



Have you ever played chess? Do you know anything about it?

For the record, sportsmen and women, hunters, anglers, shooters and outdoor recreationists are in a chess game, even though some of you may not realize it.

Chess is a game of strategy and thinking ahead. You don't want to lose your King or Queen if at all possible, but you may lose some chess pieces in the process.

We have to minimize our losses. We must be knights and bishops protecting the "Royalty"; the Kings and Queens (hunting, angling, shooting, wildlife management, etc.)

The anti-hunters, anti-anglers, animal rightists and enviro-litigants despise all we do. Yes, as some among us suggest, they are chipping away at our passions, no argument there.

But what is our end game?

Predator contests are on the table right now. Predator hunters are not happy. I don't blame them. For the record, I can't personally defend the contests, however I can defend predator management and predator hunting.

Yes there is a social component at play here, but folks, if we aren't playing the wildlife management chess game smart and strategically, we're going to be done in a few moves. Whether we like it or not, the social piece has become a major component of the "game".

A couple of years ago, many of us suggested the non-hunting public made up approximately 60-70% of the voters. If "we" made up 20% of the voting populace, and by some miracle all our like minded friends voted, we would still need 30-40% of the non-hunting public to vote with us.

Maricopa County was once again named the [fastest growing county in the United States](#), and I would venture to say the majority of those new residents do not hunt or fish. So do you think we have some education hurdles ahead of us?

Back to the contests - who will buck up the money to defend them, or fight them? National groups? Most of them were AWOL when we were dealing with the wildcat ballot initiative last year. The list of organizations that ponied up funds to fight HSUS on that issue was pretty small.

I am not advocating that we cast off portions of our outdoor passions, but I am suggesting we be smart about what we like to do, what we can do and what's important that we need to save.

The AZ Game & Fish Commission has proposed a rule change that would eliminate contests, which it defines as a "competition among participants where participants must register or record entry and pay a fee and prizes or cash are awarded to winning or successful participants".

By doing this, they are maintaining their authority over all wildlife management, are continuing to manage predators, and are continuing to afford hunters the opportunity to hunt predators.

In my opinion, the elimination of contests as proposed by the Commission is a much more palatable solution than losing predator management and predator hunting altogether by some other means.

I'll suggest a legislative solution, which we've heard was imminent if the Commission didn't act, is not an option we would want to see, like in NM, NV and OR.

I'll also suggest we do not want an anti hunting group to come up with a ballot initiative that might not only eliminate contests, but might take predator management and predator hunting with it at the same time. The non-hunting public might fail to recognize any differences!

You still have time to let the Commission know what you think. Here is the proposed Rule, (page 6, item 4 i), [Notice of Proposed](#)

[Rulemaking](http://www.azgfd.gov/rulemaking). You can also find it here: www.azgfd.gov/rulemaking. You can email your comments to rulemaking@azgfd.gov or mail them to AZGFD, Attn: Rules Section, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086. The deadline to comment is May 12th.

We all need to begin looking strategically at the big picture here. And like the game of chess, we need to be thinking ahead with our next moves.

We can no longer afford to simply react to the anti's next target, we have to mitigate and eliminate their perceived opportunities.

That's the view from here.

Yours in Conservation,
Jim Unmacht Executive Director

Grant Results

AZSFWC provided grant funding for the 2018 Mohave Sportsman Club "Fishing for Smiles" event.

This annual event is a combined effort of Arizona Game and Fish, Kingman Elks Club, Kingman Regional Hospital, the Scott Dutton Family, and Dutton Ranch to supply all rods, reels, bait, and food and beverages to young, and physically challenged children from the greater Kingman area.



This 2 day event was held on the Dutton Family Ranch outside of Kingman.



The first day is open to all youth anglers, and had approximately 150 attendees and their families. The second day had approximately 100 physically challenged children, and their families.

Read more [HERE](#).



Welcome to our newest Associate Member!!

You Can Support AZSFWC by Shopping

Make an impact this Mother's Day

Find the perfect gift at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates.

You shop. Amazon donates.




