

# 2023

Association for  
Conservation Information

# AWARDS RESULTS

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Annual Conference hosted by the  
Nevada Department of Wildlife

Stateline, Nevada  
July 24-27, 2023

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



## **Audio/Video Categories**

### ***Audio Program or Podcast***

**First Place**

**Score: 85.67**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Nature Boost: The Ancient Art of Falconry*

**Second Place**

**Score: 83.67**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Wild About Arizona: Arizona's Wildlife Viewing Opportunities*

**Third Place**

**Score: 83.33**

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

*On the Nature Trail: Common Redpoll*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 69.33**

***Judges:***

**Cory Chandler**

Cory Chandler is Deputy Communications Director for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where he is responsible for providing strategic oversight across the department's primary communication channels, including the Press Office, social media, marketing, Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine and PBS series. Before joining Texas Parks and Wildlife, Cory was external communications manager for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. He started out as the education and state politics reporter for the *Midland Reporter-Telegram* and the city reporter for the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, and built his skills in public relations and marketing at Texas Tech University where he served as the senior editor for the Office of Communications & Marketing, the Marketing Supervisor for the Office of Admissions and the Communications Coordinator for Texas Tech School of Law. Cory has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Print Journalism and a Master of Arts in Strategic Communication & Innovation from Texas Tech University. He lives in Seguin, Texas with his wife and two children.

**Stephanie Garcia**

N/A

**Dan Dennison**

After a 40-year-long career as a television reporter, photographer, and news director, Dan joined the Hawaii Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, as Senior Communications Manager in 2014. He travels Hawaii by plane, helicopter, boat, jet ski, on foot and snorkeling to capture the highly visual and amazing stories of the conservation work conducted by staff of the agency.

## ***Recurring Video Program***

**First Place** **Score: 198.33**  
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Texas Parks & Wildlife*

**Second Place** **Score: 196.00**  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES  
*Kentucky Afield*

**Third Place** **Score: 193.00**  
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*Outdoor Oklahoma*

**Maximum Score: 200**  
**Low Score: 163.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Peter Adams**

Peter Adams was/is/and always will be a two bit video hack. After years of "freelancing" his services writing, shooting, and editing Peter duped the head writer of Biz Kid\$, a public television show teaching business to teens, into letting him onto the writing team. It took 4 years and a move from Seattle to Oklahoma City for them to realize the error of their ways. His transfer to Oklahoma City gave him 3 years of hard time with a medium sized Advertising agency as their Broadcast Producer. Once released in 2014 Peter founded SPECS Advertising to take what he learned on the inside to help small businesses compete with the man. Peter was introduced to ACI through a fellow video addict he met at an educational outdoor retreat. If you find yourself in Oklahoma, need a thirty second hack, and you can find him, maybe you can hire the SPECS team.

#### **Brett Billings**

Billings is a senior video producer with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, where he still shoots high-definition 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: 300 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.

#### **Doc Kokol**

Doc Kokol has been honored to work directly for two Governors and four Secretaries for health and human services, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and a wide range of private sector clients. While at White Hawk Pictures, a national film production center, Kokol managed the communications and marketing programs for several Fortune 500 companies while working with a team of Emmy and Oscar-winning producers and directors.

## ***Video Feature: Hunting and Fishing***

**First Place**

**Score: 198.00**

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES  
*Hybrid Striped Bass at Rough River*

**Second Place**

**Score: 197.00**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
*Fun on the Run*

**Second Place**

**Score: 197.00**

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION  
*Arkansas Teal Hunt*

**Third Place**

**Score: 194.00**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
*Hunting Las Palomas*

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 97.00**

***Judges:***

**JH Whatley**

JH Whatley is an experienced videographer and editor with over 34 years of experience including working with Mississippi Outdoors TV for the past 25 years. His career has seen him behind the camera for both live and taped events, including commercial, entertainment, news, sports, and outdoors. Whatley has a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication/TV Production from the University of Southern Mississippi.

