



Wherever you're at, March is a busy time with dueling expos, fundraisers, habitat projects, and many other events as you'll see below. Volunteer, lend a hand or make a donation, our member organizations are doing a lot of great work and need your involvement.

AZSFWC is also growing! Year to date the Valley of the Sun Quail Forever and the AZ Shooting Sports Education Foundation have joined us, and by the end of this month, Kahuna's Kids and the AZ Taxidermy Association will have become members. American Precision Targets joined as an Affiliate member and this past month, the Outdoorsman's has done the same. We now have 32 Member groups and 3 Affiliates supporting our efforts. If you know of a an outdoor organization that should be a member, have them contact us. In the coming weeks, watch for news on how you can support us as an Individual AZSFWC member too!

On the license plate front, 2017 is shaping up as another record breaking year. Last month we awarded \$32,461 in grants for our first quarter cycle. At the same time, our license plate income has increased approximately \$1500 more per month for the first two months of this year compared to last. Go to www.servicearizona.com to get yours!

On the Federal Front...

-the National Park Service is still studying what to do about the Grand Canyon bison. We remain hopeful that our new Secretary of the Interior will inspire them to work with our AZ Game & Fish Department and let sportsmen volunteers save the habitat from destruction.

-the BLM continues to spend Millions on burros. Here too we are hopeful some sense comes to this entire matter to save our Sonoran Desert from these feral consumers. We have weighed in on the Sonoran Desert National Monument with a recommendation to keep the entire Monument open to recreational shooting. We will also be commenting on the Safford office's landscape management efforts.

-our National Forests continue to stay busy studying, evaluating and assessing too. We have commented on the Prescott's Chino Valley Landscape Restoration plan, the Tonto's plans and will be for the Kaibab's Wetland habitat enhancement projects.

On the State Level...

-Senator Farley's bill SB 1182 to ban mountain lion and bobcat hunting died in

committee. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) isn't dead however, so this matter remains on our radar.

-Governor Ducey signed HB 2404 into law, mandating some signature gathering changes for ballot initiatives. This bill will make it more difficult to get some matters on the ballot, but likely won't curtail well funded groups like the HSUS.

-Senator Gail Griffin put forth a Resolution supporting hunting and fishing, SCM 1004, and we thank her for that effort!

Enjoy the time of year and we'll remain vigilant!Enjoy

Yours in Conservation,

Jim Unmacht

Executive Director

Grants

Don't miss the next quarterly cycle grant application deadline which is APRIL 1st. Applications will be reviewed and voted on at the end of May.

Below is a recent event funded by the grant program.





Upcoming Member Activities

ARIZONA ELK SOCIETY 16TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET



APRIL 8 • MESA CONVENTION CENTER
DOORS OPEN 4 P.M. • DINNER 5:30 P.M. • AUCTION FOLLOWS

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF **FUN HELPING ARIZONA'S ELK & OTHER WILDLIFE** WHILE HAVING A GREAT TIME, **A DELICIOUS DINNER**, CASH BAR, **RAFFLES & AUCTIONS** PLUS SURPRISES FOR ALL!

YOU COULD BE THE WINNING BIDDER OF:

AZ Game & Fish Commission
**SPECIAL ELK,
BUFFALO OR
LION TAG**

OR

Hualapai Reservation
**SPECIAL
ELK PERMIT**

All proceeds go to benefit the species of the tag.

**LOTS OF RIFLES • BIG GAME TRIPS • FISHING TRIPS • BOWS
CAMPING EQUIPMENT • JEWELRY • SURPRISES & MORE!**

TICKETS ONLY \$75
Purchase tickets at
ARIZONAELKSOCIETY.ORG
FOR GENERAL OR CORPORATE
TABLE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL
MARCI WELTON AT 602-571-4055.





8th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference

April 27, 2017

9:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.

**Arizona Game and Fish Department Headquarters
5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ**

Sponsored by AZGFD and AZ TU State Council

The conference is attended by those interested in meeting, networking, and developing future plans to promote restoration and management of native and wild coldwater fish species in Arizona and New Mexico. Over 100 individuals attend the conference and represent more than 35 agencies and organizations involved in water conservation and management, trout recovery and habitat enhancement.

Topics

- Keynote Speaker: Chris Wood, President & CEO, Trout Unlimited
- Trout Unlimited Southwest Native Trout Strategy and Projects
- Challenges with Native Trout Conservation in the Southwest
- Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) Programs
- Glen Canyon Dam / Lees Ferry: Long Term Experimental Management Plan
- Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI)
- Tonto National Forest "Needs to Change" Plan
- Citizen Science: Stream and Temperature Monitoring Networks
- Native and Wild Trout Recovery Programs in the Southwest
- Conservation Awards for Distinguished Service

Lunch and BBQ following the conference will be hosted by AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, AZ Flycasters and AZ TU Council.

Registration and information on prior year conferences at www.az-tu.com.