Support Our Member Group Activities
Regular Sponsors & Supporters

Outdoor Experience  4 11th Annual

Keynote Speakers: Tracy and Lanny Barnes • Live Auction • Raffles • Silent Auction
Saturday May 18, 2019 • Doors open at 4:00 pm • Dinner served at 6:00 pm
The Falls Event Center – 4635 East Baseline Road, Gilbert, AZ 85234

The evening will include dinner, live and silent auctions, raffles for guns, optics, camping equipment, and more! Adult tickets are \$75, child tickets (12 and under) are \$35, and sponsor tables for 10 individuals are \$800. Ticket price includes a mexican buffet dinner from Ajo Al's Mexican Cafe, soft drinks, free beer (while it lasts), and water!

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

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.

Competing Against the World



Olympians in the sport of Biathlon, Tracy and Lanny Barnes competed together in Torino, Italy in 2006 and Lanny competed in Vancouver, Canada in 2010

where Tracy was the alternate. Lanny posted the best U.S. finish in 16 years for the U.S. women at those Olympic Games and both ladies made history and inspired the world when Tracy selflessly gave Lanny her spot on the Sochi, Russia 2014 Olympic team after Lanny fell ill during the final trials and wasn't able to complete all the races. Tracy was given the United Nations UNESCO International Fair Play award and the U.S. Olympic Committee Inspiration Award for her selfless act and for demonstrating true Olympic Spirit.

The "Twin Biathletes" grew up skiing in the mountains of Colorado and shooting small bore competitions as well as hunting and fishing. They combined their skills of skiing and shooting and claim that biathlon has made them better shooters and hunters while shooting and hunting has made them better biathletes as they are able to accurately shoot a rifle with a heart rate of 180 BPM and effortlessly pursue elk above 10,000 ft.

Tracy and Lanny have been competing in 3-gun competitions and have goals of not only becoming the top women 3-gun shooters in the nation, but also want to be competitive against the men as well. Tracy and Lanny also run



a firearms training institute called T.O.P. Shooting Institute, otherwise known as "The Olympian Project", where they teach military, law enforcement, competitive shooters, and hunters how to shoot with an elevated heart rate and under stress. After developing the skills necessary to shoot while under extreme physical and mental stress for the past 15 years, they want to share these unique skills and what they have learned with others. The twins spend a majority of their free time traveling around to schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, 4-H clubs, Boys & Girls Scouts, etc., talking to them about following their dreams, setting goals, and leading a healthy active lifestyle.

Learn more at their websites; www.lannybarnesproshooter.com, www.checkoutside.com, and www.theolympianartist.com.



OE4A takes children who have been diagnosed with a life threatening condition

OE4A 11th Annual Fundraiser • Saturday May 18, 2019
The Falls Event Center – 4635 East Baseline Road, Gilbert

Discounted Rooms: Holiday Inn Express Phoenix East-Gilbert
5285 East Baseline Road • Gilbert, Arizona 85234 • 480-218-8000
Contact: Micah Richhart at 480-832-7000 ext. 5004

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.



Name _____ Email Address _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____
 Number of Individual Tickets _____ @ \$75 each \$ _____
 Number of Child Tickets _____ @ \$35 each \$ _____
 Sponsor Table(s) of 10 _____ @ \$800 each \$ _____ Table of 10 individuals regardless of age.
 Name for sponsor table: _____

If you know the names of people attending, please list below:

Credit Cards Accepted: MasterCard Visa Discover

Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration Date: _____

Security code on back of card: _____ Signature _____

You can purchase online at www.OE4A.org via PayPal, mail in this application, or call Eddy at 480-529-8340!

Send your ticket order form and payment to:
Outdoor Experience 4 All
12826 South 38th Place • Phoenix, AZ 85044
or Fax 480-893-1830

For more information contact:
Eddy Corona
480-529-8340
www.OE4A.org

**25% of today's population are children;
 they are 100% of the future.
 Come join us and help mold the future.**



– Wounded Warriors and Disabled Veterans –

OE4A is able to include Disabled Veterans and Wounded Warriors to the list of people we can transfer Arizona hunt tags too.

