



# PRONGHORN

*1st Quarter 2010*

*Volume 16, Number 1*



# ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION, INC.

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### AAF Mission Statement:

The Arizona Antelope Foundation is an organization dedicated to the welfare of pronghorn antelope. The Foundation's Mission is to actively seek to increase pronghorn populations in Arizona through habitat improvements, habitat acquisition, the translocation of animals to historic range, and public comment on activities affecting pronghorn and their habitat.



## ON THE COVER

Once again Richard Ockenfels shares with us his love of antelope and photography with this photo of a herd of antelope. He captured this view recently near Williamson Valley researching for his *Pronghorn* feature "Pronghorn Viewing". You can read the story and see more photos beginning on page 10.

*Pronghorn* is a quarterly newsletter for the members of AAF. Letters, comments, news items, articles, pictures and stories are all welcome and will be considered for publication. Address all such items to: Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 12590, Glendale, AZ 85318, or by email at [info@azantelope.org](mailto:info@azantelope.org).

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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I would like to introduce myself, I am Shane Stewart, and I am the 2010 AAF President. I have been a general member of the organization since 2000, and a Life member and active on the board since 2007. I have served the organization as a Director as well as Vice President. The time that I have spent as a board member has truly been a pleasure, and has only fueled my desire to further serve this organization.

For 2010 AAF has assembled one of the most competent Leadership Teams I have ever had the pleasure of serving with. I am excited about the prospects of what we can accomplish this year! We just completed our 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Planning Session, where we identified and prioritized some of our goals for the next five years. In order to accomplish these goals, however, we need people. So, the main crux of this message is **member involvement and recruitment**.

**We need your help!** Our first and foremost goal is to obtain new membership. We need an active membership base if we are to ever grow as an organization, and make a larger impact in preserving antelope. We could use help in any capacity a person is willing to give. If fundraisers or banquets are your bag, join our Fund-raiser Committee. Like getting something done “on the ground”, attend one of our work projects. Want to participate in discussions that deal directly with antelope and their habitat, be our guest at one of our monthly meetings. One of the most helpful things you can do is tell your friends about us, and encourage them to become members. We have many opportunities for those with a “servant’s heart”, give me a call or drop me a line and I will personally work with you to get you plugged in to our organization.

**They need our help!** Pronghorn numbers in this state are on the decline in many areas. Their habitat is being taken by urban sprawl, invasive plant species and highway expansion. Fawn recruitment numbers are at an all time low due to predation and contributing factors. **The outlook is grim, but not hopeless!!!** Many people are unaware of the perilous path that our pronghorn are on right now. This is our job as well, **change public perception**. This is the big game species in the state that needs the most amount of help, however it is constantly overlooked. The pronghorn is its own worst advocate. Pronghorn are very viewable, this fuels the perception that pronghorn are not in trouble. Pronghorn are very sensitive to what kind of landscape they inhabit, and are far less adaptive than many think. We are working diligently to make the public aware of the true issues. Part



of our plan is a new public awareness program. Signs will be placed in all past and future work site areas as well as travel corridors, to help inform the public on what we are doing to help the antelope and what the pronghorn are up against.

**We must stand united!** If we are to pass on the legacy of the *Antilocapra Americana* to future generations, we must come together and work tirelessly to preserve them. This cause is multi pronged (pardon the pun) and will take the concerted effort of dedicated and passionate individuals to make a difference. I feel more passion towards this animal than I can begin to express into words. It symbolizes all that the West has come to stand for. Come join us as we lead the charge in preserving one of our greatest natural resources, the American Pronghorn.

**The door is always open!** I am available any time to discuss our organization, volunteer opportunities, donations, habitat improvement or Pronghorn. Please feel free to call or email with anything you might have on your mind. I hope to see you in the future, until then, may you hear the call of conservation.

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

*Shane Stewart*

# AAF Antelope Daze

## Sporting Clay Tournament

Noon – 2:00 and 2:30 – 4:30

100 shooters / 2 shooting times  
50 Birds for each shooter: 4 report  
pairs and 1 natural pair per station

Shooters must pre-register and will be placed  
in their preferred time slots on a first come  
first served basis. Individual and Team  
Awards

Cost: \$50 per shooter or \$250 per  
Team of 5

All Shooters must provide their own shotgun, ammuni-  
tion, and Eye & Hearing Protection

Proceeds to benefit  
**AZ Antelope Foundation &  
Outdoor Experience 4 ALL**

**Raffles,  
Prizes &  
Special Drawings  
at all events!**

For more information see our  
website, [www.azantelope.org](http://www.azantelope.org)  
or call 602-361-6478

# May 8, 2010 Ben Avery Shooting Facility

## Hunter Clinic

7:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Informative Clinic covering a variety of  
topics:

- \*Optics
- \*Field Care
- \*Taxidermy
- \*Rifle & Archery Hunting Tactics
- \*Trophy Evaluation/Judging

Visit with representatives from AZ  
Game & Fish for your hunting unit

Cost: FREE for AAF members  
\$15 for non-members

**Attend one  
or All events!**

## Benefit BBQ and Auction

5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Food catered by Shane's Rib Shack

Live & Silent Auctions, Raffles & Blitzes

**Auction of Commissioner's  
Special Tags for Antelope & Bear**

Award Presentation for Sporting Clay  
Tournament

Cost: Individual \$45 / Couples \$75  
Children \$25 (Under 10)  
Corporate Tables for 8 \$700

Tickets must be purchased in advance

# PRONGHORN CAPTURE

BY MATT MASSEY LIFE MEMBER #22

I sat down in front of my computer one day in late December and I opened up mail. There was a very intriguing one from the AZ Game & Fish Department. It read, "It looks like the weather is going to cooperate with this years the 19A Pronghorn capture and release, we need volunteers for Sat. and Sun. Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>." It also stated that if you signed up to participate that you needed to be there for both days. So I immediately contacted Erin Redding from the Kingman region, she told me the when and where and all the specifics.

