

2024

Association for
Conservation Information

AWARDS RESULTS

Annual Conference hosted by the
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

Arlington, VA
July 22-25, 2024

Compiled by Beth Quillian, Awards Co-Chairperson
(beth.s.quillian@odfw.oregon.gov) and Chris Martin, Awards
Co-Chairperson (christopher.martin1@wyo.gov)





ASSOCIATION *for*

CONSERVATION

INFORMATION, INC.

2024

Awards Results

Annual Conference hosted by
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July 22-25, 2024 in Arlington, VA

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and Chris Martin, Awards Co-Chairperson (christopher.martin1@wyo.gov)*

Audio/Video Categories

Audio Program or Podcast

First Place

Score: 78.67

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY
Tennessee WildCast: Birds, Books and Back Porch Pickin'

Second Place

Score: 78.00

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Nature Boost Podcast: A Night at the Munny

Third Place

Score: 77.33

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Wildtalk Podcast – Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Bird Migration and the White-tailed Deer

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 59.33

Judges:

Tim Akimoff

Tim Akimoff is the social media coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. His background is storytelling, first at newspapers, then in television and radio. Now he works across all three platforms creating content for conservation communication. Tim is the host and producer of the Beaver State Podcast and co-host and producer of The Outdoor Communicators Podcast for the Association For Conservation Communication. If Tim has spare time, he's fishing, collecting tinned fish and reading books. (Probably about fish).

Abe Moore

Todd Craighead

Todd is a 29-year veteran of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, where he serves as producer and host of the agency's Outdoor Oklahoma television series. Over his nearly three decades with the agency, he has worn a variety of hats, including publications specialist producing regulations books, internal communication, posters, etc., radio voice overs, and photographer. Outside of work, Todd co-hosts his own podcast, Campfire Chronicles, is a passionate hunter and R3 advocate, state board member of Oklahoma Hunters and Anglers, truck camping enthusiast, and rock crawling Jeeper. When asked what he is most proud of, Todd glowingly said it's the privilege of getting to work alongside of an office 10 feet away from the greatest ACI president ever, Blake Podhajsky.

Recurring Video Program

First Place **Score: 183.00**
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Nature's Calling

First Place **Score: 183.00**
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES
Kentucky Afield

Second Place **Score: 177.50**
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Women in Science

Third Place **Score: 175.50**
MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
Field Trips

Maximum Score: 200
Low Score: 105.00

Judges:

Tony Dolle

Tony Dolle has been a successful writer, editor and photographer for more than 45 years. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his newspaper reporting and has won awards for his syndicated newspaper column and his photography. He has worked as communications director in the outdoor industry for Cabela's and Ducks Unlimited. He is a past president and board chair of The Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA), the Association of Great lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW) and The Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association (TOWA). He currently serves as the executive director for TOWA and lives outside of Nashville, TN. His hobbies include upland bird hunting, photography (film and digital) and flyfishing.

JH "Scooter" Whatley

With nearly 40 years in the video production industry, I have had the opportunity to shoot video around the world, from big game safari hunts in Africa to 20 years with ESPN Sports.

Video Feature: Hunting and Fishing

First Place

Score: 183.00

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Back to Her Roots: Kayak Jugline Fishing

Second Place

Score: 180.00

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

The Hunt of a Lifetime – Kentucky Bull Elk

Third Place

Score: 178.50

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

On Patrol: A Day During Dove Season with Law Enforcement

Maximum Score: 200

Low Score: 130.50

Judges:

JD Schuyler

Since 2006, JD Schuyler has been immersed in the world of commercial and documentary video production. Throughout this time, he has worked for advertising agencies and independently as a videographer. In 2019, he completed the feature-length documentary, Last Man Fishing, which delved into the struggles of the nation's few remaining small-scale commercial fishermen. Today, he produces video content for the Indiana DNR to share the natural world with online audiences.

Whitney Bishop

Whitney Bishop is a former video producer turned Social Media Manager for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Under her tenure, the agency has developed over 300 social channels with 3 million fans. Bishop produces both video and graphic content for the main agency accounts. The agency's social media posts have resulted in news coverage by multiple media outlets including The New York Times, MSN, Smithsonian Magazine, The Weather Channel and several state and local sites.

Video Feature: How-to / Instructional

First Place

Score: 188.00

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
The Mighty Persimmon

Second Place

Score: 177.67

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES
How to Process a Wild Turkey with Becky Bloomfield

Third Place

Score: 173.67

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES
CWD Testing: Using Self-serve Freezers

Maximum Score: 200

Low Score: 137.67

Judges:

Phil Tuttle

Phil Tuttle is a full-time videographer, filmmaker, cinematographer, and editor for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR). He has also produced films for the past 10 years for the International Fly Fishing Film Festival (freelance). Over those 10 years, four of his films have won "Best Feature Film." Phil has a Masters Degree in Natural Resources Management with an emphasis in Fisheries. He has also worked as a Fisheries Biologist and an Outreach Manager for the UDWR prior to working in his current capacity.

Adam Baylor

Baylor is a public affairs specialist for ODFW. He supports fish and wildlife biologists in storytelling and communicating with the public primarily on the east side of Oregon.

Eva Frederick

Eva Frederick is the managing editor of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine. She helps write, edit and produce 10 issues of the magazine each year, with the goal of inspiring people to learn about Texas nature and get outside and see it for themselves. A graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Eva spent the last few years trying her hand at different types of science writing at *Science* and the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research before joining the magazine team last year. She currently lives in Austin.

Video Feature: Natural Resource Conservation

First Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Riverine Wetlands of Nebraska

Score: 190.00

Second Place

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Black-Footed Ferret: Saving America's Most Endangered Mammal

Score: 185.33

Third Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Saline Wetlands of Nebraska

Score: 185.00

Maximum Score: 200

Low Score: 128.50

Judges:

Brett C. Billings

Billings is a senior video producer with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, where he still shoots video and photos, and edits a few projects on AVID. He travels the United States working with USFWS biologists and staff to procure hard-to-get imagery needed by the conservation community. He manages the service's HD B-roll collection: 350 10-minute groupings of the best public domain nature footage available. He is a former Army broadcast journalist, having served in Alaska, Portugal and Germany. He also worked for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources for 10 years before joining USFWS. He lives in West Virginia.