Registration closes April 22, 2017

"Come Fish the Best, the Biggest in the WEST!"

FCC7



7th Annual

"FlatCat Classic"

April 28th – April 30th 2017

Bartlett Lake, Scottsdale, AZ.

\$60.00 per person entry fee

Includes 1-t shirt, 1 lunch ticket, and entry into 1st -3rd pot, also included Heaviest Channel and Kid's derby if applicable

\$20.00 side pot qualifies you for 4th and 5th place.

(You CAN win the main event and place in this pot)

\$20.00 side pot for Heaviest Carp

Free Derby for kids 16 and younger (with paid adult entry)

Registration starts at 10am, Friday April 28th and ends at 4pm (unless prior arrangements have been made). The event starts at 4pm Friday April 28th, 1st weigh in is 10am Saturday April 29th, followed by lunch and raffle prizes, final weigh in is 9am Sunday April 30th. Registration, weigh in's, lunch and raffles will be held on the dock at Bartlett Lake Marina. Call 602-703-1393 for special arrangements and more info. 95% payout minus operating cost



Start your vacation in Scottsdale after a long winter...



Western Regional Rendezvous: April 28 - 29, 2017

2017 Western Regional Rendezvous April 28 - 29, 2017

- Venue: Saguaro Hotel, Scottsdale (www.thesaguaro.com)
- Meeting follows 8th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference (April 27, 2017) (www.az-tu.com)
- Hosted Fishing Day featuring native and wild trout and a Southwest Bone Fish Experience (aka Grass Carp)
- Companion / Spouse activities offered
- Information and registration at www.az-tu.com
- Visit www.experiencescottsdale.com
- Unique landscape, attractions and unlimited retail therapy
- Variety of travel options to extend your visit into a vacation (Sedona, the Grand Canyon and much more)
- Opportunities for extended and unique fishing experiences
- And...did we mention average temperatures of 86 (high) and 52 (low)



Long Valley Riparian Meadow Project

MAY 19-21, 2017

Work to be Done:
Riparian Restoration
Tree Thinning
Rock Structure Building
Stream Channel Shaping
Meadow Log Fence



The Arizona Elk Society will be providing meals and refreshments for the Project. Dinner will be served Friday night, Breakfast Lunch and Dinner on Saturday and Breakfast and Lunch on Sunday.

Camp Location:

Main Camp will be at FR702 Group Camp Site. From West Phoenix – Take I-17 North to hwy 260 (Camp Verde). Go east to Clints Well and turn north on FH3 Lake Mary road, take FH3 1 mile to FR702 on your left. Follow signs to FR702A.

Items to Bring: Gloves, Long Sleeve Shirts, Hat, Sunscreen. Be prepared for cool mornings and possible rain. Old clothes are recommended. Tools and safety glasses will be provided.

Space will be available for vehicle, tent and RV camping. Porta Johns and wash stations will be available in camp.

NOTE: We are a family orientated organization, however projects are potentially dangerous working with barbed wire, rocks, logs, branches, saws, tools and vehicles. Kids under 18 need to be supervised by an adult.

PLEASE RSVP ONLINE

For information and map visit the Arizona Elk Society Web Site.
www.arizonaelksociety.org
or contact Tom Schorr - tomschorr@arizonaelksociety.org

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

On January 20, 2011, Sergeant Linville was struck by a tertiary device. The explosion inflicted multiple injuries on Sergeant Linville, some visible others not. Sergeant Linville suffered fractures to his right foot including his cuboid, calcaneus, and two outer metatarsals, in addition to fractures sustained in his right middle finger, and amputation of his right ring finger. Once Charlie was flown out of Afghanistan and finally reached his destination at Balboa Naval Hospital where he received multiple surgeries on his hand and foot and had undergone multiple experimental surgeries in order to walk again. Charlie lost his foot to a below the knee amputation.



In the spring of 2014, he agreed to climb Mt. Everest with The Heroes Project. The climb was halted in April 2014 after 16 Sherpas lost their lives in an avalanche and again on their second attempt in April 2015 after the earthquake in Nepal.

On May 19, 2016, Charlie completed the last of The Seven Summits, and became first combat-wounded veteran to reach the top of Mt. Everest.

— OE4A 9TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER —

Keynote Speaker: Charlie Linville • Live Auction • Raffles • Silent Auctions
Saturday May 13, 2017 • Doors open at 5:00 pm • Dinner served at 6:00 pm
Embassy Suites Phoenix-Tempe – 4400 South Rural Road, Tempe

The evening will include dinner, live and silent auctions, raffles for guns, optics, camping equipment, and other items. Tickets are \$75 each with sponsor tables for 10 at \$800. Ticket price includes a salad, plated dinner, dessert, free beer (while it lasts), tea, and water! Child ticket (12 and under) for \$35 includes hamburger, fries, dessert, and drink.

