

PRONGHORN

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AAF Mission Statement:

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



ON OUR COVER

AAF Secretary Eddy Corona is the co-founder of Outdoor Experience 4 All (OE4A), which is a non-profit organization that offers outdoor experiences to young people diagnosed with life threatening illnesses, children of fallen heroes, and children with disabilities. Shown on our cover is Dayton Howard, who was a recent participant in Eddy's program. You can read about Dayton's experience on page 7. (Photo by 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:

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was having a conversation with a fellow recently whom I regarded as very educated in the big game species of Arizona. The topic of pronghorn came up and through the conversation I realized he was unaware that 1. Arizona has Sonoran pronghorn (*Americana sonoriensis*) and 2. they differ from their big brother (*Antilocapra americana*).

So I thought I would take this opportunity to give our unsung, albeit very worthy "Lil Brother" some front page billing.

Genus: *Antilocapra*

Species: *Americana sonoriensis*

A geographically and genetically distinct sub-species of pronghorn, the Sonoran pronghorn is smaller and lighter in color and is adapted for survival in desert conditions. The males weigh up to 130 lbs. and females up to 110 lbs. Pronghorn are slightly smaller than a white-tailed deer with a shoulder-height of about three feet.

Both male and female have white bands across the front of their neck with a 2-4 inch black mane that goes down the back of their neck. The upper part of their body is light brown and their underside and rump are white. The males have a black mask and cheek patches. Both have extra-long white hair on their hind section that stands up when they are frightened. This can be seen from a distance and serves as a visual locator – the bold, white markings help pronghorn find each other from long distances on the large, open range. It can also be used as an alarm to let other pronghorn know that danger is nearby. Pronghorn can reach speeds of up to 60 miles per hour on short distances and can maintain a speed of 35 mph for longer distances.

While both sexes have horns, the females' are short and look more like a bump. The males' are black and about 10-12 inches long. Their horns extend up and point backward with a small tine (prong) that points forward. The unique design of their horn is what earned the species their name – pronghorn.

Pronghorn's eyes are high on their head and they can spot movement several miles away. They are known for being extremely shy and are easily spooked. Their wariness, along with their good eyesight and speed, is very important to their survival. They are also well adapted to the desert conditions and during extreme heat are able to raise patches of their stiff hair to release heat. These same hollow hairs serve as insulation during the winter.



The pronghorn does can breed at 16 months; the bucks are able at one year of age. They have a 245 day gestation period. Pronghorn can have twins when food is abundant but most deliver one fawn that weighs between five and seven pounds. When their fawns are still very young, they remain well hidden while the doe is away foraging. Upon her return, the fawns will emerge to feed. The fawns do not emit a smell so it is hard for predators to find them. Though typically able to stand a day after being born, they will lie very still throughout the day waiting for their mother to come back and feed them, which is typically twice a day. At about six months of age, the young pronghorn will be independent of its mother.

The Sonoran pronghorn has a digestive system similar to cows. They have a four-part stomach that allows them to digest the succulent desert vegetation that makes up most of their diet. As desert vegetation dries with the onset of summer, water availability becomes increasingly important for digestive purposes and pronghorn rely on chainfruit cholla fruits as a source of moisture when water is otherwise unavailable.

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PROJECTS REPORT

BY GLEN DICKENS VICE PRESIDENT, PROJECTS & GRANTS MANAGER



Two major projects were completed by over 100 volunteers on June 15th and August 17th in Game Management Unit 7 northwest and northeast of Flagstaff. The first project was in the Kendrick Park area of the USFS and on an ADOT right-of-way adjacent to highway 180 between Flagstaff and Grand Canyon. There we removed 3 miles of old fence and finished construction on

1 mile of fence. Our second project was 20 miles north of Flagstaff on Highway 89 in the Sacred Mountain and Wupatki area where we removed 3.5 miles of old right-of-way fence.

This effort is in support of the Arizona Game and Fish
(Continued on page 5)



(Projects Report continued from page 4)

Departments **Pronghorn Connectivity North of Interstate- 40 Project.** Research studies have shown that moving the highway right-of-way fences back 300 feet from the roadway immediately improves pronghorn crossing busy roadways and improve opportunities for local pronghorn to get water, forage and improve genetic diversity. This study was the topic of a previous 2012 article in the *Pronghorn*. All volunteer work hours and mileage were used as in-kind match for an approved and funded 2013 AAF-AGFD North of I-40 Pronghorn Corridor Connectivity. All activities and coordination were supervised by AGFD Project leader Jeff Gagnon and his able assistant Scott Sprague.

Thanks go out to several groups of folks and individuals that contributed to these two very successful projects:

-AAF Board: Terry Schupp, Connie Taylor, Al Sue, Jim McCasland and yours truly.

-Arizona Wildlife Federation: Tom Mackin, Duane Nelson and Loyd Barnette

-Friends of Northern Arizona Forests: David Downes, Gary Scott, Niles White, Bruce Belman and others.

