



Some of you may remember the old soap opera from decades ago..."As the World Turns". If you don't remember it, you might think you're in the midst of living in it right now.

The "Covid-Cloud", let's call it CC for short, is growing tiresome, as our normal lives are dramatically being altered. I didn't intend this message to be a primer on CC, but it's nothing to cough at (sorry), and the fact remains our passions are being impacted by it: banquets are being postponed, meetings cancelled, events changed, projects delayed and collectively our belts are being tightened.

While CC weighs down the negative side of the scale, there are some positives happening around Arizona too, here are a few:

- Lake levels are rising and maybe we'll have a great spawn.
- Spring turkey season is only a few weeks away.
- The Legislature is contemplating a hiatus.
- Antler growth should be phenomenal this year.
- No HSUS initiatives headed for the ballot this fall.

Notwithstanding CC, some things never change and don't seem to go away. I'll liken it to the invasive species thriving in our desert right now - "Globe Chamomile", aka "Stinknet".

- <https://arizonadailyindependent.com/2019/04/27/globe-chamomile-an-invasive-species-in-arizona/>
- The CBD, Sierra Club and Grand Canyon Wildlands Council have filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to sue the AZ Game & Fish Department and Commission for lead ammunition use on the Kaibab National Forest. (suit will be filed) Click [here](#) to see the NOI.

- A New Mexico State Court has ruled the NM Game & Fish to release

A New Mexico state court has ruled the NM Game & Fish to release the names and personal information of all hunt applicants to two individuals for the last few years. (doesn't apply to Arizona)

- Our Mexican wolf population went up 24% in the last year, but to the lobo lovers, it's not enough, it's not diverse enough, and "we're not tapping into that prime country north of the Grand Canyon".
- Feral equids - Finally a management plan under consideration by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest for the Heber horses, click [here](#) to see our AZSFWC comment letter. AZSFWC submitted comment to the Tonto National Forest on the Draft Land Management Plan too, including the Salt River horse debacle, click [here](#) for that letter. And on burros, the BLM is taking comment related to the Black Mountain Herd Management Area. That comment period ends on April 1st, and AZSFWC will submit comment on this issue too. We'll see if anything positive comes from all of this.
- Legislation...most legislation is stalled on both the state and federal level because of CC. AZ Rep. Finchem's land management bill (HB2092) requiring state approval of any private land donated or sold to the Federal government passed the House and is now in Senate committees. The AZ Legislature passed an interim budget yesterday, and the Governor is expected to sign it today. The legislature is now adjourned until April 13th. The U.S. House and Senate continue to be mired in politics...what else is new.

Stay safe, and enjoy the outdoors with fewer than 10 people and make sure you're at least six feet apart!

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

More License Plate Funds at Work



Last month we reported on grant funding we provided to the AZ Game & Fish Watchable Wildlife Owl Cam. We heard late last week the nest has yielded some young owlets.

This is exciting news! You can view the stream on the G&F website [HERE](#).

Upcoming Member Group Activities & Events
This is very fluid given response to COVID-19
Many groups have had to cancel or postpone activities
Be sure to check with a group for up to date info



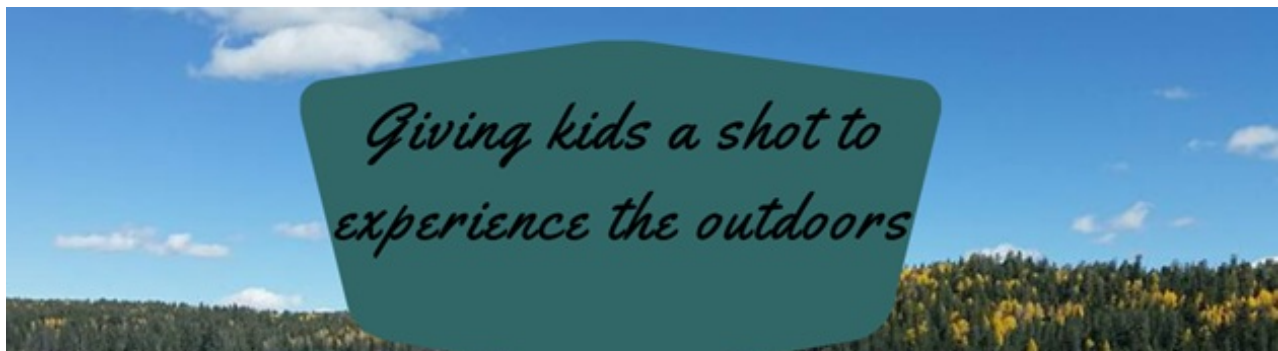
We are going ahead with the Guthrie Peak Habitat project on Saturday March 28th. We will meet at milepost 147 on US Hwy 191 north of Safford at 8AM Saturday morning March 28th. Please RSVP if you are able to go so we can provide lunch for everyone. Trucks with 4x4 and side by sides are able to get to the project location. Hand tools, shovels, rakes, ext would be appreciated.