Qualifications: A VETERAN OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO HAS A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY. For the purposes of this paragraph: (i) "Disability" means a permanent physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities requiring the assistance of another person or a mechanical device for physical mobility. A copy of your DD-214 and other documentation is required for verification purposes.

If you have any questions please contact: Eddy Corona • 480-529-8340 • Eddy@OE4A.org



BUCK SPRINGS/ HOUSTON DRAW Riparian Restoration Project

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 8-9, 2019

We Really Need YOU!

Volunteer To Join Our **AWARD WINNING** Project Team!

WE'RE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE!

ARIZONA ELK SOCIETY
SELECTED BY THE US FOREST SERVICE FOR



FOR 2017 PROJECT:
LONG VALLEY MEADOW
RESTORATION PHASE I

THANK YOU!
TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS
THAT HELPED US ON THIS PROJECT!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO HELP:

Individuals, Families, Corporate Group Volunteers,
Scouts, Conservation Partners, etc.

NOTE: The Arizona Elk Society is a family oriented organization, however projects are potentially dangerous working with barbed wire, rocks, logs, branches, saws, tools and vehicles. Kids under 18 will need to be supervised by an adult.

PROJECT WORK TASKS:

- Riparian Restoration
- Tree Thinning
- Rock Structure Building
- Stream Channel Shaping
- Meadow Log Fence

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- All Weekend
- Friday - Trailer Hauling
- Friday Noon - Set-Up
- Saturday - Work Project
- Sunday - Work Project, Tear-Down
- Trailer Hauling/Unloading

Arizona Antelope Foundation



27th Annual Recognition Banquet Fundraiser and Hunter Clinic

June 22nd 2019
Clinic 12:00pm - 4:00 pm
Banquet 5:00pm - 9:00pm
Embassy Suites
4400 S. Rural Rd
Tempe Az

Register at AzAntelope.org



Arizona Chapter of Safari Club International (AZSCI) Annual Banquet

When: June 29th, 2019, Doors open at 4:00pm
Where: Loew's Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson (Discounted room rates available!)
For tickets: Visit www.azsci.com/shop

The Arizona Chapter of SCI retains 70% of the net proceeds from this event to fund projects like our Junior Deer Camp in the fall and the Junior Jack Kamp in the spring. The Chapter has also funded numerous water catchment projects in Arizona. We will be giving away 50 guns on the night and will have a number of great trips and hunts up for bid, including some AZGFD Commissioner's Tags.

**Special Drawings to Benefit Youth Hunting Camps
and Water Catchment Projects in Arizona**



Kansas Whitetail

Only 200 tickets will be sold at \$25 each



Canyon Cooler

Only 100 tickets will be sold at \$10 each



Sitka Ascent Pack

Only 100 tickets will be sold at \$10 each



Custom Mattress

Only 100 tickets will be sold at \$10 each

[Tickets only available online at www.azsci.com](http://www.azsci.com)

Mentoring Kids Fishing Derby





Save the Date!

Patagonia Lake, AZ



Saturday, September 7, 2019



Members

1.2.3.Go...	Anglers United	AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Bass Federation Nation	AZ Big Game Super Raffle	AZ Bowhunters Association
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 Adventures
AZ Outdoor Sports	AZ Predator Callers	AZ Shooting Sports Education Foundation
AZ Taxidermy Association	Back Country Hunters & Anglers	Christian Hunters of America
Kahuna's Kids	Mule Deer Foundation	Mohave Sportsman Cub
Outdoor Experience 4 All	Southeastern AZ Sportsmen Club	SRT Outdoors Inc
Southern Arizona Quail Forever	Southwest Wildlife Foundation (YVRGC)	The Bass Federation Arizona
TRCP	Valley of the Sun Quail Forever	White Mountain Lakes Foundation

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

OUTDOORMAN



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS





Got Wildlife?

Get Your License Plate

servicearizona.com

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. (More info [HERE](#)).

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/startChoice.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.