So I signed up my brother Guy, a good friend Tony and myself and really didn't quite know what we were getting into.....But boy were we ever in for a surprise.

Saturday morning January 9<sup>th</sup> rolled around; I was up and heading to Prescott Valley. We were to meet at the Prescott Valley Fairgrounds at 7:30. There were about 25 AZGFD employees and 45 volunteers in attendance for that cold morning meeting. The meeting lasted about 30 minutes and after all the details were gone over and all the paperwork signed off, we went to the capture site.

You see the capture site is about one mile north of my brother's house and over the years he has watched this wild event from his house with binoculars. He has constantly been trying to get me to come up and watch it or get involved in it. He would call me and tell me "Well they were out building fence today", or "hey they flew

the helicopter today and rounded up a bunch in the pen". He was always calling me and asking questions about the antelope and the capture because I joined the Arizona Antelope Foundation in 2005 and have been an involved member ever since. I have met a lot of great people and families from these projects.

We had to park in a designated corral area and walk to the actual capture site about a half mile. Once there we all split into semi organized groups and began various tasks. We spent the day pounding fence posts, erecting fences, wiring fences up, welding damaged fence posts, installing gates, erecting 8' posts and 8' netting, securing the round pen, installing the divider curtain and



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## SE ARIZONA COLLABORATIVE GRASSLAND WORKGROUP

BY GLEN DICKENS, AAF DIRECTOR

A new working group was recently begun by the Tucson Regional Office of the Arizona Game and Fish Department called the "Southeast Arizona Collaborative Grassland Workgroup". It's overall goal is to bring together all the government agencies and NGO's for structured approaches to grassland conservation and management of the Sky Island Grasslands zone of southeastern Arizona. The first meeting was held at the Sonoita Fire Station on February 9, 2010, and was very well attended including representatives of Arizona Antelope Foundation (3-Board members) , AGFD, BLM, USFS, SLD, USDA, USFWS, Pima County, Arizona Wildlife Federation, Nature Conservancy and Audubon Society. The group's initial species focus will be on Pronghorn. Each attendee was asked to give a project update and it was both gratifying and enlightening to

hear about various efforts/projects that have been going on independently on behalf of Pronghorn and the grasslands they occupy in southeastern Arizona. This collaborative working group will galvanize and multiply those efforts. A principle focus of current efforts will be to pursue all available sources of project funding with an emphasis on multifunded/leveraged on-the-ground project proposals. They are looking closely at applying for Pronghorn project funds through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's "Sky Island Business Plan". That plan has Pronghorn as one of it's 5 key indicator species eligible for grant funding. The AAF can play a major role by being a key applicant for the available funding and with cooperative agreement(s) put those funds to work in the region. As this endeavor moves forward, we will keep you updated on the progress.

# BUENOS AIRES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE PROJECT

BY HAYLEIGH DAUGHERTY, GIRL SCOUT TROOP 9

“There’s nothing good about cold, wet Girl Scout-cicles.” That was what constantly ran through Jen Anderson’s mind for days before she was supposed to haul seven teenage girls from Scottsdale to Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge along the Mexican border. As a Girl Scout Troop Leader with almost five years of experience, she’d seen how miserable life could get (especially for her personally) when her girls got caught in a downpour. And the weather report told her no less. The weekend of the Arizona Antelope Foundation’s (AAF) work project of ripping out rusted old barbed wire fence was expected to be plagued with a mess of high wind and thunder storms. But Troop 9, along with about 50 other volunteers, refused to stay home.

About nine o’clock on Friday night, Troop 9 arrived at the campsite where Jen’s husband, and the AAF’s project manager, Scott Anderson, had tents assembled. After a good half hour of sorting out 15 sleeping bags for seven girls, the girls snuggled into a *very* warm tent. Sleep came swiftly, but not without fear of the dark clouds threatening to quite literally rain on their parade the following day.

Saturday morning, Catherine, Hayl, Allison, Dallas, Ana, Emile, and Ashley emerged from their tent more or less ready to take on the mile and a half of fence that needed to be removed from the refuge. That didn’t mean they wouldn’t accept help from a breakfast burrito and a bit of morning caffeine. Around the morning campfire the girls met up with a few friendly faces like President Shane Stewart, Art, Kyler and Mark Boswell, as well as a new volunteer by the name of Dory who was bravely willing to give the AAF a try. In a matter of an hour, volunteers loaded into any vehicle with a willing driver and headed off to the visitor’s center of the refuge to meet up with the other volunteers, all



the while overcast skies still promised rain. But other problems took their place first.

Upon reaching the wildlife refuge’s visitor center fully equipped with post pullers, wire cutters, quads, and wire rollers, the AAF was confronted with a new road block: the law prohibited non state registered vehicles from driving in the reserve. That eliminated about half of the four-wheelers. After a few minutes of discussion among Scott, Shane, and a few other senior members, the persistence of the AAF succeeded again; it was going to take a lot more than loss of equipment to hold the volunteers back. Gathering into their respective vehicles, it was off again to the worksite. Luckily a single drop of rain had yet to land on the party. So far, so good.

It only took a few minutes on a well-kept dirt road to get to the starting point of the day’s fence. Eager Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, men and women, young and old, took up tools and set to work across the rolling hillside. Despite everyone’s fears, the heavy clouds abandoned their plans for rain and instead became a much loved overhang protecting the work force from the sun. Hours slipped by pleasantly slowly, at least for Troop 9, as the ancient barbed wires one by one were rolled into tight coils, followed by the felling of each lone standing post. It wasn’t long until all that remained of the barrier were thin lines in the dirt from where the wire had been dragged along the ground. Though the morning temperature was hanging in the low 70s, jackets began to be shed as the crew continued on in hard working solitude from the rest of the world.