-USA Conservation Corps: Jordan Rolfe, Victoria Amsparg, Afton McKeisick, Christian Foote, Valentina Noto, David Hang, Voren Andres, Martha Thomason, Loren Le Suer, Katie Landry, Rachael Greer, Joey Hudek, Marlene Fisher, Alexandria Broderick, Jacob Labato, Rachael Van Deventer, Matt Fidler, Rebecca Wong

-AZ Game & Fish: Jeff Gagnon, Scott Sprague, Troy Christensen, Mike Priest, Jackson Pickett, Amber Munig, Rick Keller, Chad Loberger, Carl Lutch and Steve Cassidy.

-USFS: Julia Camp and Cary Thompson

-NRCS: Eric and Emory Burden.

-Girl Scout Troop # 9: Scout Leader Jennifer Anderson and Girl Scouts Allison and Hayl Daugherty, Ali Gilliland, Dallas Brown, Kaija Broders and Andrew and Emerson O'Neil.

-Other AAF members and volunteers: Betty Dickens, Bill and Mary Keebler, Joe-Bill Pickrell, Dave Laird, Marsha Sue Troy/Saige and Morgan Munig, Wells Vaiana, Roger Hailey, Bonnie Glenn Niles White, Pat McFall, Eugene Hassing, Ray Blanchard, Dale Maas, Gary Boyer, Jack Barnes, Velma Ward, Mark and Velma Vale, Dave Wolf, Paul Pavlich and son Paul, Kevin and Tiffany York, Sue Moeller, Paul Sandstrom, Richard Schuette, Thomas Bolick, Mike and Seth Pierce, Jennifer Pearson, Jay Leadabrand, Lyle Button, Laura Chain, Ed Baeumlisbongor, Chad and Hunter Villamor, Steve and Michelle Schaefer, Embe Kugler, Mary DeJong, Jason Tomkins, Bob and Marilyn Hamlin, Richard Acosta, Chris and Cody Tabor, Jacob Cahoon, Danna Du, Janet Millard, R. Neil Bushols, Mark Milluges, Robert and Susan Seils, Jessica Rietz, Ron Burns and Bonita Ehrlich.

Thanks everyone for your efforts!

Photos by Betty Dickens

2013 HUNTER CLINIC

Our 21st Annual Hunter's Clinic took place on June 8th at AZ Game & Fish headquarters. Over 60 hunters and their guests were treated to a wide variety of presentations on subjects important to the outcome of their upcoming hunts. Cody Nelson of the Outdoorsmans presented the latest on optics and glassing techniques, Jim McCasland provided tips on trophy evaluation and hunting tactics, Corky Richardson entertained the crowd with his interesting techniques for archery hunting, Mark Miller from Miller's Southwest Processing answered questions about field care and taxidermy, and Richard Ockenfels presented the best tips for capturing images of the hunt. In addition to the formal presentations, representatives of the five AG&FD re-

gions with antelope hunts this fall were on hand to discuss the specific hotspots in the game management units drawn by the hunters in the audience.

Region 1 Eric Podoll
Region 2 Colby Walton
Region 3 Ben Shelby
Region 5 Mark Frieberg
Region 6 Micah White

Thanks to all of the volunteer presenters, and to the AZ Game & Fish Department for use of their facilities. They provided the perfect setting for our event!



AAF MEMBERS ASSIST WITH OE4A HUNT

BY WES HOWARD

Like a lot of young men, Dayton loves to hunt. He likes hanging out around the campfire and hearing good stories. Hunting can be tuff for Dayton because he has cerebral palsy. He can't walk, so he gets around in a wheelchair. For hunting, he has an off road chair that can handle mild inclines and smaller rocks.

Dayton received his antelope tag through the Outdoor Experience 4 All (OE4A), an organization that provides outdoor experiences to young people diagnosed with life threatening illnesses, children of fallen heroes and children with disabilities. When OE4A co-founder and AAF Board Secretary Eddy Corona needed volunteers to help with Dayton's hunt, he knew he could count on AAF Past President Jim Unmacht and his wife Tracy to provide camp, meals and assistance. They also called on AAF Life Member David Hussey to provide his antelope hunting expertise, and we were set. We met up at camp on Thursday night. Dayton's little sister Amity and service dog Omega came along to help, too.

The first morning started a little after light. We began glassing and came up with nothing. On our second stand, though, Jim spotted some horns that turned out to be a whole herd. As we developed a plan of attack and began executing it, the antelope did not want to cooperate. The closest they let us get was about 800 yards. So, the two bucks in the herd stayed fairly safe.

After a short pursuit, we decided to move on and see what else we could find. Down the road further, I spotted a good buck, so we moved closer to see what we could do. The buck was with a couple of does and a smaller buck. We hiked off the road about a quarter mile to see if they would give us any opportunity to get a shot. We got situated and lined up on the bigger buck at about 540 yards, but he was looking directly at us. We waited for him to turn broad side, but he just turned quickly and walked away from us over the ridge.

We waited for some time to see if he would come back towards us, but nothing. David hiked over to see if he was still over the ridge and he was. He poked his head over the ridge a time or two, but never came back close enough to get a shot. We even tried to find another way back into that canyon, but nothing got us any closer than we were before.

We decided to move on and see what other antelope we could find. Late in the afternoon, Dayton needed to eat,

so we took some time to glass while he ate lunch. After about 15 minutes or so we started down the road again. Just then a buck jumped right out in front of us, squeezed his way under the fence, ran out into the grass, and stopped just out of sight.