**Samantha Pedder**

N/A

## ***Video Feature: How-to / Instructional***

### **First Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
*Dabblers vs. Divers*

**Score: 183.67**

### **Second Place**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*Redbud Jelly*

**Score: 183.00**

### **Third Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Pawpaw Hunting*

**Score: 181.67**

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 151.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Chris Martin**

After 5 years of managing social media at a top 100 internet retailer in the outdoor industry, Martin transitioned into a similar role working for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Now as the visual communications supervisor for Wyoming Game and Fish, Martin manages the department's social media platforms, website and a talented team that develops a range of print and digital resources to further the department's mission of conserving wildlife and serving people.

#### **Jenifer Wisniewski**

Wisniewski is the Director of Marketing and Special Projects for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, chair of the AFWA Outreach and Marketing Working Group, and co-chair of the SEAFWA R3 Committee, 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. Her marketing successes increased license revenue in Tennessee and decreased churn. Last year Tennessee had the largest percentage of hunting license increase in the country thanks in part to successful marketing and communications. 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.

#### **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**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Operation Snap*

**Score: 192.33**

### **Second Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Seed Collectors*

**Score: 189.00**

### **Third Place**

NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
*Brook Trout: Preserving New York's State Fish*

**Score: 186.00**

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 115.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Barry Cross**

N/A

#### **J H Whatley**

JH Whatley is an experienced videographer and editor with over 34 years of experience including working with Mississippi Outdoors TV for the past 25 years. His career has seen him behind the camera for both live and taped events, including commercial, entertainment, news, sports, and outdoors. Whatley has a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication/TV Production from the University of Southern Mississippi.

#### **Chris Martin**

After 5 years of managing social media at a top 100 internet retailer in the outdoor industry, Martin transitioned into a similar role working for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Now as the visual communications supervisor for Wyoming Game and Fish, Martin manages the department's social media platforms, website and a talented team that develops a range of print and digital resources to further the department's mission of conserving wildlife and serving people.

## ***Video Feature: Outdoor Recreation***

### **First Place**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*Champions of Change*

**Score: 191.33**

### **Second Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Cooper Lake State Park*

**Score: 189.33**

### **Second Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Parks on the Air*

**Score: 189.33**

### **Third Place**

AQUATIC RESOURCES EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
*Improve Your Shooting Skills*

**Score: 186.67**

**Maximum Score: 200**  
**Low Score: 159.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Peter Adams**

N/A

#### **Malorey Henderson**

N/A

#### **Addelyn Ratcliff**

Ratcliff works for the Indiana DNR's Division of Fish & Wildlife as their Social Media Outreach Specialist. Addelyn has over 10 years of experience working in social media, videography, and community engagement. She loves seeing the incredible work from other conservation agencies and is continually amazed how they can find creative ways to do so much with limited resources!

## ***Video PSA and Marketing***

**First Place**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*The Right Time is Right Now: Celebrating 125 Years*

**Score: 192.00**

**Second Place**

WESTERVELT ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

*Working with WES*

**Score: 185.5**

**Third Place**

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

*Take Your Career to Wild Places*

**Score: 185.00**

**Third Place**

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

*Partner with a Payer - Fish and Wildlife Health Video*

**Score: 185.00**

**Third Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Discover Nature Fishing: Fathers and Sons*

**Score: 185.00**

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 140.50**

***Judges:***

**Ryan Coleman**

N/A

**Richard Gonzales**

N/A

**Blake Podhajsky**

Podhajsky is a Communication and Education Specialist with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and is a producer on the ODWC's television show, Outdoor Oklahoma. In addition to his work at the ODWC, he has traveled all over the world shooting video of big game hunts for multiple television shows and has worked in various other video production capacities with national clients. He has served many years on the ACI board of directors and currently is the ACI secretary. Podhajsky has a B.A. in Mass Communication from Buena Vista University and has over 20 years of video production and outreach experience.