Munching on brown-bagged lunches, the AAF volunteers conquered the fence foot-by-foot until the

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time had come to retire back to the camp for Chef Mark's famous steak dinner. It didn't take much more than a well earned half pound of perfectly grilled steak and a warm fire to reward the tired volunteers for their successful day. Topped off with cold soda and the Boswell boys' quesadillas, the day had reached a contenting end. Circles formed around the growing flames and remained in rings of storytelling for hours into the night under the smile of a full moon. And finally, near midnight, the storm struck. It barely mattered. With the exception of Mrs. Anderson, who was in her tent rapidly sprouting gray hair as she worried about tents blowing away to Oz, most of the volunteers were too warm and dry to care.

The following morning brought a farewell of drizzling rain, and Mr. Ayotte's delicious hash browns, bacon, & egg breakfast, as the volunteers stowed wet gear and went their separate ways. From as close as Tucson, to as far as Flagstaff, we had gathered to unite under a common goal. Antelope commonly get stuck in barbed wire and die in its clutches. Years of past cattle grazers have left their mark on Arizona at our wildlife's expense. I've been attending AAF projects with my parents, Jen and Scott Anderson, for nearly six years. Even now, each one is still a new adventure. Whether it's bonding with friends, hearing old stories, or just getting a few new bruises to show off at school, there's something to look forward to every trip. If my mom so much as breathes of an upcoming project to the rest of our Girl Scout Troop, it is always a vast majority screaming, "I'm GOING!" I expect to hear the same for every project, no matter how many times we go. Nothing about taking hands-on responsibility for our planet ever gets old, even for a group of high school girls.

**Project volunteers:**

**Tucson:** Boy Scout Troop 270 - Leaders Matt Sipe & Bret Neimeyer, Warren Adams, Art Boswell, Janet Clark, Eugene Hays, Clay Hernandez, Bob & Irene Herrington, Donna Noli, William Pinkerton, Bary Sopher, Gary Tuell, Jim Walcott, Rob Walker

**Maricopa:** Norm Richards

**Phoenix Area:** Girl Scout Troop 9 - Leader Jen Anderson, Scott Anderson, Ross Ayotte, Mark Boswell, Kyler, Samuel & Zach Boswell, Dale & Corinne Hall, Janet Millard, Andrew Oldak, Dory Raddatz, Shane Stewart, Al Sue

**Oro Valley:** Jim Littlejohn

**Prescott:** Gary Boyer, Dale Maas

**Sahuarita:** Rose Quiroga, Bryce Waddell



Photos by Scott & Jen Anderson

# DOING THE WORK - VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

## STORY & PHOTOS BY RICHARD OCKENFELS, AAF DIRECTOR

**N**on-profit organizations don't just happen. It takes hard work and dedication from concerned and involved individuals to make an organization like the Arizona Antelope Foundation successful and long-lasting. Following is one of a series of articles on a Foundation "mover and shaker". Here, you can learn a little about one of these interesting individuals that I will be profiling.

### Dr. David E. Brown: A Naturalist for the Southwest

If you are interested in natural history of the Southwest, then David's name should be very familiar to you. Often considered one of the premier naturalists of the Southwest, David is probably Arizona's most well-known. An author or co-author of nearly a dozen books on wildlife and their habitats, an editor of another dozen or so, and involved in hundreds of other scientific and popular publications, he is a serious scientist with a tremendous dedication to the written word. His resume alone is 23 pages, filled with nearly endless publications. It is hard to pick up any publication without finding an article by David somewhere within the publication. David is so well-respected, that he was inducted into the Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame in 2002. And, he hasn't let up yet!

You have probably seen David's name and picture in the quarterly newsletter, as he has likely published more articles in its history than anyone else. David is a founding Charter member of the Arizona Antelope Foundation, being asked to join in forming the organization by co-founders Nancy Lewis and Pete Cimmellaro in 1992, and became a Life member in 2005. He has served as Vice-President and President (1997) for the organization, and has been a member of the Board of Directors every year since its inception, being perhaps the only member to so serve. He has also served as a variety of committee chairs. Obviously, his love for pronghorn means he is in it for the long term.

Born in central Wisconsin, David has long ties to Arizona. Professionally, he decided to become a wildlife biologist and attended San Jose State University in California to further that goal. After graduating in 1961 with his B.A. in Natural Resource Conservation, he was hired by Arizona Game and Fish Department in 1961 as a Wildlife Manager trainee. The concept of a WM only started in 1961, with the first class of recruits, and David was in the second class. During his long and



distinguished career with the agency, he served in a variety of capacities, mostly in the Game Branch—that section of the Department responsible for statewide management of harvested species of wildlife. He retired under the State Law Enforcement Retirement System (being a peace officer throughout his career) in 1989 as the Chief of Game Management, after rising through the ranks of Small and then Big Game Supervisor.

After a stint as an editor of a magazine, David returned to his main love, wildlife. David became an Adjunct Professor at Arizona State University's main campus in 1993, a position he still holds today. A fair number of biologists in Arizona today learned part of their craft under David's watchful and keen eye. Like a lot of business colleges have learned with practicing professionals being the educator, there is no better way

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to learn about the craft of managing wildlife than from a practicing biologist, one who has seen it all over the years.

He considers the pronghorn his favorite big game animal, since seeing his first herd in Lassen County, California, when attending San Jose State. David has been involved in pronghorn management ever since, first as a Wildlife Manager, then as Big Game Supervisor and Chief of Game Management, and now as an Adjunct Professor. Today, he is helping guide several graduate students in their studies of the species. His deep love for the critter resulted in the recent publication of the Foundation's book on pronghorn—*Arizona's Pronghorn Antelope: A Conservation Legacy*. He was the lead author and driving force behind this well-received book.