We got Dayton out of the truck and into his chair, and headed out to see if the buck was still there. He was, at about 415 yards. Within a few moments, the buck was down and we were heading over to put a tag on him.

We had an awesome time. We could not have done it without the help of our friends. Thank you to them. Thank you to Eddy at Outdoor Experience 4 All. Dayton is one step closer to his Arizona 10 goal.



YOUTH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

BY GLEN DICKENS VICE PRESIDENT, PROJECTS & GRANTS MANAGER

As previously reported in the *Pronghorn*, on May 23, 2013 when newly appointed Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell issued a press release the Arizona Antelope Foundation found we were one of just 22 nationwide recipients' funded to carry out our proposed *Youth & Wildlife Conservation at Las Cienegas Grasslands Project*. Using these grant funds the AAF expanded an existing youth education opportunity focused on black-tailed prairie dog (BTPD) reintroductions and the AAF's *Southeast Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative* in the summer season (June-August) of 2013. The AAF partnered with the Southwestern Conservation Corps (SCC) to hire and equip eight youth (Ages 18-24) to accomplish the necessary pronghorn fence modifications on Las Cienegas and to support intensive observation and mark and recapture efforts on four newly BTPD established colonies. The youth crew camped out 4 days a week and worked hard for 12 weeks this past summer spending half of their time on the BTPD project and half on the pronghorn fence modification project. Grant funds in amount of \$79,400 were by matched in-kind by \$95,000 non-federal funds.

As of September 4, 2013 they have all said their good-byes and moved on, going back to school or on to other jobs, their final field day being August 29th. The AAF hosted two in the field dinners and mentoring sessions' for the crew members, one on August 7th serving venison BBQ and a rewards and recognition dinner serving Bison burgers on August 27th, where each was presented

with an AAF certificate of appreciation and an AAF hat and tee-shirt by yours truly and John Millican our AAF Southeastern Arizona Projects Manager. The crews exceeded the project target goal of modifying 20 miles of fence and in fact hit 26 miles. The total acreage of "connectivity" is still being calculated but again we expect it to be higher than our goal of 20,000 acres. What follows is the first in a two-part series featuring the photos and the individual stories of each of our 6 SCC field crew and 2 supervisors. I predict you will find their observations inspiring, somewhat humbling and likely recognize some part of yourself as a youth in their individual stories.



Michael Giordano-Crew Member

Turns out finding a summer job in a bad economy is

tough with no experience, which is why I was thrilled when my application to the SCC resulted in a call back for a second interview.

I later found out that most of my crew had the befuddling experience I did during the selection process because most of us had submitted applications to SCC before this project took off, and were very confused as to why prairie dogs needed barbed wire. It wasn't until orientations that we figured out there are two parts to our project: the prairie dogs, and adjusting fences for the Arizona Antelope Foundation.

Working with barbed wire is really character building. It's hot, it's sweaty, and the stuff doesn't cooperate very well. I love my job. Our crew has become so close

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(Youth and Conservation continued from page 8)

knit; it's kind of like camping with a big extended family. (Also this "family" cooks really well)

Camping with the same seven people four days per week can get interesting. Our crew leaders are constantly on the lookout because they know things can escalate nastily in such a small group. Miraculously and through patience and hard work our crew has stuck together.

Living in camp four days per week teaches us to really appreciate the small things in life, like electricity, running water, insulation and all the other little creature comforts so often taken for granted in the city. Toilets, I really miss those; also microwave ovens that cook food without having to assemble it from scratch. (My crew talks about food a lot) Almost every weekend I find myself at some new restaurant my crew recommended, and every week I realize the camp food is better.

There is an upside to this proximity, and that is the closeness I mentioned earlier. We all look out for each other. When one of us is sick, the others will take care

of them, and we do a lot of checks to make sure everyone is safe. We also look out for each other's emotional well-being so that morale stays high, and no one quits. This is why we have been so successful at keeping our crew intact.

A normal day working on the fence line starts bright and early at 4:00 AM (3:30 AM for those on breakfast duty). We are in the car by 4:30, and headed to the work sight. Once we arrive we spend a half an hour doing exercises and stretches to warm our bodies up, while talking about what concerns there are to our safety, and how to best deal with them. Depending on how long the drive is, there will be between 8, and 9 ½ hours to take down the bottom 20-some inches of barbed wire, and replace it with barbless wire 18 inches from the ground (the specified height given to us by the Arizona Antelope Foundation).

This session is good for me personally because it gives me experience working very closely with people, and functioning without the luxuries of civilization. I am glad to be here, and hope my work helps accomplish the Antelope Foundation's goals .



Raquel Irigoyen-Au-Crew Member

This summer I had the amazing opportunity to work with SCC and The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to help conserve the species known as pronghorn antelope. These beautiful animals dwell in grasslands located 45 miles southeast of Tucson AZ in an area called Las Cienegas or Empire Ranch.

Our mission is to help the antelope maintain their population by adjusting and repairing fence lines that run throughout miles and miles of BLM land as well as private properties. By replacing the bottom strand of barbwire we are helping the antelope to travel safely under

the barbwire without hurting themselves in the process. Without our help these large animals may get caught and injured when they run under the fence lines.