## **Communication/Education Categories**

### ***Best Use of Humor***

**First Place** **Score: 97.67**  
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
*Drought Outreach Campaign Video Ads*

**Second Place** **Score: 94.33**  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
*Obscure Species Club Comic Series*

**Third Place** **Score: 92.67**  
KANSAS WILDLIFE, PARKS AND TOURISM  
*Chickadee Checkoff - There's a Better Way to Support Wildlife*

**Maximum Score: 100**  
**Low Score: 40.67**

#### ***Judges:***

##### **Alicia Wellman**

Alicia Wellman is the Manager of Social Media and Digital Advertising for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. With a degree from Columbus College of Art and Design, she has had a varied career ranging from owning an advertising agency to morning radio show host and (briefly) television writer/producer/on air talent. Her current position with the FWC takes aspects from each of her careers and wraps them up into one awesome position ... with a super long title!

##### **Jordan Goularte**

N/A

##### **Marty Benson**

Marty Benson has been assistant director for the Indiana DNR Division of Communications since 2007 and managing editor of Outdoor Indiana magazine since 2010. Before his DNR career, he worked in communications for the NCAA and in sports information for two different colleges. He is a graduate of St. Bonaventure University with a degree in mass communications.

## ***Communication Campaign - Educational***

### **First Place**

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES  
*Team Wildlife Educational Campaign*

**Score: 97.00**

### **Second Place**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
*Boat Safe Nevada*

**Score: 95.00**

### **Third Place**

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
*Black Bear Outreach Campaign*

**Score: 92.00**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 52.00**

### ***Judges:***

**Chris Simoniello**

N/A

**Richard Gonzales**

N/A

## ***Communication Campaign - Marketing***

### **First Place**

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY  
*R3 Through Marketing*

**Score: 89.00**

### **Second Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Drive Yourself Wild -- About Conservation!*

**Score: 85.00**

### **Third Place**

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
*Fall of 2022 Wildlife Habitat Supporter Program*

**Score: 85.50**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 57.50**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Amanda Solla**

Amanda Solla is an award winning integrated marketing communications leader and strategist known for her cross-disciplinary knowledge, creative problem solving, and strategic planning acumen. She began her career at two of the world's largest marcom agencies and honed her expertise over decades representing some of the largest global brands and businesses. She furthered her street cred by successfully leading creative services, digital and social media, media relations, and content strategies for both public and private sector clients of all sizes. As an integrated marketer, Amanda is passionate about building engagement strategies and campaigns to support business goals and growth. Her desire to 'move the needle' in the direction of greatest impact drives her approach to new challenges and informs her collaborative mindset. She is regularly sought out to provide strategic communications counsel to senior leadership, mentorship for MBA students at a local university, and as a guest lecturer on marketing communications at colleges and universities around the country.

#### **Joanne Martonik**

Joanne Martonik started working at RBFF in 2015 and currently is the Senior State Marketing Manager. She manages state marketing programs, communications and outreach efforts with state agencies and is responsible for tailoring RBFF programs to meet state agency needs and work with states on implementing these programs. Joanne manages the annual State Agency Marketing Workshop and develops webinars and other resources to assist state agencies. Prior to joining RBFF, Joanne used her communications, marketing, and outreach skills to provide coalition creation, membership coordination and project management for organizations in Washington, DC and Helena, MT.

## ***Education***

### **First Place**

**Score: 94.50**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Discover Nature Schools Kindergarten: Bears Through the Seasons*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 94.00**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

*Trail Tales Magazine*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 91.50**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

*Turtle Troubles*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 51.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Amanda Stroud**

In January 2015, after 15 years in outreach and communications with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Stroud accepted the position of assistant director for the Office of Media and Outreach, where she is charged with overall coordination of outreach and marketing efforts. She grew up near the lakes and rivers of Michigan and knew she wanted a career that keeps her in touch with her love for water and all the animals within it. She holds a bachelor's degree in marine science and a master's degree in public administration from the University of South Carolina. Stroud is married, has a daughter, and spends much of her free time in the woods and on the waters of South Carolina.

#### **Kathy Church**

Kathy Church is a Wildlife Interpretive Specialist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division. She is responsible for scheduling programming and presenting environmental education for the northeast region of Georgia. She has been a science educator for over 20 years in both the public & private sector and enjoys practicing the concepts she teaches.