Mallory Henderson

Joe Arana

Joe Arana is a Public Information Coordinator for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and a Graduate from the Savannah College of Art and Design. His 12-year background in art includes experience with various fields such as film, animation, and graphic design. Currently, as he works for the Office of External Affairs within the SCDNR, he takes part in discovering the creative ways that the agency can raise awareness about the conservation of their natural resources, as well as how South Carolina residents can responsibly enjoy what could be found right outside their doors (especially if that includes any cool bugs he can find).

Video Feature: Outdoor Recreation

First Place

Score: 182.33

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Urban Wetlands of Nebraska

Second Place

Score: 182.00

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Urban Wildscaping

Third Place

Score: 167.00

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Archery Range Grand Opening

Maximum Score: 200

Low Score: 145.00

Judges:

Adam Baylor

Baylor is a public affairs specialist for ODFW. He supports fish and wildlife biologists in storytelling and communicating with the public primarily on the east side of Oregon.

J'sha Gift

J'sha is the Videographer for North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. She is an award-winning filmmaker and journalist with a background in both communications and journalism. She specializes in branded documentary content, effectively translating messages about environmentalism, wildlife regulations and resources to the constituents of North Carolina.

Jenifer Wisniewski

Jenifer Wisniewski is the Chief Marketing Officer for the National Deer Association and the Grants Chair for the Association for Conservation Information and past president of the Association for Conservation Information and has worked actively over the last few years to bring marketing to the forefront of what agencies do to make a difference in recruiting, retaining, and reactivating hunters, shooters, and anglers as well as keeping our agencies and the work we do relevant to the public at large. She held roles prior to this as chief of communications and marketing for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Georgia Wildlife Resources Division and has served as chair of the AFWA Outreach and Marketing Working Group, Board Member for the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, and co-chair of the SEAFWA R3 Committee. Her success in Georgia and now Tennessee has garnered much attention nationwide and efforts have been featured by national organizations like the Association of Conservation Information, The Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Archery Trade Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Wildlife Management Institute, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Video PSA and Marketing

First Place

KANSAS WILDLIFE, PARKS AND TOURISM
Beyond Hunting

Score: 180.50

Second Place

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES
Focused on the Future

Score: 168.00

Third Place

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Wear it Nevada

Score: 166.00

Maximum Score: 200

Low Score: 128.50

Judges:

Micah Holmes

Micah Holmes serves as the Assistant Chief of Communication and Education at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation where he oversees the agency's marketing efforts, R3 initiatives, education programs, and human dimensions work and most recently overseeing the state's ambitious and shooting range construction and renovation program. He also serves as the agency's lead media spokesperson and supports legislative efforts. He co-chaired the agency's most recent strategic plan and led the effort to rebrand the organization. For more than 20 years Holmes has been actively engaged in the hunting and fishing community including serving as president of the Association for Conservation Information, team member for the development of AFWA's Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Road Map, IWG member for the National Hunting and Shooting Sports Action Plan, presenter at RBF Marketing Workshop, vice chair of WAFWA's Public Affairs Committee. He is a graduate of the National Conservation Leadership Institute.

Blake Podhajsky

Blake Podhajsky is the current president of the Association for Conservation Information. Prior to this role, he served as ACI secretary, ACI awards committee chairperson and served three years on the ACI board of directors. Podhajsky has worked for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for 19 years as an award-winning video producer and communication and education specialist, and a total of 23 years as a video producer, editor, videographer and photographer. In his young and more athletic years, Podhajsky had produced outdoor videos all over the world for national television programs, but now he often wakes up with a sore neck and weird creaks in his joints, but that doesn't keep him away from pursuing and telling the stories of the great outdoor opportunities across Oklahoma and the outdoors enthusiasts who enjoy hunting, fishing and all things outdoors, via the ODWC's television show, Outdoor Oklahoma. In his spare time, Podhajsky enjoys disc golf, hanging with his kids who all think they will be professional athletes, starting and not finishing landscaping projects and chasing bass and crappie.

Communication/Education Categories

Best Use of Humor

First Place **Score: 91.00**
COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
There Arose Such a Clatter – Bighorn Sheep Resue

Second Place **Score: 90.00**
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Gar Week Trivia

Third Place **Score: 89.33**
NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES
Raccoons Are Not Pets Facebook Campaign

Maximum Score: 100
Low Score: 72.67

Judges:

Katie Grant

Katie Grant is Communications Director at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). With over 10 years of experience in the communications and marketing world, Katie began working in the DNR's award-winning Office of Communications in August 2018 and has also served as the Digital Communications Section Supervisor and as a Public Information Officer. She got her start in communications through her own business of teaching coaches how to build their social media presence and has worked in various industries including non-profit events, restaurants and grocery stores. She is currently serving as the Midwest representative for Government Social Media Leadership Council (and has previously served as vice president) and has a Bachelor of Arts from UW-Madison in Spanish Language and Hispanic Studies.

Bobby Jones

Bobby Jones has spent the last eight years working for the Nevada Department of Wildlife and currently is their Outdoor Connection Coordinator. In that role he focuses on helping the Department better engage and serve broad audiences, craft conservation messaging campaigns, and connect the public to nature in a variety of ways.

Kipp Woods

Kipp Woods is a digital media producer for the Missouri Dept. of Conservation. He has worked for MDC for 33 years. He was executive producer and host of the Department's TV show Missouri Outdoors for 17 years before it was discontinued in 2007. Since that time, he has helped coordinate, produce, and manage many of MDC's online videos and MDC's YouTube channels. Prior to coming to MDC, Woods worked at TV stations in Kansas and Missouri including the Joplin and Springfield markets.