There are approximately 50 pronghorn that have been seen together at once. Their biggest predators are coyotes that can move swiftly in large groups to catch the Pronghorn unexpectedly. Our SCC crew also carries around a GPS device that allows us to log exactly where the pronghorn are located each time we spot them out in the field. Once we collect and record the data we can get a better idea of where the pronghorn reside. The SCC crew rarely get to see them, but it is always exciting when we do catch them grazing in the early mornings and sometimes afternoon.

Furthermore, I have greatly enjoyed learning about the diverse landscape Arizona holds and about the animals that inhabit it. Each day I learn a little more about the BLM and gain a new appreciation for the wildlife in this historic site. My SCC crew leaders Maxwell Mazzella and James Pitts usually inform us on all the biodiversity and information on the Pronghorn. For example, most of the site is covered in pastoral grassland but in certain areas around Empire Ranch, you can find these amazing cottonwood trees that seem to sprout from nowhere.

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Another, interesting animal that can be found out there are little prairie dogs that inhabited Las Cienegas before but are being reintroduced into the region in order to help balance the ecosystem again. One interesting fact about the prairie dogs is that they help water absorb into the ground when it rains because they till the land when they dig their colonies. They also help create homes for burrowing owls.

There are many things to admire about the BLM land. This experience has also forced me out of my comfort

zone many times. Even though I am a native to Arizona, I've grown up mainly in an urban setting so I am used to the comforts of a city lifestyle. However as a crew member with the SCC we are required to camp and stay in the BLM land for four days each week during our conservation work. This experience has opened my eyes to new treasures in wildlife camping out in the open air. At times the hot dry days or humidity with the monsoon rains can make the work week seem a little long but the gratifying feeling after my crew competes each hitch is enough to get through it.



Jorge Marín-Crew Member

I'm participating in the SCC this summer, which is working with the Arizona Antelope Foundation on BLM lands and some private properties to adjust and repair miles of fencing to accommodate the pronghorn antelope. We're raising the wire and removing the bottom strands of barbed wire and replacing them with barbed wire. Since the pronghorn prefers to run underneath the fences we are making it easier for them to outrun predators and roam more freely. Also by adjusting the fence lines the pronghorn won't get hurt or caught on the wire. Another task we do is helping track the movements of the pronghorn by registering them via GPS every time we see one.

Another project we are working on is helping U of A PHD wildlife student Sarah Hale conduct her field research on how prairie dogs affect the region and their impact on the grasslands. We do so by keeping track of the population and what other species they impact with their presence.

I enjoy working out in the grasslands of Las Cienegas because even though it is so close to Tucson, the envi-

ronment and landscape is so much more different than the desert I'm used to seeing. We usually work 10 hours a day and start around 5am. It is a few degrees cooler than in Tucson and lately it has been really nice thanks to the monsoon clouds that shade us most of the day. It has rained on us a few nights and I've had to sleep through just as many thunderstorms, which is very difficult. Never the less it is an amazing experience because I have never experienced a monsoon like I am out here.

We start our workday early in the morning to beat some of the heat but before all that we do some stretches and exercises to limber everyone up. We pack a lunch that we make the day before and then take a few breaks throughout our work day to make sure everyone is staying hydrated and safe. In the afternoons we all take turns making dinner for the crew and get to unwind.

This summer I was finally able to participate in the SCC, something that I've wanted to do for some time now. I'm a double major at the U of A; I study Spanish Literature and Studio Art with a concentration in sculpture. Since I started at the University 4 years ago, I've had to take summer courses every summer so far except this one. So I decided to sign up for the SCC. I enjoy being outdoors and decided that it would be great experience to be able to go work outdoors and camp.

I was raised in the southwest and I feel that having pronghorn in Arizona adds to our beautiful state. Pronghorn being the 2nd fastest land animal only slower to the Cheetah is pretty amazing and being able to have them so close to me gives me a sense of pride. It is such a unique animal and seeing them run at full speed across the grasslands gives me a sense of pertinence, it reminds me that we as humans are still a part of nature. A feeling that one often forgets within a city because we distance ourselves from the rawness of nature.

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Maxwell Mazzella-Crew Supervisor

I'll start by saying working on fences is hard work, especially in Arizona, especially in the summer. Carrying a role of wire for a quarter mile or more through 100 degree heat is not easy. Followed by coiling up old, rusty barbed wire that will bite into you like an angry dog the first chance it gets does not add to the fun. Yet in the end it's worth it, knowing at the end of the day that you've worked hard to help out an animal that's been in the Americas since before humans, and now that we're here needs a helping hand. Since pronghorn aren't much for jumping, fences can be a bit of a hindrance. Removing the barbed wire that can be a literal pain in the butt for them seems to be the least we can do.

I've worked with wildlife for a couple years now, mostly small mammals, so some experience with larger critters is a welcome change, though it seems like I can't entirely escape the little guys. On top of the fencing adventures on behalf of the pronghorn the black tailed prairie dogs have some new helpers as well. Those days while physically easier are a bit monotonous. Sit in ob-

servation blind, scan prairie dog colony, record notable behaviors, repeat..... for 10 hours. This all starts at 4:30 a.m. well before the sun shows its face for the day. In the end though it's worth it too, knowing you get a chance to watch and get to know an animal that hasn't been seen here for nearly half a century.