#### **Jane Gustafson**

Jane Gustafson is Assistant Division Chief and Marketing Manager for Nebraska Game and Parks. She leads the agency's in-house creative team, coordinates strategic paid efforts and generally herds the cats on all types of promotion, events and other projects. A Nebraska native with experience in multiple industries, marketing Nebraska's outdoors is by far her favorite job. Jane is thrilled to be part of a talented team of professionals who are passionate about what they do. Plus, she enjoys the odd e-mails her co-workers send, such as "One of our snakes is loose in the building" and "I have an owl looking for a ride to Scottsbluff."

## ***External Newsletter***

### **First Place**

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS  
*Adventure Guide Email Newsletter*

**Score: 91.00**

### **Second Place**

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
*Florida Nature Trackers Newsletter*

**Score: 87.33**

### **Third Place**

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION  
*Arkansas Wildlife Weekly Newsletter*

**Score: 85.67**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 68.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Ashley Sanchez**

Ashley Sanchez is a Public Information Officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Sanchez 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. Sanchez also manages and hosts the Department's weekly podcast, Nevada Wild. Before beginning her position with NDOW four years ago, Sanchez 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. Sanchez has been recognized by ACI for NDOW's podcast and social media campaigns.

#### **Judy Stokes Weber**

Judy Stokes Weber is passionate about the importance of the human aspects of natural resources conservation working in the disciplines of public relations, communications management, and consulting with state and federal agencies and regional initiatives. She worked as public affairs division chief at NH Fish and Game, where she first learned about and began attending ACI conferences. Over the years she has served as ACI secretary, president and currently handles financial aspects of the organization as treasurer. Judy is a member of AFWA's Management Assistance Team national faculty and holds a national accreditation in public relations (APR).

#### **Lee Ann Woods**

Lee Ann Woods is a management executive and board member with over 30 years of management, ownership & turnaround experience with small, middle-market, multi-national, private and public companies in the consumer goods industry. After selling her CPG packaging company in 2002, Lee Ann founded Walnut Ridge Group - advising clients with strategic foresight & planning, market and competitive analysis, operations assessment, financial advisory, licensing, capital formation, mergers & acquisitions. Her practice is focused on consumer goods, packaging & related technology with an emphasis on food & beverage and agrifoodtech. Lee Ann is the principal of WRG Blue Partners, founder of AGvocate Texas, an innovation-focused initiative, and she is founder of The Brown Pelican Society. Lee Ann speaks regularly as a foresight strategist, and is a published thought leader on entrepreneurship, economic & workforce development, ag innovation, and The Blue Economy. She is an advisor and mentor with national agriculture and ocean-focused accelerators & incubators.



## ***Internal Communication***

### **First Place**

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
*May 2022 Regional Insider*

**Score: 96.33**

### **Second Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
*FWP Language Style Guide*

**Score: 93.67**

### **Third Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*MDC Minute*

**Score: 90.00**

### **Third Place**

WESTERVELT ECOLOGICAL SERVICES  
*WES Style Guide*

**Score: 90.00**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 72.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Sandy Benson**

Sandy Benson is a forester who retired from the Nebraska Forest Service in May 2023. She 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 is currently working on her memoir, *Girls Can't Do That: Stories from One of America's Early Female Foresters*. She lives in the mountains of southwestern North Carolina with her husband, Barry, and two bossy dachshunds.

#### **Amanda B Nalley**

Amanda Nalley is the communications manager for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, a partnership of the five Gulf states working to improve the economic and environmental health of the Gulf of Mexico through collaboration. Prior to her work with the Alliance, she worked as a public information specialist with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, was a multimedia reporter for the Tallahassee Democrat, and was in outdoor and environmental education.