Get your tickets today! This is a plated dinner and tickets will NOT be sold at the door.

Outdoor Experience 4 All
Changing Lives One Adventure at a Time!

If you have a tag in Arizona that you will not be able to use you can donate it to OE4A for use by one of our special kids or an American Disabled Veteran/Wounded Warrior!

Visit www.OE4A.org or call Eddy Corona at 480-529-8340 for more information.

OE4A SPRING FUNDRAISING RAFFLE!



RAFFLE PACKAGE #1

Ruger Precision Rifle 6.5 Creedmoor Model #18008

Winner gets to choose the riflescope of their choice from one of the following sponsors' 2017 US catalog:



Rifle Retail Value of \$1,500. Scope Retail Value between \$1,000 and \$3,500. Package Valued at up to \$5,000 (depending on the winner's choice of scope)

Tickets are \$25.00 each. 1,000 tickets will be sold.

RAFFLE PACKAGE #2

2015 Solares Trailers 12' Toy Hauler (NEW)

Single Axle • Air Conditioning • Heater
Water Heater • Stove • Microwave
Electric Ice Chest • Small Kitchen Sink
Two Bench Seats that fold flat (beds)
Bathroom with Toilet and Shower



**Tickets are \$25.00 each.
1,000 tickets will be sold.**

MSRP \$12,000

(MSRP was set by the manufacture when purchased in 2015)

THE BONUS PACKAGE!

— NEW FOR 2017 — Swarovski BTX Eyepiece Dual Eyes for ATX with the 95mm Modular Objective

Bonus Package MSRP
Valued at \$5120.00



Tickets are \$50.00 each and enters you in ALL THREE DRAWINGS!
Rifle – Toy Hauler – Swarovski BTX with 95mm Modular Objective

The Bonus Package will only be available for a limited time, depending on available tickets for Package #1 and Package #2.

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT WWW.OE4A.ORG

OE4A takes children who have been diagnosed with a life threaten illness, children with prosthetics or disabilities, and children of our fallen Heroes which include law enforcement, first responders and military, into the outdoors for hunting, fishing, camping or any activity they want to experience in the outdoors. OE4A also works with Disabled Veterans and Wounded Warriors to provide them with hunting and other outdoor experiences.

Sponsors & Supporters



Members

Welcome to our newest member, AZ Shooting Sports Education

Foundation. We are happy they are on board along with the following:

1.2.3.Go...	Anglers United	AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Bass Federation Nation	AZ Big Game Super Raffle	AZ Bowhunters Association
AZ Catfish Conservation Assoc	AZ Chapter NWTf	AZ Chapter SCI
AZ Council of Trout Unlimited	AZ Deer Association	AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
AZ Elk Society	AZ Flycasters Club	AZ Houndsmen's Association
AZ Outdoor Sports	AZ Shooting Sports Education Foundation	Back Country Hunters & Anglers
Coconino Sportsmen	Mohave Sportsman Cub	Outdoor Experience 4 All
South Eastern AZ Sportsmen Club	SRT Outdoors Inc	Southwest Wildlife Foundation (YVRGC)
The Bass Federation Arizona	TRCP	Valley of the Sun Quail Forever
White Mountain Lakes Foundation	Xtreme Predator Callers	

Affiliate Members



[American Precision Target Systems](#)

OUTDOORSMANS



By purchasing this plate you will be making a contribution to Arizona's wildlife and wildlife habitat. Seventeen dollars (\$17) of each twenty-five (\$25) special license fee will go to AZSFWC's conservation fund. AZSFWC will review and approve all grants from the special

license plate program revenues. These grants will fund important outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and on-the-ground wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement projects.

These plates can be purchased online and can also be personalized. To order an AZSFWC Conservation License Plate go to: <http://www.servicearizona.com> Click on "Personalized/Specialty Plates" then if you wish to personalize it, check its availability. Once you have verified the availability of your personalization, or if you only want to order the AZSFWC Conservation Special Plate, click on "Order My Plate". Order your plate as a sequential shelf plate for \$25.00 per year or as a personalized plate for \$50.00 per year.

Here is another helpful link when ordering your special license plate. You can have many of your questions answered here:

<https://servicearizona.com/webapp/vehicle/plates/showInfoPage.do>

The AZSFWC Conservation Plate gives all Arizonan's an opportunity to contribute to programs that benefit our wild creatures. ***Step up and support "Wild Arizona".***

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation is a 501-c-3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to educate and inform sportsmen, wildlife conservation organizations throughout the state and the public at large on important issues related to wildlife and wildlife habitat and to provide, via grants or other sources, funding to conserve Arizona's wildlife populations through habitat enhancement initiatives. The AZSFWC is responsible for managing the conservation license plate program (Wildlife Conservation Habitat Fund). The fund is derived from the sale of wildlife conservation license plates and member organizations as well as non-member organizations are eligible to apply for those funds.