Because of the COVID 19 virus scare, please practice social distancing. If you are feeling sick or ill please don't feel bad about not attending. The project location is large and in the open/outdoors.



Southern Arizona Quail Forever is looking for volunteers to help build loose rock dams. These small rock dams slow water flow to retain soil and improve habitat. This is part of the borderlands grassland project led by Coronado National Forest south of Sierra Vista. Quail, deer, pronghorn and other wildlife will benefit from this habitat work.

Volunteer dates include April 4 and April 8 with a 8:30 AM meet time. A typical work day is 3-5 hours but any amount of help is appreciated. Saturday April 4 is also Arizona Public Lands Day. The volunteer meet up location is at Montezuma Pass. There is a large sign for Montezuma Pass and it's also a big parking area with drop toilets, making it difficult to miss. If you can help or have questions please contact Jim Littlejohn at JSL1964@gmail.com.





AOASPORTINGCLAYSSHOT.COM

Date: Saturday, May 9 Time: 8:00 am - 1: 00 pm (Check in at 8 am, shoot at 9 am, and lunch at 12 pm) Location: Ben Avery Shooting Facility (4044 W Black Canyon Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85086)



Dear Arizona Elk Society Sponsors, Guests, Members, and Volunteers,

Based on the directives and recommendations from the Office of the President, CDC, and Governor's Office, the 19th Annual Arizona Elk Society Banquet is being rescheduled. It is important to the AES Board and staff that we help address the concerns about the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect the safety and wellbeing of our sponsors, guests, members, volunteers, and employees.

The new date for the banquet is scheduled for Saturday, June 6th, 2020.

Any guests with tickets during this time will be able to use them at the rescheduled banquet on Saturday, June 6th, 2020. If you would prefer to cancel, we would be grateful if you would consider letting us convert your ticket purchase to a donation as we are facing an uncertain time with the postponement of this event. AES annual banquet is our primary fundraiser, which makes up nearly 62 percent of our annual budget. Loss of this revenue would severely impact AES's ability to continue our programs and projects for this year. While we are saddened by the postponement, we know that we must do what is right for our community. We are happy to issue a refund upon request. Please respond to janetb@arizonaelksociety.org or call the office at 623-444-4147.

We started using an online platform to offer online raffles, a few years ago, which provides us an opportunity to make up for some of the lost revenue. Even though the banquet has been postponed, you can still support our mission and invite others to join in by purchasing online raffle tickets or making a donation. Raffle tickets are available in the store at <https://www.shopaes.org/> and donations can be made at the following link: <https://shopaes.org/product/donation-to-aes/>