#### **Malorey Henderson**

Having grown up surrounded by wildlife in Gainesville, FL, Malorey found her way to North Carolina in 2008. After graduating with a master's degree in Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management from NC State, Malorey began working with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission on its NC Birding Trail program, and then transitioned to the Wildlife Education division working on staff development. Now, Malorey is the agency's Internal Communications Specialist, a brand-new position where she serves as the liaison between the agency's Office of Communications, Marketing & Digital Engagement and all agency divisions and offices – 750 staff members across 100 counties. Additionally, Malorey served as the agency's first videographer and now manages all agency video projects while supervising a full-time videographer.

## Website

### First Place

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
*Welcome to Your Wild Life*

**Score: 184.50**

### Second Place

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Michigan DNR "Ski the Porkies" Website*

**Score: 170.33**

### Third Place

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
*NJDEP Fish and Wildlife Website*

**Score: 170.00**

**Maximum Score: 190**

**Low Score: 144.67**

### *Judges:*

#### **Erin Landry**

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.

#### **Sandy Benson**

Sandy Benson is a forester who retired from the Nebraska Forest Service in May 2023. She 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 is currently working on her memoir, *Girls Can't Do That: Stories from One of America's Early Female Foresters*. She lives in the mountains of southwestern North Carolina with her husband, Barry, and two bossy dachshunds.

#### **Darius Mandegary**

N/A



## **Graphic Design/Photo Categories**

### ***Graphics: Advertising/Display***

**First Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
*Hunter Education 50-Year Anniversary Exhibit*

**Score: 98.00**

**Second Place**

KANSAS WILDLIFE, PARKS AND TOURISM  
*Don't Skip the HIP Full-page Ad*

**Score: 88.50**

**Third Place**

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
*NJFW Wildlife Habitat Supporter Program Signs*

**Score: 87.00**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 55.00**

***Judges:***

**Jason Miranda**

N/A

**Tristanna Bickford Carrell**

Tristanna Bickford Carrell has worked in conservation information and education for over 15 years with three state agencies. She is currently the Assistant Chief of Education for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. When not at work, Tristanna enjoys spending time with her family, hunting, riding, and competing with her horses.

## ***Graphics: Layout***

**First Place** **Score: 94.00**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Who's Who at Critter High*

**Second Place** **Score: 90.00**

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

*Restoring Rare Plants on California's Channel Islands*

**Second Place** **Score: 90.00**

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

*South Cumberland State Park Trail Maps*

**Second Place** **Score: 90.00**

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

*Lake Ouachita Water Trail Signs*

**Third Place** **Score: 88.00**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

*Conservation Easements Infographic*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 67.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Aaron Meier**

Aaron Meier has been a public information officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife for 17 years. Before becoming the boating education coordinator, 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 release and communications campaign.

#### **Luke Duran**

Duran is a graphic artist who has served as art director for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and *Montana Outdoors* magazine since 2002. Previously he was creative director for a translation/interpreting company in Vancouver, Wash., and a graphic artist for Gibson Guitars. He enjoys the challenge to visually improve the magazine with each issue. He is a part-time employee for *Montana Outdoors*, and also operates a freelance graphic design business, Element L Design, specializing in brand identity, political campaign design and visual communication for nonprofits. He enjoys cooking, landscaping, aquariums, and hiking. An avid music lover and bass guitar player, Duran plays in a 1980s dance band, on weekends.

#### **Kaycee Rechel**

N/A

## ***Graphics: Logo/Illustrations***

### **First Place**

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS  
*Tennessee State Parks Word Cloud*

**Score: 97.67**

### **Second Place**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*A Rich History and a Bright Future - The ODWC Logo*

**Score: 94.00**

### **Third Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
*Bear Aware Sticker - #DontFeedtheBears*

**Score: 92.50**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 57.50**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Tristanna Bickford Carrell**

Tristanna Bickford Carrell has worked in conservation information and education for over 15 years with three state agencies. She is currently the Assistant Chief of Education for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. When not at work, Tristanna enjoys spending time with her family, hunting, riding, and competing with her horses.