Communication Campaign - Educational

First Place

Score: 91.67

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Protect Oregon's Wildlife – Turn in Poachers

Second Place

Score: 84.67

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ESA at 50: More Important Than Ever

Third Place

Score: 83.67

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
Rebuilding a Legend – Lake Conway

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 65.00

Judges:

Claudia Harden

As a native Floridian, I have always had an affinity for wildlife and a deep love for the natural world. For over 20 years, I have worked to promote wildlife and domestic animals to the masses. After 14 years of managing the marketing, development, customer experience, and special event divisions at the Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society (West Palm Beach, FL), I moved from the “big cat” realm to the smaller variety. In 2016, I joined Cat Depot (Sarasota, FL), one of the nation's largest feline-only rescue, adoption, and community resource centers, and am currently their Director of Communications & Development overseeing the marketing/PR, community education, fundraising, retail, and volunteer divisions.

Amanda Stroud

Amanda attended the University of South Carolina where she graduated with a B.S. in Marine Science and a M.A. of Public Administration. She began her career with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) in the Flood Mitigation Program in 2005, as a public information coordinator, later joining the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division as a public information director. After working as the Assistant Director of the Office of Media and Outreach for several years, Amanda was named the Director of the Office of Media and Outreach in October 2020 where she was charged with overall coordination of outreach and marketing efforts for the SCDNR. Today, Amanda serves as the Director of Education and Outreach.

Emalee Smith

With a background in mass communications and a specialization in graphic design from Black Hills State University, my career fuses my love for communication and design. I have experience working in the agricultural sector, developing compelling visuals and marketing materials, and for the last year and a half, I've applied my skills at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Here, I've focused on graphic design, marketing, and website management, enhancing my ability to convey complex messages through engaging designs. This journey has not just expanded my skill set but also ignited a deeper passion for utilizing graphic design as a powerful communication tool.

Communication Campaign - Marketing

First Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
Beneath Nebraska Skies – State Parks Promotion

Score: 90.00

First Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Retention of Female Anglers

Score: 90.00

Second Place

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
Keep Colorado Wild

Score: 89.67

Third Place

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Fish Nevada

Score: 85.33

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 41.67

Judges:

Claudia Harden

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Jenifer Wisniewski is the Chief Marketing Officer for the National Deer Association and the Grants Chair for the Association for Conservation Information and past president of the Association for Conservation Information and has worked actively over the last few years to bring marketing to the forefront of what agencies do to make a difference in recruiting, retaining, and reactivating hunters, shooters, and anglers as well as keeping our agencies and the work we do relevant to the public at large. She held roles prior to this as chief of communications and marketing for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Georgia Wildlife Resources Division and has served as chair of the AFWA Outreach and Marketing Working Group, Board Member for the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, and co-chair of the SEAFWA R3 Committee. Her success in Georgia and now Tennessee has garnered much attention nationwide and efforts have been featured by national organizations like the Association of Conservation Information, The Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Archery Trade Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Wildlife Management Institute, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Joanne Martonik

Joanne Martonik started working at the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation in 2015 and is currently the Stakeholder Marketing & Communications Senior Manager. She oversees RBFF's communications, marketing, and outreach with industry and state agency partners. She manages the Annual State Marketing Workshop, a boat registration reactivation program, First Catch Centers and more. Joanne joined the ACI Board in 2021 and is currently serving as the Secretary. Prior to joining RBFF, Joanne used her communications, marketing, and outreach skills to provide coalition creation, membership coordination and project management for non-profits in both the conservation and financial education fields.

Education

First Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
Nebraska Nature Nerd Trivia

Score: 97.33

Second Place

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Washington Wildlife: 1st Grade Unit on Washington's Baby Wildlife

Score: 94.33

Third Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
Reptileology Magazine

Score: 93.33

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 37.33

Judges:

Yvonne Shaw

Yvonne Shaw coordinates the Protect Oregon's Wildlife- Turn in Poachers campaign for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division, and Oregon Department of Justice. Yvonne, who has managed issues campaigns in Oregon and New Zealand, pulls together like minds to create social change and measurable action. She works alongside a robust community partnership team comprised of state and federal agencies, non-profits and NGOs. An Oregon native, Yvonne enjoys writing, beekeeping, and the outdoors. She's eager to discover what's around the next bend, whether it's a waterfall, a plot twist, or a honeybee swarm.

Kathy Church

Kathy Church is a Wildlife Interpretive Specialist for the Ga Department of Natural Resources. Her responsibility is to educate the public about the natural resources of the state. Prior to this position, Ms. Church was a high school teacher, in both the public & private sectors, for over a decade.

Kelly Adams

External Newsletter

First Place

Score: 88.67

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

The Wild Side

Second Place

Score: 84.33

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

State Parks Getaways

Third Place

Score: 82.33

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

Tennessee State Parks Adventure Guide

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 66.00

Judges:

Leia Althauser

Leia Althauser (she/her) is a dynamic storyteller and strategic thinker with a background in wildlife based community engagement, education, and journalism. She's won national awards for her work in newspaper design and long-form narrative stories and she's passionate about making fish and wildlife conservation relevant and meaningful to diverse audiences. Currently, Althauser serves as the Conservation Education Coordinator at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife where she leads the development and implementation of state-wide educational and community engagement initiatives.

Dan Dennison

Dan leads all internal and external communications for DLNR, which has 11 divisions and broad responsibilities for land and ocean management throughout Hawaii. Prior to joining DLNR, Dennison was a television reporter in the Denver market, and then an Emmy-award winning news director at six TV stations in 4 states. While he manages the communications department, he shoots, produces, and edits most of the 300+ videos sent to the media and for online usage annually.

Robert Gagliardi

I am the associate editor of Wyoming Wildlife magazine, which has been published for more than 88 years. I have been with the magazine for nearly five years, and prior to that was a sports journalist in Wyoming for 26 years. I am based in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and live with my wife and our two golden retrievers -- Fisher and Hank.