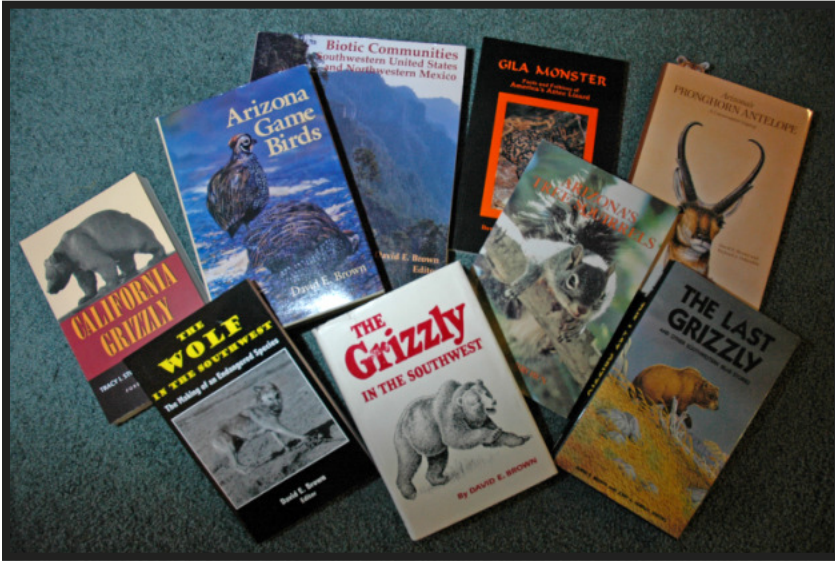
First introduced to the great outdoors by his father and uncle, David has a life-long attraction to natural history and the history of wildlife in Arizona. His fascination with historical information has led to a number of books, with the latest being the editor of the newly released book by the Arizona Game and Fish Department—*Arizona Wildlife: The*

*Territorial Years 1863-1912*. Previously, David was co-editor of Goode P. Davis, Jr's *Man and Wildlife in Arizona: The American Exploration Period 1824-1862*, the first in the series. And, he is starting work on part three of the series, to cover the period of 1912-1962.

Beyond being a naturalist, scientist, manager, educator, writer, and wildlife consultant, David enjoys both hunting and fishing time to be afield in the outdoors. To varying degrees, his family joins him in some of his outdoor pursuits. At times, his granddaughter has assisted him at AAF functions, and his daughter helps out on many of his publications, being his chief computer operator and organizer.

Although his heart is in Arizona, David has traveled the world to view wildlife and their habitats. Places like Mexico (visited 30

states in the republic), Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Virgin Islands, Great Britain, Costa Rica, Italy, Spain, and South Africa. He has been in most Central American countries at one time or another. After all of his travels, he always comes back to his beloved Arizona. And, no matter what he is working on, he always is working on something to do with pronghorn. We should all thank him for that! If a pronghorn could talk, David would be their first choice for a for a long and deep chat. They don't know that he is working for their benefit, but we sure do. Lifelong dedication, what more can be asked for.



# VIEWING PRONGHORN

BY RICHARD OCKENFELS, AAF DIRECTOR

## WILLIAMSON VALLEY

A favorite area to go look at pronghorn is in central Arizona, just northwest of Prescott. Williamson Valley Road (Yavapai County 5; CR 5) connects Prescott, off of Iron Springs Road, to I-40 at Seligman. Two-thirds of the road is improved dirt, as the pavement ends at the junction of the Camp Wood Road (CR 68; primitive road), with the remaining 45 miles to Seligman a good dirt road that is well traveled.

If in the Prescott area, either take Williamson Valley Road north from its junction with Iron Springs on the western edge of the city, or to increase your odds of viewing some pronghorn, take SR 89 north towards Chino Valley to the Outer Loop Road. Follow the Outer Loop Road west to its junction with Williamson Valley Road. If you are coming out of the Phoenix metro or Tucson Metro areas, take SR 69 towards Prescott from I-17.

At Prescott Valley, follow the Fain Road (light at Country Club Blvd) north around Prescott Valley to

circumvent the town by slicing through lower Lonesome Valley. Prior to the Fain Cutoff being completed, Lonesome Valley was arguably the best pronghorn viewing habitat in the state, if not in the Southwest. Today, the new high-speed road between SR 69 and SR 89A (Prescott to Cottonwood, Sedona, Flagstaff) bisected the valley, which further fragmented the antelope habitat in the valley. Combined with the long-term drought, and what I consider as inappropriate livestock grazing during a drought period, this area is much degraded compared to just 20 years ago. The old Fain Road through the lower valley was once a “*Wildlife Viewing Area*” in the first edition of the **Arizona Wildlife Viewing Guide** (Falcon Press) and the opportunity to see pronghorn was very high. A low-speed dirt road through outstanding habitat afforded folks the chance to stop and view the numerous antelope. Now, with the new paved highway, viewing opportunities are limited and it is unsafe to slow down or stop to view the few that venture near the traffic. I can no longer recommend

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lower Lonesome Valley as a viewing area. The best seems to have vanished by the combined effects of poor climate and man's unrelenting conquest of nature.

After following Fain Cutoff for 7 miles, you junction with SR 89A. Continue westward on SR 89A. This recently divided, upgraded highway cuts through the northern end of Prescott Valley as it heads west to its junction with SR 89. It transverses some excellent pronghorn habitat until it drops into the Granite Creek drainage. Unfortunately, more fragmentation of the antelope habitat is underway, with construction of yet another roadway in the valley. But enough of the problems of the lower valley, as this is a problem better relayed to the public in its own story. Recently, I saw the largest herd, 125 or more, wintered up along a ridge prior to dropping into Granite Creek drainage. What a fabulous view, but safety along the highway is a serious concern, even for a short stop to view or photograph. I had to hike back from a safe pull off to get some photographs. But, it was worth it.

At the junction of SR 89, you have two options: 1) continue westward on the new highway, which becomes Pioneer Parkway, which then ends at Williamson Valley Road, or 2) turn north on SR 89 to proceed towards Chino Valley. I typically head north towards Chino Valley. Between Prescott and Chino Valley is some prime antelope habitat, however, viewing opportunities are limited due to the higher speed of the old highway and the tremendous increase in traffic between the two communities. Talk about rush hour traffic! On weekdays, the morning and evening commutes are just awful, so avoid those time periods. Weekends are not bad at all. I tend to go out early on weekends or after the morning rush is done—since pronghorn are diurnal (out during the day), viewing can occur later in the morning.