Though people often make mistakes, we are getting better at seeing problems we've created. In the 1950's all black tailed prairie dogs were extirpated from the state of Arizona. About 50 years later a number of people realized this may have been a mistake and began a reintroduction effort. Churning soil, fertilizing it, improving rain penetration, creating fire breaks, reducing mesquite expansion, providing burrows, and food for a number of species are just some of the important functions prairie dogs can fulfill in their ecosystem. Now that they're back the question is will they be able to perform these tasks again? To answer that you need to watch, and for a long time. Though it's still early and their population hasn't soared as much as hoped there are some promising observations that have at the very least helped to keep these little guys going.

I've worked on the prairie dogs on and off for 2 years, and I have done a lot of fencing work for BLM while working for the SCC, so this job seemed to be a perfect fit. The majority of my previous experience was spent working under the leadership of others. Now, however, it is my chance to lead and help to shape an appreciation of the natural world and our work. Our crew consists of six crew members and two crew leaders, all of us from a variety of backgrounds. From biologists to artists, literature majors to prospective marines the eight of us have come together to form a cohesive group and managed to accomplish quite a bit in only a few weeks. In the remaining weeks I know my crew and I will work harder and push farther to make the most out of this summer and help out our furry friends as much as possible.

(President's Message continued from page 3)

Pronghorn were once as widely distributed as buffalo. The desert ranging pronghorn, including the Sonoran pronghorn, ranged widely but in reduced numbers within the Sonoran desert in Arizona and California down into Sonora, Mexico – a broad, open desert landscape with limited vegetation. Today they are reduced to an estimated 160 free ranging animals within the United States, and an additional 240 free ranging within Sonora Mexico.

I would encourage you to read our regular feature on the work being done for the Sonoran Pronghorn, and help spread the word about the “Lil Brother” of the antelope family.

Shane Stewart
President & Proud Life member

GIRL SCOUT TROOP #9 TAKES OVER

BY MARY KEEBLER, AAF LIFE MEMBER

Girl Scout Troop 9, under the capable leadership of Scout Leader Jennifer Anderson, has assisted the Arizona Antelope Foundation on work projects for many years. The girls have worked in the field, helping disassemble old fence, build new fence or modify old fencing to make it more antelope friendly. At times they've even out-worked the Boy Scouts! In addition to field work, on several occasions they have helped the kitchen crew in providing meals for the hungry volunteer work crews. Their hard work & ever cheerful attitudes won them the AAF Volunteer of the Year Award in 2009. But their efforts at the August 17 – 18, 2013 work project outshined all their past volunteerism.

In May Jennifer approached me with an unusual request. Troop 9 wanted to earn their Dinner Party merit badge in a very unusual way – by planning a “dinner party” for the Saturday night meal furnished at every work project. Understand, this is no ordinary dinner party. Work crews range from 25 – 30 people to over 70.

After some preliminary discussion and with the blessing of Glen Dickens, AAF Project Coordinator, we agreed to let Troop 9 take the reins, provided Bill & I, as heads of the kitchen crew, would supervise. Well, it didn't take any supervision from us. Those girls had it nailed down tight.

To earn the Dinner Party merit badge a girl scout must:

- ◆ Create a Menu – this involved numerous Facebook conversations among the whole troop discussing what was feasible under outdoor conditions, including; whether they would be able to cook over a fire, how many people they would serve, what cooking & refrigeration facilities were available, logistics of transporting everything – including their own camping gear.
- ◆ Make a Budget & Shopping List – being multitaskers they comparison shopped by reviewing sales flyers & checking prices of competing stores while shopping at Costco. They determined that, although they could purchase chicken for less elsewhere, the convenience of having it very well packaged, the guaranteed availability of 60 pounds of chicken & the guaranteed quality of the chicken made it the best buy.
- ◆ Practice Timing Courses – they put together a posterboard with their timing & who would be working on what course. Everything came out exactly on time.

- ◆ Explore Imaginative Ways to Present Food – with rain pouring down just as dinner service started I think anyone there would say they were rather creative, making sure everyone stayed as dry as possible, including having them crowd into the prep/serve area after being served.



With the barest of input I left it to Jen & her girls to plan the menu, shop, cook, serve & clean up. 82 volunteers sent RSVP's for the project, most planning to stay through the Saturday dinner. The girls planned for 65 – 70 for dinner.

The girls – Kaija Broders, Dallas Brown, Allison Daugherty, Hayl Daugherty, Ali Gilliland, Emerson O'Neil – arrived around noon on Saturday. They quickly erected their tents before the rain came & ate lunch while having one final organizational meeting before getting to work. The next 3 ½ hours passed in what I can only call organized chaos as girls flew in many different directions – building the fire for the spuds, making marinade for the chicken, wrapping spuds, pounding chicken breasts, etc. Em's 12 year-old brother Andrew, who just came along for the ride, worked his fanny off right along with the girls. When all the preliminary prep work was completed they had about 90 minutes before it was time to serve appetizers.