Internal Communication

First Place

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Wildlife O Gram

Score: 89.67

Second Place

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
Brand Standards Guide

Score: 88.33

Third Place

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Nevada Wild Life

Score: 86.67

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 67.33

Judges:

Jenifer Wisniewski

Jenifer Wisniewski is the Chief Marketing Officer for the National Deer Association and the Grants Chair for the Association for Conservation Information and past president of the Association for Conservation Information and has worked actively over the last few years to bring marketing to the forefront of what agencies do to make a difference in recruiting, retaining, and reactivating hunters, shooters, and anglers as well as keeping our agencies and the work we do relevant to the public at large. She held roles prior to this as chief of communications and marketing for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Georgia Wildlife Resources Division and has served as chair of the AFWA Outreach and Marketing Working Group, Board Member for the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, and co-chair of the SEAFWA R3 Committee. Her success in Georgia and now Tennessee has garnered much attention nationwide and efforts have been featured by national organizations like the Association of Conservation Information, The Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Archery Trade Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Wildlife Management Institute, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Amanda Nalley

Nalley has been working in communications for 20 years, starting as a reporter for the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper in 2004. She worked six years at the paper, 10 at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and has been with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance as their communications manager for 2.5 years.

Sandy Benson

Sandy Benson is a retired forester who has authored numerous natural resources-related articles for magazines and newspapers and has received awards from the Nebraska Press Women. She published her first book in 2021 and, in 2024, a collection of her dad's letters home from World War II. She is currently working on her memoir, *Girls Can't Do That: Stories from One of America's Early Female Foresters*. She lives in the North Carolina mountains.

Website

First Place

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
Arizona Game and Fish Department Website

Score: 182.00

Second Place

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS
Experience Summer at Tennessee State Parks Webpage

Score: 177.00

Third Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
Nebraska Game and Parks Website

Score: 176.67

Maximum Score: 190

Low Score: 150.67

Judges:

Erin Aker

After starting off her career as a Public Information Officer Intern at the Arizona Department of Game and Fish, she joined Scottsdale-based marketing agency, Digital Air Strike, working as a social media specialist. She has been in the industry for over ten years and while she's enjoyed her career in automotive marketing, wildlife conservation and education will always have a special place in her heart. Erin is now a Senior Engagement Support Specialist with Digital Air Strike, helping her clients with their online presence and reputation. She is also a Walker Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Arizona State University alumni.

Scott Davis

Scott Davis is the Senior Webmaster for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He joined the agency in 2008 after two decades in the newspaper industry. Davis led Indiana DNR through adoption of social media, numerous website redesigns, and implementation of new technologies such as video and online calendars. He was there, Gandalf. Davis is passionate about usability, web writing, and information architecture. He is graduate of Ball State University with degrees in journalism education and digital storytelling. Davis lives in central Indiana with his wife, two stepsons and a very spoiled Cocker Spaniel.

Patrick Owen

Patrick Owen has been working as the visual information specialist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for the past 5 years. He is also the creative director for Wyoming Wildlife magazine. In these roles, Patrick designs a wide array of print and digital items, takes photos of wildlife and G&F fieldwork and designs 12 magazine issues a year. Before working for the department, Patrick worked in higher education marketing, public relations and design for six years and ran his own freelance design company.

Graphic Design/Photo Categories

Graphics: Advertising/Display

First Place **Score: 91.00**
ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
AGFC Volunteer Pop-Up Banners

First Place **Score: 91.00**
NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
Track Chair Trailer

Second Place **Score: 86.00**
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Discover Fishing Vertical Ad

Third Place **Score: 84.50**
UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES
All About Elk: Educational Exhibit at the Hardware Wildlife Education Center

Maximum Score: 100
Low Score: 61.50

Judges:

Daneka Allen

Aaron Meier

Aaron Meier has been a public information officer/graphic designer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife for 19 years. Before taking over the state's boating education program in 2018, Meier worked as NDOW's publications coordinator for 12 years and was responsible for the layout and design of all the department's materials including posters, magazines, brochures, postcards, displays and graphics. His work has been recognized by ACI several times including awards for poster design, regulations publications, news releases and communications campaigns.

Graphics: Layout

First Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Camper Coffee

Score: 99.00

Second Place

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

More Than Mallards

Score: 92.00

Third Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

The Flies of Texas

Score: 91.00

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 77.00

Judges:

Aaron Meier

Aaron Meier has been a public information officer/graphic designer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife for 19 years. Before taking over the state's boating education program in 2018, Meier worked as NDOW's publications coordinator for 12 years and was responsible for the layout and design of all the department's materials including posters, magazines, brochures, postcards, displays and graphics. His work has been recognized by ACI several times including awards for poster design, regulations publications, news releases and communications campaigns.

Jenny Erickson

Jenny Erickson is a seasoned designer and artist with nearly two decades of expertise across diverse design and outreach capacities. Her career spans impactful contributions to agencies, non-profits, and the natural resources sector, showcasing her versatile skills in visual communication. Jenny holds a bachelor's degree in Communication Design from the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design.

Graphics: Logo/Illustrations

First Place

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Ohio Wildlife Sticker Series

Score: 95.00

Second Place

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
Bluebird Seasons Illustration

Score: 94.67

Third Place

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Watchable Wildlife: Marine Species Sticker

Score: 94.00

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 70.00

Judges:

Aubree Perrenoud

Aubree Perrenoud brings over a decade of graphic design experience to the table, creating work for organizations like the UNHCR, Consumer Cellular, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and currently for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. When not turning ideas into designs, life is spent with their family, Pancake (the dog who thinks he's the real artist), and Pluto the corgi (who supervises everything).

Adam Cox

Smokey Solis

Smokey Solis is the Graphics and Regulation Coordinator for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. For almost four years he has worked as the department's graphic designer and has played a key role in the ODWC's rebrand in 2022/23. Smokey has 9 years of experience as a freelance designer with a focus on small business branding. He enjoys being a lifelong student and considers every job a new learning experience. When he isn't in front of a computer screen you can find him in the woods, at the lake, traveling with his wife, or relaxing at home with his two miniature dachshunds.