After driving 4.5 miles to the Chino Valley town limits, continue another mile to the new round-around at the Outer Loop Road. Head west (left) on the Loop Road, which ventures south around Chino Valley and later ends at Williamson Valley Road. After a 1.5-mile drive westward, you should see Reed Road.



Sometimes I take it into Chino Valley. Pronghorn often are seen in the open section of habitat that juts into Chino Valley. On a recent day trip between Christmas and New Year's, I saw a nice-sized feeding herd, around 35 animals, on the south side of the Loop Road, near the white-painted pipeline. Remember, the Outer Loop Road can have considerable traffic at times, so be safe in pulling off the road edge.

After nearly 4 miles on the Loop Road, you should see the signed, southern entrance to Williamson Valley Ranch. Notice the neat pronghorn metalwork on the top of the huge wooden entrance. Boy, I need to buy such beautiful metalwork for my antelope collection. The same metalwork is on the western entrance off Williamson Valley Road. I saw a herd of 16 feeding near the road, on the north side. Again, pulling off the road is tricky, so be sure to think about safety. Soon, the Loop junctions with Williamson Valley Road.

Turn north and head through the ranchette-style housing for the next 6-7 miles. After 6.5 miles, you top out and can see the expansive valley before you. The Juniper Mountains are to the west. Cross Mint Wash and the railroad tracks and soon you are at the junction of Fair Oaks Road (CR 67;  $N 34 46 24.6 \times W 112 37 10.3$  for your GPS unit). Did you notice the pronghorn metalwork on the ranch entrance after crossing the bridge? I need that wonderful metalwork too.

Now, you are in prime antelope viewing habitat. I typically take paved Fair Oaks Road westward onto the beautiful Las Vegas Ranch first. However, CR 67 cuts through private property, so be sure to honor landowner rights and stay on the right-of-way. After approximately a mile, slow down and notice the wildlife crossing under the right-of-way fences, which are 4-strand and a high bottom wire smooth in construction—good wildlife friendly fencing. The crossing is prior to the windmill, in the small drainage area. I have seen

antelope cross here a number of times, with the best time when I had just discussed the issue with the Prescott College wildlife class on a field trip, and the students got to see a small herd cross just as I told them minutes earlier. Talk about expert luck!

Continue on Fair Oaks past

(Continued on page 12)

*(Viewing Pronghorn continued from page 11)*

entrances to the Las Vegas and Long Meadow ranches. Soon a stop sign halts your progress. The pavement continues on as CR 66 south around Granite Mountain to junction with Iron Springs Road. Much of it is dirt. I tend to go straight onto the dirt road to see if any animals are in the ag fields ahead. Here, I was able to show the students a large wintering herd feeding in the fresh green growth of an ag field. All of the 30+ animals dipped under the bottom strand of the fence to get out of the field. More expert luck, as we had just discussed the way pronghorn typically go under fences rather than jump them. Typically, I return towards Williamson Valley Road, but look for pronghorn in the grasslands and the edges of the shrubby areas. In the spring, I have seen does with new fawns in this area a number of times. Also notice the poor fences of 5-strand, low to the ground, and barbed on the bottom strand. Contrast these to the nearby wildlife friendly fences.

Continue northward on Williamson Valley Road 5 miles to the Camp Wood Road (CR 68; *N 34 49 56.1 x W 112 38 51.5*). I often drive westward on CR 68 towards the Juniper Mountains. After 3.5 miles, and now in chaparral habitat, you reach the Las Vegas Road entrances—the ranch is slowly developing part of the area, which the recession has slowed considerably, I suspect. Here, I turn around and return to Williamson Valley Road, again looking for wildlife, in particular

antelope.

At the Camp Wood junction, CR 5 turns to dirt in its northward trek to Seligman. Typically, the road is in good enough condition for most vehicles, if it hasn't recently rained or snowed. So, proceed with caution if the road isn't in good shape. Soon, you can see the Big Chino Valley area, under the Black Mesa Escarpment, Bill Williams Mountain, and even the San Francisco Peaks. In the winter, like my recent trip, the mountains stand out in their white coats. For the next several miles, the road cuts through the corridor that still connects Williamson Valley to the Big Chino, the best remaining large antelope habitat in central Arizona. Movements of radio-collared antelope indicate that the corridor is still functional and effective. However, upgrades to Williamson Valley, in the early planning stages, could be detrimental to herds in the area if not done correctly.

After 8.5 miles on CR 5, you reach the USFS Prescott National Forest boundary. Most often, I turn around rather than continue northward through the Juniper Woodland/chaparral habitat that predominates the middle section of Williamson Valley Road on its journey to Seligman. If you have time, continue north to Seligman for lunch. You will see some beautiful wildlife habitat, maybe see some mule deer, elk, or javelina. If not adequate time or interest, return back and revisit Camp Wood Road, Fair Oaks Road, and the rest of the pronghorn habitat. Lunch in Chino Valley or lunch in Seligman—both are good choices.



# MEMBERSHIP

## LIFE MEMBERS

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

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Jim Babbitt, Flagstaff	Randy Gaskill, Show Low	Richard Ockenfels, Mayer
Mark Boswell, Mesa,	Roger Hailey, Flagstaff	Bob & Judy Prosser, Winslow
Bill Cole, Glendale	Paul Medina, Peoria	Walt Scringeur, Prescott
Paul & Joann Delaney, Flagstaff	Peter Mertz, Phoenix	Tice Supplee, Phoenix
Eugene & Linda Dightmon, Peoria	Jay Morrison, Peoria	Jim & Tracy Unmacht, Phoenix
Michael Domanico, Scottsdale	Susan Morse, Jericho VT	David L. Wolf, Flagstaff