Every one of them put that “rest” time to good use studying or working on other projects. You see, on top

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(Girl Scout Troop #9 continued from page 12)

of their regular high school classes, each of these girls is enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP), Honors, Dual Credit (HS & College), or other difficult or challenging classes in addition to participating in Girl Scouting & other volunteer projects. Since I think they are pretty spectacular, I'd like to share a bit of information about each of these girls:

Dallas is a senior at Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center High School (AAEC) where she is the immediate past president of the FFA and will be graduating in May from the Veterinary Science program, which includes working in veterinary clinics and observing surgical procedures. She is also employed part time, working about 20 hours per week.

Hayl is also a senior at AAEC where she is enrolled in 5 dual credit classes. When she graduates in May she will not only receive her high school diploma, she will also receive an Associates Degree from Paradise Valley Community College. Hayl recently completed her Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. Her project was teen suicide prevention. She held a concert to promote her blog, goldawardsuicideprevention.blogspot.com, which has over 3,500 hits from 18 different countries.

Ali is a senior at Chaparral High School and is enrolled in 3 AP, 1 honors & 1 dual credit honors classes. She is captain of the varsity basketball team. Ali is currently working on her Gold Award by working with Children First Academy, a school for homeless children in Phoenix.

Allison is a sophomore at BASIS Scottsdale and is enrolled in 4 AP & 1 honors classes. She plans to do her Gold Award on firearms handling & safety for women.

Kaija is a senior at Chaparral High School where she is enrolled in 4 AP & 1 honors classes. She joined Troop 9 in 2012 and volunteers regularly at the Phoenix Botanical Gardens.

Emerson is a freshman at Fountain Hills High

School. She is enrolled in 4 honors classes. Em is new to Girl Scouting and loves it. She was recently chosen for the Zoo Teen program at the Phoenix Zoo.

Now back to dinner. Once work crews began rolling in from the field the girls set about serving appetizers. After the brief Arizona Wildlife Federation Annual Trophy Hunter Awards presentation the real work of cooking & serving dinner began. Each of the girls went about their assigned tasks as though it was an everyday experience rather than the daunting task of feeding so many people. Bill worked the grill with Dallas, but he quickly stepped aside when he determined she had things well in hand.

Even the rain (and we had quite a bit of it that weekend) didn't faze these girls. They acted as if the rain didn't exist and saved their camp potatoes, cooking under hot coals, by moving a shade cover over the fire to keep it going. We set up one large shade cover so they could work & serve without being drenched. Extra shade covers protected the volunteers from the rain while being served.

Dinner service ran with barely a hitch, the only issue being a few under cooked potatoes which were cheerfully replaced with fully cooked ones. Dinner ended on a sweet note with several homemade desserts for the volunteers, a treat they usually don't get with the regular cooking staff (Bill & me).

Everyone pitched in the next morning for the quickest clean up & camp breakdown we've seen in years.

I heard nothing but rave reviews on the food and the professionalism, courtesy & cheerfulness of the Troop 9 girls. Maybe we can get them to take over when Bill & I "retire" from cooking duty. Then again; probably not. But they are welcome to "run the show" anytime they'd like to do it again.

We extend a VERY BIG THANK YOU to Troop 9.

Photos by Betty Dickens





SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
AUGUST 16, 2013

Captive Breeding:

Cabeza Prieta Captive Breeding Pen

Currently, there should be 94 pronghorn in the Cabeza breeding pen; 26 adults and 17 fawns in north herd, and 30 adults and 21 fawns in south herd. However, in recent weeks, the most fawns observed in the north half was 15 and 17 in the south half. The crew walked a grid pattern across the pens several times looking for fawn remains, but none have been found. They are now experimenting with different ways of manipulating the camera traps at the feeders and waters to try to get photos with an accurate count of fawns in the pen. One adult doe was found dead on July 12. She was one of original breeding females brought into the pen from the wild in December 2005. Cause of death is unknown, but disease is suspected. Tissue samples have been sent to a diagnostic lab for analysis.

Between 20 - 26 July, the pen received 1.9 inches of rain. A big storm during the night of July 21 ran all the washes which caused major damage to the pen including knocking down several sections of the perimeter fence on the west side, flattening part of the fence between the north and south halves, mangling the electric fence and causing damage to the road around the pen. The pen crew worked very hard to quickly erect a temporary fence and no pronghorn escaped the pen, nor did any predators get into the pen. All the repairs to the pen have now been completed.

Status of Pronghorn in Cabeza Pen

August 2013

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	10	Adult Females	10
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2012)	5	Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2012)	9
Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2012)	9	Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2012)	9
Breeding Buck (<i>b</i> 2010, Purple 3)	1	Breeding Buck (<i>b</i> 2010, Yellow 3)	1
Back-up Buck (<i>b</i> 2011, Yel/Blk 3)	1	Back-up Buck (<i>b</i> 2011, Green 4)	1
Fawns (born 2013)	17	Fawns (born 2013)	21
TOTAL	43	TOTAL	51
Total Pen	94		

(Continued on page 15)



Damage to the Cabeza pen from rains on July 21, 2013.