Photography: Flora and Fauna

First Place

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
Sunset Mule Deer Buck

Score: 90.33

Second Place

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES
Bobcat

Score: 88.33

Third Place

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Bathing Robin

Score: 86.67

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 66.33

Judges:

Laura Tesler

With almost twenty years of experience as a professional photographer, Laura Tesler has traveled to Africa, Mexico, Honduras, the Philippines, Indonesia, Fiji, Canada, and throughout the United States. Her specialty is underwater photography, focusing on environmental issues, rockfish, and kelp forests. Laura also shoots “topside” as a photojournalist and currently contracts with four newspapers on varying assignments covering a variety of events from fires to rodeos. An engaging speaker, lecturer, and workshop instructor, Laura’s span of knowledge can be experienced through her informative and fun presentations and workshops. Laura’s clients have included Scuba Diving magazine, The American Fisheries Society, Pew Charitable Trust, The Elakha Alliance, and many other nonprofit and local newspapers in Oregon. Laura has worked for the federal and state government, currently works for the state of Oregon, and owns her own business as the sole proprietor since 2020, Laura Tesler Photography.

Don Brown

Since July 2013, Brown has been editor of Outdoor Oklahoma magazine. The Tulsa native earned a bachelor’s degree in photojournalism from Oklahoma State University, and spent more than 20 years in daily newspaper journalism. He’s taken awards from The Associated Press, Oklahoma Press Association, American Copy Editors Society, American Press Institute, Society of Professional Journalists, and the Association for Conservation Information. He has also worked as a portrait and wedding photographer, and as a photo printer and film processor. He’s an aviation nut and enjoys his hobby of scale modeling, along with an occasional fishing and hunting trip.

Mike Fender

Photography: People

First Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Foggy Fishing

Score: 93.50

Second Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Birds Abound

Score: 90.50

Third Place

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Feeding Young Pronghorn

Score: 88.50

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 64.00

Judges:

Heather Lose

Heather Lose is the editor-in-chief of The Tennessee Conservationist magazine and the art director for Tennessee State Parks. She splits her time between producing six annual issues of the magazine and overseeing branded print materials and signage for the state's 57 state parks—with more coming soon! Heather's experiences include designing and producing a 456-page, award-winning, museum-quality photography book for Kenny Chesney entitled *Living in Fast Forward*. She was a producer for the prominent Chicago-based portrait and sports photographer Sandro Miller, and helped found the Nashville Community Darkroom, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community arts center.

Megan Rossman

Chet Strange

Chet Strange is an independent photographer, director, and producer based on Colorado's front range. He has worked extensively with The New York Times, Washington Post, Getty Images, and other news gathering operations around the globe. His editorial work seeks to understand our relationships with and impacts on our environment, as well as documenting national and global news stories. He also runs Strange Visuals, a full-service creative production outlet that offers still + video production, creative direction and logistical services for global brands and organizations. Strange Visuals has worked with companies such as Google, Nike, and Spotify, as well as healthcare and humanitarian organizations to tell their stories and bring their missions to life.

Photography: Scenic

First Place

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Night Visions

Score: 96.00

Second Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Davis Mountains Sunset

Score: 94.67

Third Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
Sandhills Fog: Ethereal Embrace

Score: 91.67

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 67.67

Judges:

Pete Baki

Pete Baki works with ODOT to address fish passage needs on the Oregon state highway system. He has previously worked on sage grouse issues, fish screening, habitat conservation, ESA compliance and lots of various fieldwork. In his free time, he does underwater freshwater photography with a focus on native fish and freshwater mussels.

Will Malone

Will Malone is a seasoned photographer with 15 years of experience in capturing the world through his lens. Specializing in large-format prints of his work, Will creates custom-sized images tailored for commercial spaces, transforming environments with his stunning visual work. Residing in the upstate of South Carolina, he dedicates his full-time career to bringing dynamic and impactful imagery to life, enhancing the aesthetic appeal of businesses and public areas alike.

Darrin Hill

I have worked for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for close to 20 years and every day I learn something new. I enjoy honing my craft and inspiring others to do the same. ACI has become a staple in my career in conservation and the friends that I have made at the annual conference is priceless.

Photography: Studio/Enhanced

First Place **Score: 96.00**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
Milky Way Pine

Second Place **Score: 92.50**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
To Stop a Poacher

Third Place **Score: 88.50**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Awe-Inspiring Artistry

Third Place **Score: 88.50**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Walking with Dinosaurs

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 79.50

Judges:

Heather Lose

Heather Lose is the editor-in-chief of The Tennessee Conservationist magazine and the art director for Tennessee State Parks. She splits her time between producing six annual issues of the magazine and overseeing branded print materials and signage for the state's 57 state parks—with more coming soon! Heather's experiences include designing and producing a 456-page, award-winning, museum-quality photography book for Kenny Chesney entitled Living in Fast Forward. She was a producer for the prominent Chicago-based portrait and sports photographer Sandro Miller, and helped found the Nashville Community Darkroom, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community arts center.

Megan Rossman

Mike Christensen

Magazine Categories

Magazine

First Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Texas Parks & Wildlife

Score: 197.67

Second Place

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
Montana Outdoors

Score: 197.33

Third Place

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
Arizona Wildlife Views

Score: 194.33

Maximum Score: 200

Low Score: 170.33

Judges:

Kim Nix

Kim Nix retired from the State of Alabama in 2019 after 31 years of service. During her tenure with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Alabama Forestry Commission, she edited publications, developed content for websites, created email marketing campaigns and supervised a myriad of communication efforts for the state agencies. Since retirement she is focused on traveling as much as possible and volunteering with organizations that promote literacy and provide books to the incarcerated. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama and is a former board member, officer and awards chair of ACI.