## FAMILY MEMBERS

Jerry & Anthony Acedo, Phoenix	Chad Jones, New River	David & Debra Scott, Glendale
Jim & Rita Ammons, Yuma	Dave & Sue Laird, Peoria	James & Joyce Silvey, Scottsdale
Robin & Billie Bechtel, Show Low	Pat McFall & Mary Love, Peoria	Barry Sopher, Tucson
Larry Cales, Peoria	The Munroe Family, Goodyear	Floramae Teskey, Mayer
Rob & Kelly Chabak, Phoenix	Amy & Stephen Ostwinkle, Gilbert	John & Elaine Wintersteen, Paradise Valley
Ken & Kathy Cook, Casa Grande	Henry Provencio, Mormon Lake	Jim Wood, Glendale
Brian & Dorothy Dolan, Tucson	Daniel Robinett, Catalina	
David & Kevin Foulk, Tempe	Ryna Rock & Ken Stephens, Camp Verde	

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Travis Roberts, Sahuana

***April 10th Work Project  
Postponed to June 12th***

Conditions are just too wet to conduct the project at this time. Watch your mail for a project flyer. Information will also be available on our website soon.

*(Pronghorn Capture continued from page 5)*

the outside perimeter curtain. There was a lot to do but with a lot of help, a bunch of hard work and communication we were ready for tomorrow's big event by mid afternoon.

We met at the Fairgrounds at sun up Sunday morning and after a few details we were on our way to the capture site. Once we were within a mile from the site we had another meeting. This is where we were informed that this would be as close as we could be until after the pronghorns were secured in the round pen. So the 20 or so AZGFD employees proceeded to the capture site. Some were hiding behind camouflage gates, some hiding under big burlap material while laying on the ground, some in trucks in hidden ravens and a couple in the helicopter.

The big bird lifted up off the ground a little after 9:00am and proceeded southwest toward the Granite Dell Mountains. Within 5 minutes they had found the herd size they had targeted. The department wanted to capture at least 80 antelope. There were at least 80 in the herd so they began herding them to the north toward the capture site. The pilot of the chopper was extremely skilled and very patient. It took several attempts to get them all thru the fence, as some would break and run one direction and some go the other direction. After several attempts they were all through the fence and running northbound. As luck would have it they picked up a couple of more small herds along the way.

Now you have to remember we are all watching this thru our binoculars from two to three miles away. The chopper pushed the antelope north then turned them due east heading them right into the sun and directly into the mouth of the trap. The trap was made of fence line shaped like a giant funnel, about 500 yards wide at the mouth. The fence line was about 500 yards long and it gradually narrowed down to about twenty feet. At this point there was a gate with AZGFD employees hiding behind it.

The time now was now 9:45 am and the herd was right where they wanted it. The helicopter slowly moved them easterly deeper and deeper into the trap. Right when it looked like the herd was going through the opening where the gate was the herd bolted right by the chopper, running flat out towards the main opening. Quickly the pilot had the chopper right back in front of the herd and was working them toward the hidden gate area. The chopper slowly pushed them toward this narrowing passage. The herd was very nervous and high strung, pronghorn and fences do not get along. The herd was right there at the hidden gate circling like a school of fish. They were scared,



confused and reluctant to proceed into and thru the twenty foot wide passage. Then just like that one antelope went thru the narrowing passage, then another, then another. Once a few had gone thru the narrow opening, the rest followed. Once they were all past the gate AZGFD personal came out of the woodwork. They were hiding behind gates, behind bales of hay and under

*(Continued on page 15)*

*(Pronghorn Capture continued from page 14)*

burlap. They immediately closed the gate and carefully pushed them down the narrow passage way to the round holding pen.

Once they were all in the round pen (about 40 to 45 feet in diameter), the last gate was closed. After all the antelope were in the round pen an 8 foot tall curtain was raised around the perimeter to protect the pronghorn from hurting themselves as well as to calm them down. Unbelievable, it was only 10:00 am and they were all in the pen. Congratulations to the air crew for a quick and efficient job.

Now that the pronghorn herd was secured we all hopped into our trucks and proceeded to the capture pen. As we all gathered out in front of the holding pen with the 8' curtain, we had a short detailed meeting. The pen was divided into one third holding pen and two thirds catching pen. We were instructed that when in-



was filled with 30 pronghorn by 1:00 pm and on their way to unit 5B Anderson Mesa area. The second trailer was filled with 50 pronghorn a couple hours later and the capture event was over. The second trailer filled with pronghorn was being transported to unit 28 south-east of Safford.

The remaining antelope that were still in the holding pen were then released. When the capture was over the pen was covered solid with pronghorn hair. They release their hair when they are under stress, some more than others.

We all then took a short break for some hard earned and well deserved lunch. After a quick bite some people went home while the rest stayed and started the long process of taking everything down. The fence was taken down, rolled up and loaded on a flatbed trailer. The fence posts were all pulled out of the ground and loaded on the trailer. The netting was rolled up, curtain taken down and rolled up. Gates and support posts all had to be taken down and loaded too. We finished up as the sun was setting and each of us prepared for our journey home. I couldn't help but think about the wonderful experience I had just been involved in all the way home. I cannot tell you how many people I have told about this experience and showed pictures too. I consider myself very lucky to be able to participate on a project like that.

*Photos by Richard Ockenfels & Jodi Stewart*



side the pen and the pronghorn were released (8 to 10 at a time) to be aggressive. We were told to pair up or get into groups of three. One person would get the head and shoulders down to the ground and their partner would quickly get the back end down to the ground. The third person would quickly pull a hood over the eyes and head. This is called "mugging." The key to this is, to be fast and efficient. Once the hood was over their eyes and their front and back legs were placed under them they seemed to really calm down, except for a few stubborn bucks.