Kofa Captive Breeding Pen

There are 26 pronghorn in the Kofa pen, including 2 fawns. Grey doe is not believed to be pregnant anymore. We are investigating the possibility of putting temporary expandable radio collars on newborn fawns next year to try to determine the cause(s) of the high fawn mortality experienced in Kofa pen this year.

The Kofa pen received 1 inch of rain on July 20-21, but it only caused some minor damage to the pen which was quickly repaired. Prior to the rains, the crew was regularly irrigating the pen. Since the rain, the pen has greened up considerably and the pronghorn are feeding more on native forage.

Status of Pronghorn in Kofa Pen

	March 2013
Adult Females	11
Yearling Females (b 2012)	4
Yearling Males (b2012)	5
Breeding Buck	1
Back-up Buck	3
Fawns (born 2013)	2
TOTAL	26

2012 Released Pronghorn - Cabeza

The two females released on ORPI that came back to the pen in July, have remained in the vicinity of the pen. The one that was looking very skinny has put on considerable weight since she started feeding at the hay/pellet feed station outside the pen. The two bucks remain on ORPI. The pronghorn released on BMGR-West remain in that area. Another of the GPS collars has failed and fallen off a female.

2012 Released Pronghorn - KOFA

The two pronghorn that were recorded on camera at a pond on YPG have been photographed there again. We have not had any reports or know the whereabouts of the other 2 pronghorn.

Water Projects: We hauled 2300 gallons of water to Sierra Pinta #1 water on July 19 by helicopter. The rains on July 20 – 26 filled most of our other waters including Sierra Pinta #1, however Sierra Pinta #2 and #3 did not catch any water. Camera data indicated several pronghorn have been using the Sierra Pinta waters.

(Continued on page 16)

Forage Enhancements: All our forage enhancements received good precipitation in July, so we are not irrigating at any of them currently.

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR herd: The rain during July was fairly widespread so most areas of pronghorn range are in good condition right now. Some areas in the central part of Cabeza NWR did not receive enough rain to promote new forage growth.



Sonoran pronghorn at Devils Hills feed/water plot on BMGR-West.



HUNTING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Corky Richardson who harvested this beaut during his recent archery hunt.

Corky was generous enough to interrupt a bear hunt this summer to present his tips and tricks for a successful archery hunt at our annual hunter clinic in June. Obviously, Corky knows his stuff!

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





SHORT SHOTS

Save the Date!

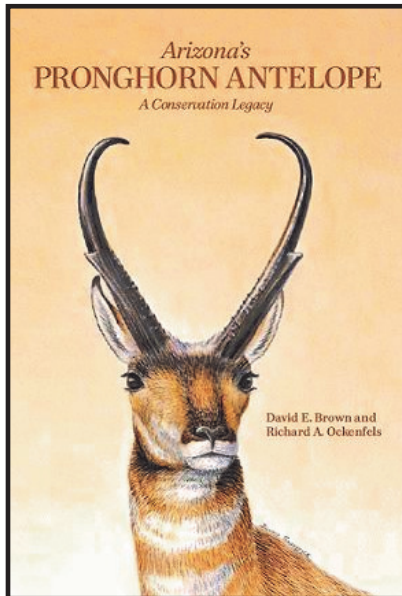
February 22, 2014
Annual Fundraising Banquet
Sheraton Hotel
Phoenix

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

The holidays are just around the corner and we have the perfect gift for the sportsman or woman conservationist on your shopping list!

“Arizona’s Pronghorn Antelope – A Conservation Legacy”
By David Brown and Richard Ockenfels

Get your copy today!
Soft cover copies: **\$15.00**
Hardcover collector editions signed by the authors: **\$30.00**



Visit our website to purchase online or for a printable order form, or call Tracy at 602-361-6478.

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

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

PRONGHORN CAPTURES

AZ Game & Fish is planning a capture activity January 27-29, 2014. The animals will be captured near Chino Valley/Prescott Valley and will be translocated to habitat in Southeastern Arizona. This activity is part of the ongoing effort covered in part by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant that was awarded to the AAF to help increase the population of the herds in that area of the state. Extensive habitat improvement has been taking place in preparation for placing these animals.

Trap construction will take place January 27, and the capture is scheduled for January 28th. Release will be January 28 and/or January 29th. Volunteers will be needed for the project. Those wishing to participate in the capture are required to assist with the construction of the traps on the 27th.

As more information becomes available, we will post on our website and disseminate in our Enewsletter. If you don't already subscribe, it is easy to do. Instructions can be found on the Home page of our website.

WWW.AZANTELOPE.ORG

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

ART CONTEST

Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
invites **YOU** to send your artwork in for the
5th annual GRASSLAND FAIR!

Did you know Pronghorn can be found at Buenos Aires NWR?
Paint us a picture of one!



The art contest will be judged in grade categories:
K-2, 3-5, 6-8

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each grade category will get a prize perfect for a future wildlife biologist!

All artwork will be displayed at the fair on November 16, 2013 but if the artists can't make it out, we will visit your classroom to deliver any prizes won!

Send your submissions by October 31, 2013 to:

Buenos Aires NWR
Attn: Juliette
P.O. Box 109
Sasabe, AZ 85633

Include your name, grade and school on the back of each piece of art!