Nathan Gunter

Karlie Ybarra

Karlie is the senior editor for Oklahoma Today magazine. She has worked for the organization for nearly 15 years. She also writes articles for almost every issue on a variety of topics, though her favorites are anything related to animals.

Magazine: Destination, Historical or Cultural Article

First Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

The Last Relic

Score: 87.00

Second Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

A Day in the Life of a Park

Score: 86.67

Third Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Bison Death Plunge

Score: 86.00

Maximum Possible Score: 100

Low Score: 67.67

Judges:

Tom Dickson

Tom Dickson is the editor of Montana Outdoors, the magazine of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and a former information officer with the Minnesota DNR. During his time with the two agencies, his articles and publications have won 30 first place ACI awards. He is also the author of two books on fish natural history published by the University of Minnesota Press and has written for National Wildlife, Sporting Classics, and Fly Fisherman.

Robert Gagliardi

I am the associate editor of Wyoming Wildlife magazine, which has been published for more than 88 years. I have been with the magazine for nearly five years, and prior to that was a sports journalist in Wyoming for 26 years. I am based in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and live with my wife and our two golden retrievers -- Fisher and Hank.

Anna Johnson

Anna wakes up every morning and cannot believe she gets paid to write about Arizona's more than 800 wildlife species and the conservation work that supports them! The associate editor of Arizona Wildlife Views magazine, an award-winning publication of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Johnson has more than 30 years of writing experience for every format imaginable. Prior to her associate editor role, she enjoyed the chaos and excitement of public communications work for local governments in Arizona and Oregon. Johnson loves to be creative, watch theatre productions and spend time with her beloved hubby of 33 years, their family and their two small dogs.

Magazine: Fisheries Article

First Place **Score: 98.00**
MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
Read Our Lips

Second Place **Score: 87.00**
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
State's Longear Sunfish: One Fish, Two Fish, Three Fishes More

Third Place **Score: 86.00**
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
The Angler's Elegance

Third Place **Score: 86.00**
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES
Saving the Appalachian Monkeyface

Third Place **Score: 86.00**
Tennessee Conservationist Magazine
*Bill Dance Signature Lakes Offer Impactful
Improvements to Tennessee's Fishing Waters*

Maximum Possible Score: 100
Low Score: 66.00

Judges:

Marty Benson

Marty Benson has served as managing editor of Outdoor Indiana magazine since 2007 and has also been assistant director of communications during that span. Previously, he worked in college athletics for 20 years. Benson was an assistant director of communications in the NCAA's publishing division for 13 years. Before that, he was associate sports information director at the College of William & Mary for 4 1/2 years, and before that was sports information director at Hobart and William Smith Colleges for 2 years. Benson is a 1984 graduate of St. Bonaventure University.

Magazine: General Interest Article

First Place

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

What's That Animal Called?

Score: 97.67

Second Place

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

A Clear View on Binoculars – Wildlife in North Carolina

Score: 97.33

Third Place

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

The Queen City's Ride to the Top

Score: 97.00

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 81.33

Judges:

Nancy Kreuder

A South Dakota native but transplanted to Arizona over 20 years ago. Hunting and fishing with my dad was my first exposure to wildlife and luckily it became my career. I started with the Phoenix Zoo and moved into Wildlife Education with Arizona Game and Fish. My spare time is spent with horses and traveling.

Kieran Ash

Kieran Ash is the Lead Graphic Designer for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, and has been here since 2022, before that they worked for the SC Department of Employment & Workforce. Kieran has lived in South Carolina since 2013 and grew up moving around the US as a military kid. They love finding new places, hiking and photography outside of work.

Nathan Gunter

Magazine: Wildlife Article

First Place

Score: 94.00

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Diary of a Wild Turkey

Second Place

Score: 92.00

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Ready for the Handoff

Third Place

Score: 91.33

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Friend in Need

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 67.33

Judges:

Rick Lavender

Lavender is a communications specialist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. For the past 17 years, he has led the agency's communications regarding nongame conservation. Previous experience includes 20-plus years as a daily newspaper reporter and editor, plus work in outdoors freelancing and as an editor with an outdoors magazine company. Lavender has a master's in journalism from the University of Georgia.

Karlie Ybarra

Karlie is the senior editor for Oklahoma Today magazine. She has worked for the organization for nearly 15 years. She also writes articles for almost every issue on a variety of topics, though her favorites are anything related to animals.

Faith Heaton Jolley

Faith Heaton Jolley is the Public Information Officer and Outreach Section Assistant Chief for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Faith has worked for the DWR since 2019 and, in addition to helping the media, she also supervises members of the Division's award-winning communications team and hosts the DWR's podcast, "Wild." Prior to working for the DWR, Faith worked as a reporter and editor for KSL.com (local NBC affiliate) in Salt Lake City, Utah for 7 years. She graduated from Utah Valley University with a Bachelor's degree in communications, with an emphasis in journalism. Faith lives in Salt Lake City with her husband and two children and enjoys traveling, spending time outdoors and planning get togethers with friends and family.

Social Media Categories

Best Social Media Campaign

First Place **Score: 48.00**
COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
Nothing but Net

Second Place **Score: 42.50**
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Panther Plate

Third Place **Score: 41.50**
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
#GarWeek

Third Place **Score: 41.50**
NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
Wetlands of Nebraska

Maximum Score: 50.00
Low Score: 32.00

Judges:

Jim Curcuruto

Jim Curcuruto is the Executive Director of Outdoor Stewards of Conservation Foundation (OSCF) where he works with all segments of the outdoor industry to promote the positive contributions of HATS (Hunters, Anglers, Trappers, Shooters). Jim manages OSCF programs like; "Fill A Bag for Conservation", "Come With!", "Connecting with Conservation", and "Donate a Deer" that all help showcase HATS in a good way resulting in improved recruitment and cultural acceptance of hunting, fishing, trapping and target shooting among the general population. Learn more at www.OutdoorStewards.org or Instagram @OutdoorStewards. Jim can be reached at (203) 450-7202.