Then they were ear tagged, GPS collared, blood was drawn from them, temperature was taken and a quick throat swab. Depending on gender they were carried to the trailer and put into select compartments. We all took turns rotating in and out of the pen, all of us having several fantastic opportunities to participate. The first trailer





# SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH  
DECEMBER 31, 2009

**Captive Breeding:** We have had several mortalities in the north half of the pen in the last 2 months. We had a two year old doe killed by a bobcat in mid November. We also found a doe fawn dead of unknown causes in mid November, but there was no indication that it was predation. Two adult does died December 18 and December 22. They had bled from the anus, and there were spots of blood in the vicinity of their bodies. We suspect a viral disease. We have sent specimens from the two adult does and the fawn to a diagnostic lab for disease testing. We also had one doe fawn and one buck fawn escape from the north half of the pen into the south half in early November.

We conducted boma captures and releases from the pen December 2-4. The bomas worked as anticipated and the removal of pronghorn from the bomas went smoothly (i.e. no injuries to the pronghorn). On the first day, we caught 20 pronghorn from the north half of the pen in the north boma. We radio collared, ear tagged and released 8 males and 2 females. These pronghorn received a combination of various drugs as recommended by the veterinarians on-site. We also radio collared or ear tagged 9 females caught in the bomas and released back into the pen for breeding stock or because they were too young for release. We also caught and released the breeding buck back into the pen. Six of the males were trailered about 5 miles south of the pen to a 5-acre temporary holding pen to recover from the drugs overnight and released to the wild the next day. Two males and the two females were released near the pen due to high body temperatures and/or the failure of the anesthesia to keep the pronghorn unconscious.

On the second day, we caught 20 pronghorn from the south half in the south boma. We radio collared, ear tagged and released 10 males and 2 females. We changed the sedative from Azaperone to Haloperidol due to the high level of stress exhibited among the pronghorn trailered to Lower Well on the first day. We also radio collared or ear tagged 6 females that were released back into the pen. The breeding buck was

also caught in the boma and released back into the pen. Eight bucks were trailered to the 5-acre holding pen, held overnight and then released. We released two bucks next to the pen due to high body temperatures associated with handling in the bomas. Another buck with high body temperatures was released back into the south pen. The quick release of these bucks was believed to be the best method, under the circumstances, of dealing with the problem of high body temperature. The two females were flown by helicopter under anesthesia and released from a release pen on Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

On the third day, we darted one male from the north pen, and flew him by helicopter under anesthesia to the release pen on Organ Pipe NM.

**Released Pronghorn:** The pronghorn released the first day from the north boma did not fare well. Three pronghorn died of capture myopathy between 1 and 9 days after the capture. Three bucks and one doe were found dead within 10 days from coyote predation near the pen. These deaths may be related to stress associated with handling during the capture. In other words, the pronghorn may have been impaired in some way, making them more vulnerable to predation. Although they looked normal, lacking overt signs of capture myopathy, i.e. droopy ears and head, walking abnormally etc., they may have been predisposed to predation due to other factors such as being solitary or possibly even mental impairment. This is only speculation; however, we cannot rule this possible explanation out. One doe was found dead 18 days after release. There was no predation; it may have been capture myopathy or possibly disease. We have sent tissue samples from her to a diagnostic lab for disease testing. Two bucks remain alive from the first day; one is by himself near Lower Well, the other is with a group of 10 bucks near the pen.

Changing the sedative used from Azaperone to Haloperidol after the first day appears to have had a

*(Continued on page 17)*



positive result. Of the 12 animals released the second day, 10 are still alive. One buck was killed by a coyote near the pen. Another buck moved from the pen to STAC and then to NTAC where he was found dead December 28th. Cause of his death is unknown as he had likely been dead for a few days before being discovered. Eight of the bucks have joined up with 1 buck from the first day, and an adult buck that was released last year, and are moving around the pen in a group of 10. One of the two females flown to Organ Pipe joined up with the buck that was flown to Organ Pipe the next day, and both have joined a group of wild pronghorn in the Agua Dulce area. Prior to joining the wild group, these two captive reared pronghorn were found on top of Bates Mountain, 1400 feet above the desert floor. Was climbing the mountain a strategy to find other pronghorn? The other female also joined a group of wild pronghorn and is still on Organ Pipe.

We have also documented 4 of the 5 males released in previous years on automatic cameras on the Tactical Ranges (by their ear tags).

**Water Projects:** Nothing new to report

**Forage Enhancements:** Nothing new to report.

**Other Projects:** We conducted the range wide survey in Mexico from December 7 – 11. We saw a total

of 311 pronghorn in 64 different groups. In the Pinacate area, we saw 53 pronghorn and we saw 258 in the population of the east side of Highway 8. The estimate for the total population is 483. In the Pinacate the estimate is 101 and 381 east of the Highway. In the Pinacate area, we saw quite a few more pronghorn than the last survey 2 years ago (53 vs. 35) and the estimate is considerably higher (101 vs. 50). On the east side of highway 8, we saw fewer pronghorn than last survey (258 vs. 325) but because they were in much smaller groups, the estimate was a little higher (381 vs. 354). Most of the areas we flew were very dry, with only a few areas of green forage. We postponed a capture/collaring project due to the ongoing drought conditions we documented in Sonora.

**Wild Pronghorn:** On the most recent telemetry flight, we saw 28 pronghorn on north and south Tac, including 4 radio-collared animals. A group of 7 is using a green area on the western side of the Mohawk Valley, and a group of 7 were south of the Granite Mountains forage plot. Two of the newly released pronghorn were in a group of 8 in the Agua Dulce Mountains, and one newly released pronghorn was in a group of 11 in Organ Pipe NM. A group of 9 newly released pronghorn was with a buck released last year north of the pen. Most of the pronghorn range is extremely dry and the pronghorn are using the few greener areas.



Group of bucks released from the pen in the wild.

# ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION UNDERWRITING PROGRAM

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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 in places hit hard by drought, severe habitat loss due to home development, and predation problems. As we continue to make a difference in our 18<sup>th</sup> year, we have scheduled our annual Fundraising Event for May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Ben Avery Shooting Facility in north Phoenix.