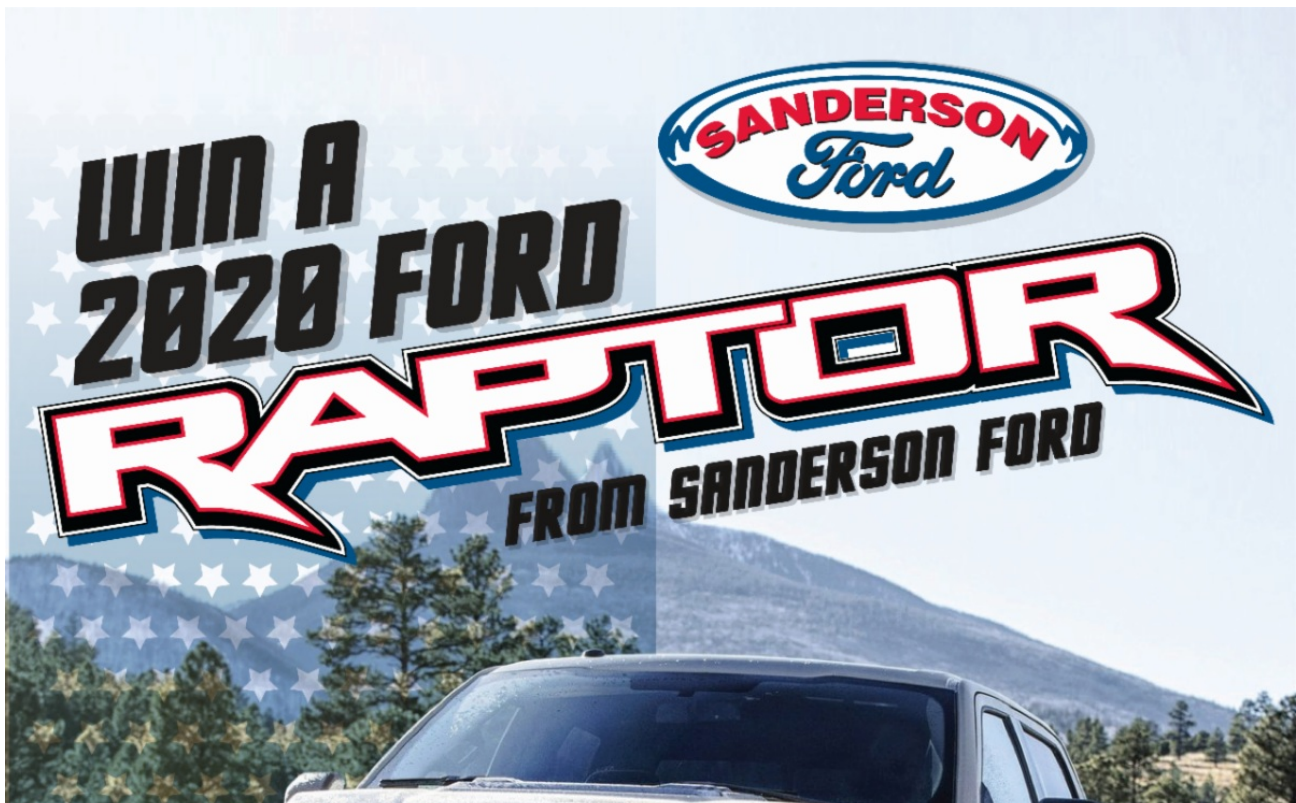
Your generosity, no matter how small, will go a long way in allowing AES to continue its vital programs to our habitat, our youth, and our wounded warriors.

Thank you again to our event sponsors, guests, members and volunteers. We can't express enough how grateful we are for your patience as we explored every viable option. We greatly appreciate your understanding of this decision and while this is a difficult moment for all, we wish everyone to remain safe and healthy. The AES community is a strong one, and I know we all remain dedicated to our cause.

Sincerely,

Steve Clark
Executive Director

Help Us Continue to Keep You Informed





Hunt Raffle

SPRING KANSAS
EASTERN TURKEY HUNT FOR 2
BELL WILDLIFE SPECIALTIES

Two day semi-guided hunt for two hunters who can harvest 1 turkey each. Dates to be scheduled with outfitter between 4/15 and 5/31 in either 2020 or 2021



Tickets \$10

Up to 400 tickets will be sold

[CLICK HERE TO BUY](#)



Winner responsible for non-resident hunting license and tag. Cost is \$150

Regular Sponsors & Supporters



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| 1.2.3.Go... | Anglers United | AZ Antelope Foundation |
| AZ Bass Federation | AZ Big Game Super | AZ Bowhunters |
| Nation | Raffle | 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

THE RANCH AT
SOUTH FORK
Where family memories are made



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.

