Can ranchers lease access rights?
- Can Game & Fish continue to lease State lands...ie: Raymond Ranch?
- Private land exchanges are not addressed

Think about all of the ramifications here...the Sierra Club and Arizona Wildlife Federation have come out against this bill. Maybe the AAF and others need to do likewise!

PRESCOTT RECONSIDERS THE RANCH!

For months the City of Prescott debated the purchase of the CV/CF Ranch for its water rights. At the ninth hour, with an appraisal that came in \$7M under the asking price, they balked, and have now turned their attention to the JWK Ranch instead.

Stay tuned as this saga continues! We need to make sure they keep an eye on antelope and conservation while this next stage unfolds.



AUCTION TAG BREAKS ANOTHER RECORD!

The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society Fundraising Banquet took place on March 6th, and auctioned off our first Commissioner's Special Pronghorn Tag for 2004. The winning bid was \$59,000!

Not to be out done, the Arizona Elk Society's Fundraising Banquet was held March 27th and Special Tag #2 was auctioned. The winning bidder paid \$67,500 for this tag! This sum broke the previous record set at the 2003 AES Fundraiser of \$65,000.

Those two tags will provide \$126,500 for pronghorn habitat projects in Arizona. The local Habitat Partnership Committees around the state have already submitted numerous project proposals for allocating this money, and an AAF committee will meet with Game & Fish personnel soon, to work on picking the best projects for the pronghorn money.

WCC HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Dozens of trash bags, and a baker's dozen of volunteers... The Carefree Highway exit at I-17 is a bit cleaner thanks to help from Warren Leek, Joe Bill Pickrell, Mike Burris, Larry Cullen, Steve Chevront, Dave Laird, Sue Foote, Bruce Johnson, Dominic Lopano, Jim Unmacht, Tracy Unmacht, Grace Unmacht and Jimmy Unmacht. The WCC member clubs these volunteers represented included Arizona Antelope Foundation, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Arizona Deer Association, Arizona Elk Society, and Arizona Predator Callers. Special thanks to Warren and Joe Bill for organizing the event, Basha's for donating refreshments, and Pete Cimellaro for delivering the refreshments.

PRESCOTT WILDLIFE FAIR

Jim Unmacht, Dave Laird and Bill Keebler made the trip north to Prescott on April 1st, where they met up with Past President from Prescott Jim McCasland, to work the AAF booth at the Game & Fish Wildlife Fair. It was estimated we had over 500 people attend the Fair over the course of the evening, giving us a chance to talk about pronghorn in an area that still has a few left! We did our level best to educate all comers on the issues surrounding the pronghorn problems, and in particular, habitat loss. We handed out a lot of brochures and information, hopefully making a difference in a place where it's needed!

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS!

- Federated Insurance Foundation for sponsoring our website during 2004
- Gregg's Automotive for building and donating a charcoal grill for our project steak fries

2004 SPORTSMAN'S EXPO

When the International Sportsman's Expo makes its annual visit to Phoenix, it's a red-letter calendar highlight for Arizona sportsmen and women. This year the dates were February 19 - 22 and, as usual, the Arizona Antelope Foundation was well represented with a nice booth manned all four days by volunteers. Of course, the rifle raffle was certainly a big attraction and many were drawn to our booth to purchase tickets for a chance to win the Weatherby Ultra Lightweight 257 Mag with a 4.5 x 14 Zeiss Scope. The lucky winner was Brian Pinney, but the AAF made over \$1,200 for antelope, and that's the real story here. As expected, we also signed up new members, sold merchandise and spread as much good will as possible. Many thanks to all who helped with our booth this year: Dave Brown, Larry Cullen, Sue Foote, Jerry Guevin, Bill Hook, Bruce Johnson, Don Johnson, Bill Keebler, Mary Keebler, Embe Kugler, Dave Laird, Warren Leek, Rick Long, Connie Taylor and Jim Unmacht. Your selfless efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Bruce Johnson



BEN AVERY SHOOTING FACILITY

Voted by the people as one of Phoenix's newest Points of Pride. There are 3 new recipients to this award, and the Ben Avery Shooting Facility received 68% of all votes!



See what sportsmen and women can do when they put their mind to something!

YAVAPAI RANCH LAND EXCHANGE REMAINS ON HOLD

As of this writing we continue to wait for our Arizona Senators McCain and Kyle, to come to an agreement and finally make this long-awaited land swap a reality!



ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION
P. O. BOX 15501
PHOENIX, AZ 85060-5501

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!

<i>WHAT?</i>	<i>WHEN?</i>	<i>WHERE?</i>
The Arizona Antelope Foundation Board Meetings	June 14 6:30 PM July 12 6:30 PM August 9 6:30 PM	The Phoenix Zoo 455 N. Galvin Parkway
The Wildlife Conservation Council Board Meetings	June 22 6:30 PM July 27 6:30 PM August 24 6:30 PM	AZ Game & Fish Department 2221 W. Greenway Rd
AZ Elk Society's Wapiti Weekend	June 19-20	Sipe White Mt. Wildlife Area
AAF Work Project	June 26th	Springerville
Boquillas Ranch Cleanup	June 26 th	Near Seligman
AAF "First Ever" Fundraising Banquet	August 7 4:00 PM	El Zaribah Shriner, Phoenix
AAF Hunter Clinic	August 17 th 4:00 PM	Club Rio, Tempe

If you have an upcoming event, send us the information at azantelope@cox.net.