Pronghorn antelope in Arizona need your help more than ever. Many hands do indeed make a heavy load light, and the Foundation is pleased to announce an Underwriting program where everyone concerned with pronghorn in Arizona will be able to make a difference and contribute to this undervalued species. Donors will receive recognition and gifts for each level as follows:

## Level 1: \$5 - \$20

- Recognition in Event program and Pronghorn

## Level 2: \$25-\$50

- Recognition in Event program and Pronghorn
- Arizona Antelope Foundation Decal

## Level 3: \$55-\$100

- Recognition in Event program and Pronghorn
- Arizona Antelope Foundation Decal & Luggage Tag

## Level 4: \$100-\$500

- Recognition in Event program and Pronghorn
- Arizona Antelope Foundation Decal & Luggage Tag
- Honorary Arizona Antelope Foundation Membership for 2010

## Bronze Underwriter: \$500 - \$1000

- Recognition in Event program and Pronghorn
- ¼ page black and white ad in Event program
- Mention on Event Donors page on our website
- Honorary Arizona Antelope Foundation Membership through 2010

## Silver Underwriter: \$1000-\$1500

- Recognition in Event program and Pronghorn
- ½ page black and white ad in the Event program
- Mention on Event Donors page on our website
- Award Presentation at Event
- Recognition as sponsor of a Live Auction item
- Honorary Arizona Antelope Foundation Membership through 2010

## Gold Underwriter: \$1500- \$2500

- All Silver Level Recognitions
- Full Page color ad in the Event program
- Honorary Arizona Antelope Foundation Membership through 2010
- Banner in Event hall in appreciation of your support

## Platinum Underwriter: \$2500 – Above

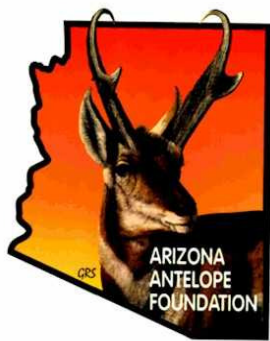
- All Gold Level Recognitions
- Event Sponsorship : The 2010 Arizona Antelope Foundation Event brought to you by **YOUR NAME** in all advertisements and publications in reference to our 2010 Event

**If you would like to become an Underwriter, please mail your check to:**

**Arizona Antelope Foundation  
PO Box 12590  
Glendale, AZ 85318**

**If you prefer to pay with a credit card, use the "Make a Donation" button on our website, or call 602-361-6478.**

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



# THE ANTELOPE DAZE SPORTING CLAY TOURNAMENT

May 8, 2010



The Arizona Antelope Foundation and The Outdoor Experience 4 All are hosting this wonderful event. Proceeds will benefit the Antelope Foundation as they continue their work in conserving this unique Arizona species. Proceeds will also benefit The Outdoor Experience 4 All in their efforts to get children into the field to enjoy the outdoors. The children benefiting from their efforts may have a life-threatening disease, handicap, or may be the child of a fallen military hero.



# Be a Sponsor!

**\$100 is all it takes!!!!**

Sponsors will receive recognition in our Antelope Daze Program, and they will have a sign present at the target on the day of the event honoring their support. Both organizations are non-profits, so donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed under 501(c)(3) rules.

**Say "YES!!!! I want to support this event!"** Please call Todd Hulm for information on how you can participate, 623-340-5257



## SHORT SHOTS

### AAF PAST PRESIDENTS RECEIVE AZ GAME & FISH COMMISSION AWARDS

Life Member Dr. David Brown, AAF President in 1997 received the Educator of the Year Award and Jim Unmacht, AAF President in 2004 & 2005 received Conservationist of the Year. Both men were honored at the annual Commission Banquet in January. Congratulations!

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

April 16-18  
Southeastern Arizona  
Double Circle Ranch on Eagle Creek

Several prescribed burns, including the NO Bar burn the AAF helped fund, have taken place on this ranch, located 30 miles north of Morenci. This is creating wildlife corridors which all game will use. There are several herds of antelope right now- anywhere from a solitary buck to 30 in a herd.

On this outing you will learn about and build erosion control structures. Volunteers will camp on the ranch, and the ranch will provide 3 free meals a day- plain country cooking - but plenty of it. Volunteers would need to bring their own camping gear.

This project is NOT sponsored by the AAF so anyone interested in participating or needing additional information must contact Wilma Jenkins at the ranch directly. They don't have reliable phone service, so contact is by email only to [doublecircleranch@hughes.net](mailto:doublecircleranch@hughes.net).

### AZSFWC BANQUET

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation announces an evening with Governor Sarah Palin on May 15th, at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge. This is not a political event, AZSFWC is not a political organization. The purpose of the event is to celebrate our hunting and fishing heritage and to raise funds to further AZSFWC's mission as a 501(C)(3) organization. AZSFWC's mission is to educate sportsmen and the public on important wildlife and wildlife habitat issues; and to establish an effective communications network to accomplish this goal. We are also very active in raising funds and support for wildlife conservation and habitat enhancement projects. For more information call 602-712-1121 or email Casey at [casey@capitolconsultingaz.com](mailto:casey@capitolconsultingaz.com)

### BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN

The Becoming an Outdoors Woman workshop is scheduled for April 9-11 at Friendly Pines Camp near Prescott. These workshops are designed to welcome women outdoors with expert instructors teaching in an enjoyable, non-threatening environment.

Classes include horsemanship, outdoor photography, birding and hiking. Archery, fly-fishing, Dutch oven cooking, shotgun, rifle, and pistol shooting are also offered. New classes for 2010 include a leave no trace camping class and one on women's outdoor gear. There are 31 different classes for participants to choose from.

Participants stay in rustic cabins, but there are showers and bathrooms in each cabin. There is a central dining hall for meals. Equipment, materials, food and lodging are all included in the \$240 registration fee. Enrollment is open to all women 18 and older.

Class materials, food and lodging are all included in the \$245 registration fee.

For more information, a schedule of classes, and a registration form, call the Arizona Wildlife Federation office at 480-644-0077 or visit their website:

[www.azwildlife.org](http://www.azwildlife.org).

### AAF PARTICIPATES IN TUCSON DAZE

March 13-14