Cory Chandler

Cory Chandler is Deputy Communications Director for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, overseeing the press office, social media, media productions and marketing teams, Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine and PBS series. External Communications Manager at the Comptroller's Office, where he helped modernize media relations, greatly expanded multimedia productions and built a social media team that produces some surprisingly sick memes. He is a former reporter who really just likes telling stories. These days, he spends a lot of time thinking about state parks and animals.

Best Social Media Presence

First Place

Score: 115.00

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Social Media

Second Place

Score: 110.67

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Iowa Department of Natural Resources Social Media

Third Place

Score: 103.67

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS
Tennessee State Parks Social Media

Maximum Score: 120

Low Score: 80.33

Judges:

Bobby Jones

Bobby Jones has spent the last eight years working for the Nevada Department of Wildlife and currently is their Outdoor Connection Coordinator. In that role he focuses on helping the Department better engage and serve broad audiences, craft conservation messaging campaigns, and connect the public to nature in a variety of ways.

Mallori Murphey

Heather Feeler

Heather Feeler, communications branch chief with the Missouri Department of Conservation, spends her professional time chasing interesting conservation stories and connecting people with nature. Her team is responsible for statewide news, social media, video, marketing, magazines, media relations, and messaging for MDC. In her spare time, Heather can be found hiking, hammocking, and handwriting notes of encouragement to others. She's also on a quest to visit all the national parks with her kids before they grow up and refuse to hang out with her anymore.

Conservation Post of the Year

First Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
Conservation Officer Screech Owl Rescue

Score: 80.50

Second Place

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
This Wildlife Rescue Sure is a Swing in the Right Direction

Score: 79.50

Third Place

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Endangered Rails Sorar into Their New Homes

Score: 76.50

Maximum Score: 90

Low Score: 62.50

Judges:

Sarah Southerland

Stephanie Estell

Stephanie is the statewide information specialist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and has been with Game and Fish for three years. She focuses on digital communications including social media and email campaigns. Before moving to communications she worked in environmental biology with an emphasis on invasive species. Stephanie holds a master's degree from the University of Idaho and a bachelor's degree from Ohio Northern University. Originally from Ohio, Stephanie has lived and worked in five states across the country.

Other Printed Products Categories

Calendar

First Place

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
Wyoming Wildlife 2024 Calendar

Score: 97.33

Second Place

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Wild Ohio 2024 Calendar

Score: 95.33

Third Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
Nebraskaland 2024 Calendar

Score: 94.67

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 82.67

Judges:

Ashley Zemme

Ashley Zeme is a Public Information Officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Zeme is NDOW's media contact and spokeswoman on all wildlife-related topics, and oversees the agency's social media channels, website, and mass communications to hunters, anglers, and all other recreationists. Up until recently, Zeme also managed and hosted the Department's weekly podcast, Nevada Wild for most of her years at NDOW. Now you may recognize her voice from ACI's very own, Outdoor Communicators Podcast, which she co-hosts with ACI's Tim Akimoff. Before beginning her position with NDOW almost seven years ago, Zeme was a broadcast journalist in Montana and then in Kentucky. During her time as a reporter, she captured her own video, edited, wrote and presented her stories. Zeme has been recognized by ACI for NDOW's podcast, various social media campaigns, and the agency's website.

Beth Quillian

Quillian is a public information officer with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife where she coordinates communication for the northwest portion of the state. She is currently co-chairperson of the ACI awards committee and serves on the ACI board of directors. Prior to ODFW, she worked as a communication specialist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources where she focused on the Georgia Birding and Wildlife Trails program. A "Double Dawg," Quillian attended the University of Georgia in Athens where she completed bachelors and masters degrees in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management. She is now enjoying life in the Pacific Northwest and visiting the Oregon coast any chance she gets.

Bailey Kephart

One-time Publication: Book/Report

First Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Texas State Parks Official Guide 2023, Centennial Edition

Score: 95.33

First Place

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES
2023 Annual Report

Score: 95.33

Second Place

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
The Robin's Nest: A Retelling of an English Fable

Score: 94.00

Third Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
Focus on the Future Strategic Plan

Score: 93.33

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 75.33

Judges:

Nicola Whitley

Nicola Whitley is the Public Affairs Division Chief for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department where she heads up the team responsible for all communication initiatives and education classes for the agency. She grew up on Connecticut and earned a B.A. in physics and astronomy as well as an M.S. in journalism. She has been in the science communication field for over 30 years, and enjoys many hobbies and outdoor activities, including cooking, reading, traveling, biking, gardening, hiking, and snowshoeing.

Jessica Horton

Jessica Horton began working for the DWR in 2021 and has enjoyed it ever since. She has a lot of love for Utah's wildlife and outdoors, so getting to learn about and participate in outreach for both of those things has been a blast. When she's not working, she enjoys eating pizza, watching reality TV and parenting her two cats.

Tiffany Woolley

Tiffany Woolley is the new R3 Hunting & Shooting Sports Program Coordinator for New Jersey Fish & Wildlife. Tiffany is new to her position and is excited to see what the future of the NJ Fish & Wildlife R3 Hunting & Shooting Program has in store!

One-time Publication: Brochure

First Place

Score: 104.33

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

Tennessee State Parks All Parks Brochure

Second Place

Score: 101.33

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Conserving Georgia's Nongame Wildlife: Fiscal 2023 Summary

Third Place

Score: 100.00

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Viewing in Washington

Maximum Score: 110

Low Score: 77.33

Judges:

Will Babb

Will Babb serves as the publications editor for the Ohio Division of Wildlife. In this role, he writes and edits content for Wild Ohio Magazine, field guides, brochures, and a variety of other agency publications.

Aubree Perrenoud

Aubree Perrenoud brings over a decade of graphic design experience to the table, creating work for organizations like the UNHCR, Consumer Cellular, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and currently for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. When not turning ideas into designs, life is spent with their family, Pancake (the dog who thinks he's the real artist), and Pluto the corgi (who supervises everything).