Look us up at: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Buenos_Aires/

MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Art Pearce, Phoenix | 18. Terry Schupp, Tempe | 35. Tim Blank, Mesa |
| 2. Jim Mehen, Flagstaff | 19. Dale Hislop, Calgary Canada | 36. Jodi Stewart, Gilbert |
| 3. Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City | 20. Mick Rusing, Tucson | 37. Keith Joyner, Scottsdale |
| 4. James K. McCasland, | 21. George Welsh, Kingman | 38. David Hussey, Cave Creek |
| 5. Nina Gammons, Payette, ID | 22. Matthew Massey, Gilbert | 39. Susan Pearce, Tucson |
| 6. Nancy Lewis, Phoenix | 23. Don Parks, Peoria | 40. Glen Dickens, Tucson |
| 7. Pete Cimellaro, Phoenix | 24. Bill & Kerrie Jacoby, Chandler | 41. Will Garrison, Peoria |
| 8. Jerry Weiers, Phoenix | 25. Adam Geotl, Cottonwood | 42. Tom Waddell, New Mexico |
| 9. Harry Carlson, Phoenix | 26. Shane Stewart, Gilbert | 43. Josiah Austin, Pearce |
| 10. David Brown, Phoenix | 27. Don Davidson, Mesa | 44. Connie Taylor, Mesa |
| 11. Art Boswell, Tucson | 28. Terry Petko, Mesa | 45. Mark Boswell, Mesa |
| 12. Charlie Kelly, Scottsdale | 29. Gary M. Johnson, Phoenix | 46. Jessica R. Pearce, Scottsdale |
| 13. Chrissy Weiers, Phoenix | 30. Richard Guenzel, Laramie WY | 47. Douglas Hartzler, Phoenix |
| 14. Al Sue, Scottsdale | 31. Randy Cherington, Scottsdale | 48. Karen LaFrance, Phoenix |
| 15. Mary Keebler, Happy Jack | 32. Joe Del Re, Chandler | 49. Kurt Schulz, Waddell |
| 16. Bill Keebler, Happy Jack | 33. Bob Walker, Phoenix | |
| 17. James Stewart, Phoenix | 34. Cookie Nicoson, Williams | |

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Robert Bushong, Yuma	Michael Domanico, Scottsdale	Richard Ockenfels, Mayer
Bill Cole, Glendale	Randy Gaskill, Show Low	Derek Oyen, Anthem
William Cordasco, Flagstaff	Roger & Ilene Hailey, Flagstaff	Walt Scrimgeour, Prescott
Paul & Joann Delaney, Flagstaff	Jay Morrison, Peoria	Jim & Tracy Unmacht, Phoenix
Linda Dightmon, Peoria	Susan Morse, Jericho VT	David L. Wolf, Flagstaff

FAMILY MEMBERS

Jim & Rita Ammons, Yuma	David Justice, Prescott	David & Debra Scott, Glendale
Neal & Abby Brown, Glendale	Danny Keiller, San Diego	James & Joyce Sivley, Scottsdale
Richard & Julia Chabak, Glendale	Dave & Sue Laird, Peoria	William & Jan Skibbe, Tucson
Ken & Kathy Cook, Casa Grande	Thomas McDaniel, Phoenix	Barry Sopher, Tucson
Brian & Dorothy Dolan, Tucson	Kim Neill & Family, Mesa	Michael Tindle, Mesa
Ron & Sharon Eichelberger, Alpine	Amy & Stephen Ostwinkle, Gilbert	Jim Wood, Glendale
Chad & Audrea Elliott, Ehrenberg	Matthew Phillips, Yuma	
Brian George, Scottsdale	Daniel Robinett, Catalina	

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Grant Mulligan, New Haven, CT	Jennifer Pearson, Casa Grande	Simone Westbrook-Hall, Peoria
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**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST LIFE MEMBER
#49 KURT SCHULZ, WADDELL**

ANNUAL MEETING

Election of Officers and Directors

NOVEMBER 11, 2013 6:30 PM

BASS PRO SHOPS 1133 N DOBSON RD MESA, AZ 85201

We encourage you to attend, and if you are a member in good standing, cast your vote for the 2014 Officers and Directors. Each Individual, Sustaining, or Life Member, or Family as a whole is entitled to one vote for each item if current with their dues. If you are unable to attend you may use the form below to vote by mail.

Officers:

President, Shane Stewart
Vice President, Glen Dickens
Secretary, Eddy Corona
Treasurer, Jodi Stewart

Directors with terms ending 12/31/15:

Tice Supplee
Connie Taylor
Mike Wondrash

Incumbent Directors completing 2nd year of 2-year term ending on December 31, 2014

Mark Boswell ♦ Terry Schupp ♦ Al Sue

Mail Ballot

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

Officers & Directors:

President, Shane Stewart Vice President, Glen Dickens

Secretary, Eddy Corona Treasurer, Jodi Stewart

Directors with terms ending 12/31/15:

Tice Supplee

Connie Taylor

Mike Wondrash

Printed Name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Mail to: AZ Antelope Foundation ♦ Attn: Elections ♦ PO Box 12590 ♦ Glendale AZ 85318