Heather DelMoral

Heather has worked at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for 17 years. Her passion for hunting and fishing developed through her work, inspiring her to pursue an education that would further her career. She is dedicated to reaching out to others about hunting and fishing, encouraging them to discover the joy she has found. Outside of work, she is a proud mom of three.

One-time Publication: Other

First Place **Score: 99.00**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Accessibility Program Info Cards

Second Place **Score: 94.33**

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office 2023 Year in Review

Second Place **Score: 94.33**

NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Norrie Point Environmental Center

Third Place **Score: 89.00**

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp

Maximum Score: 110

Judges:

Low Score: 75.33

Addelyn Ratcliff

Meghan Dugan

Meghan has been a Public Affairs Officer for over 30 years, beginning with the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho. She loved working Fire Information during major fires on the Forest, escorting media to the fire lines or helicopter flyovers for videographers. Keeping the public informed and updated was critical. In 1997, she moved to Oregon and to work for the state Department of Transportation. Learning about all things highway and maintenance was quite interesting. She's been in her current position with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for 25 years. She serves the fish and wildlife districts of Southern Oregon and ODFW's Marine Resources Program. She enjoys the variety her job offers, the fast pace of crisis communication, and dealing with urgent or sensitive issues. As part of our Information Team, she appreciates the ability to trade skills with coworkers to create quality products for the public and agency.

Yvonne Shaw

Yvonne Shaw coordinates the Protect Oregon's Wildlife- Turn in Poachers campaign for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division, and Oregon Department of Justice. Yvonne, who has managed issues campaigns in Oregon and New Zealand, pulls together like minds to create social change and measurable action. She works alongside a robust community partnership team comprised of state and federal agencies, non-profits and NGOs. An Oregon native, Yvonne enjoys writing, beekeeping, and the outdoors. She's eager to discover what's around the next bend, whether it's a waterfall, a plot twist, or a honeybee swarm.

Poster

First Place

Score: 89.50

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Endangered Species Act 50th Anniversary Poster Collection

Second Place

Score: 87.00

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

New Mexico Fishing Records

Third Place

Score: 83.50

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Nebraska Reptile Diversity Poster

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 74.50

Judges:

Natasha Dickrell

Natasha Dickrell is a Senior Environmental Specialist and Federal Grant Manager with the Pinellas County Environmental Management Division in Florida where her role enables her to communicate on local, regional, state, and federal levels about regulatory and open science topics. She is recognized for her communication skills related to social media administration, public data access and education, and water resource monitoring. Previously, she gained expertise employed with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Three Rivers Park District in Minnesota, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources along with volunteer opportunities with wildlife, habitat, and public health non-profit organizations.

Smokey Solis

Smokey Solis is the Graphics and Regulation Coordinator for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. For almost four years he has worked as the department's graphic designer and has played a key role in the ODWC's rebrand in 2022/23. Smokey has 9 years of experience as a freelance designer with a focus on small business branding. He enjoys being a lifelong student and considers every job a new learning experience. When he isn't in front of a computer screen you can find him in the woods, at the lake, traveling with his wife, or relaxing at home with his two miniature dachshunds.

Patricia Allen

Patricia Allen, Communications Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). Ms. Allen spearheads AFWA's strategic communications planning and implementation to help North America's fish and wildlife agencies speak with a collective voice on key conservation and management issues. She also manages the work of the award-winning North American Conservation Education Strategy to enhance public understanding of state fish and wildlife management while shaping long-term enjoyment of natural resources through K-12 formal and community-based non-formal education initiatives. She staffs AFWA's Engagement and Education Committee and Annual Awards/Annual Meeting Committee. After an 11+ year tenure working at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), where she oversaw all Information and Education programs run by the Maryland DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service, Ms. Allen joined the AFWA family in 2016. She received her B.S. from LeMoyne College and M.S. from Frostburg State University.

Regulations Publications

First Place

Score: 91.33

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
2023-2024 Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations Guide

Second Place

Score: 86.00

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
2023 Nevada Fishing Regulations

Third Place

Score: 85.67

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
2023-2024 Nevada Small Game Hunting Regulations and Seasons

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 74.00

Judges:

Cory Chandler

Cory Chandler is Deputy Communications Director for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, overseeing the press office, social media, media productions and marketing teams, Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine and PBS series. External Communications Manager at the Comptroller's Office, where he helped modernize media relations, greatly expanded multimedia productions and built a social media team that produces some surprisingly sick memes. He is a former reporter who really just likes telling stories. These days, he spends a lot of time thinking about state parks and animals.

Jenifer Wisniewski

Jenifer Wisniewski is the Chief Marketing Officer for the National Deer Association and the Grants Chair for the Association for Conservation Information and past president of the Association for Conservation Information and has worked actively over the last few years to bring marketing to the forefront of what agencies do to make a difference in recruiting, retaining, and reactivating hunters, shooters, and anglers as well as keeping our agencies and the work we do relevant to the public at large. She held roles prior to this as chief of communications and marketing for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Georgia Wildlife Resources Division and has served as chair of the AFWA Outreach and Marketing Working Group, Board Member for the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, and co-chair of the SEAFWA R3 Committee. Her success in Georgia and now Tennessee has garnered much attention nationwide and efforts have been featured by national organizations like the Association of Conservation Information, The Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Archery Trade Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Wildlife Management Institute, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Tony Dolle

Tony Dolle has been a successful writer, editor and photographer for more than 45 years. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his newspaper reporting and has won awards for his syndicated newspaper column and his photography. He has worked as communications director in the outdoor industry for Cabela's and Ducks Unlimited. He is a past president and board chair of The Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA), the Association of Great lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW) and The Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association (TOWA). He currently serves as the executive director for TOWA and lives outside of Nashville, TN. His hobbies include upland bird hunting, photography (film and digital) and flyfishing.