#### **Ernest A Ross**

N/A

#### **Luke Duran**

Duran is a graphic artist who has served as art director for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and *Montana Outdoors* magazine since 2002. Previously he was creative director for a translation/interpreting company in Vancouver, Wash., and a graphic artist for Gibson Guitars. He enjoys the challenge to visually improve the magazine with each issue. He is a part-time employee for *Montana Outdoors*, and also operates a freelance graphic design business, Element L Design, specializing in brand identity, political campaign design and visual communication for nonprofits. He enjoys cooking, landscaping, aquariums, and hiking. An avid music lover and bass guitar player, Duran plays in a 1980s dance band, on weekends.

## ***Photography: Flora and Fauna***

### **First Place**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
*Winter Mule Deer*

**Score: 92.00**

### **Second Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
*Pronghorn*

**Score: 91.67**

### **Third Place**

HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Nēnē on the Mend*

**Score: 89.67**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 73.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Jenifer Wisniewski**

Wisniewski is the Director of Marketing and Special Projects for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, chair of the AFWA Outreach and Marketing Working Group, and co-chair of the SEAFWA R3 Committee, 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. Her marketing successes increased license revenue in Tennessee and decreased churn. Last year Tennessee had the largest percentage of hunting license increase in the country thanks in part to successful marketing and communications. 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.

#### **Adam Baylor**

Baylor is a public affairs specialist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. For the past four years, he's assisted ODFW's wildlife managers and partners with outreach efforts around the state and is the public information officer for eastern Oregon. Before joining ODFW, he served in the U.S. Coast Guard and was stationed in Alaska, Maine, and North Carolina where he was part of the National Strike Force's Public Information Assistance Team. After military life, he moved to Portland and worked in various jobs in the private and nonprofit sectors. While finishing a master's degree in public administration, he was fortunate to work on a short documentary film which fueled a passion for video and photography.

#### **Lynda Richardson**

With over thirty years of experience as a professional photographer, Lynda Richardson has traveled to Africa, Belarus, Central and South America, Cuba, Greenland, Iceland, Poland, and throughout the United States on assignment. Her specialty is photographing endangered species, environmental issues, nature, and wildlife. A keynote speaker, lecturer, trip leader, and workshop instructor, Lynda's vast wealth of knowledge can be experienced through her informative and fun presentations and workshops. She has worked for major corporations as well as major magazines and organizations such as Smithsonian magazine, National and International Wildlife magazines, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Geographic Society. Some topics from her assignments include illegal wildlife pet trade in Nicaragua, hippo communication in Tanzania,

shrimp farming in Honduras, thick-billed parrots in Mexico, how natural areas became protected in Cuba, the island foxes of Santa Cruz, saving sea turtles in Florida, to name a few. She now works as Art Director for Virginia Wildlife magazine, a publication she has freelanced for since the 80's. Her monthly column has been published in that magazine since 1991 and she started the annual Photography Showcase issue competition.

## ***Photography: People***

### **First Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*The Dog Whisperer*

**Score: 89.00**

### **Second Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

*Sunrise Bliss*

**Score: 85.00**

### **Third Place**

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

*Devils Hole Pupfish Stereovideo Survey*

**Score: 79.50**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 64.00**

### ***Judges:***

**Ally Stemen**

N/A

**Mike McDaniel**

N/A

## ***Photography: Scenic***

### **First Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS  
*A Sandhills Pasture*

**Score: 90.33**

### **Second Place**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*Fishing Access at Lake Burtschi*

**Score: 87.00**

### **Third Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Places to Go - 25 Mile Prairie*

**Score: 85.50**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 71.50**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Amanda B Nalley**

Amanda Nalley is the communications manager for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, a partnership of the five Gulf states working to improve the economic and environmental health of the Gulf of Mexico through collaboration. Prior to her work with the Alliance, she worked as a public information specialist with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, was a multimedia reporter for the Tallahassee Democrat, and was in outdoor and environmental education.

#### **Jessica Sall**

N/A

#### **Micah Holmes**

N/A

## ***Photography: Studio/Enhanced***

### **First Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Caprock Canyons Night Sky*

**Score: 93.00**

### **Second Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*What Lies Beneath*

**Score: 91.67**

### **Third Place**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
*The Disappearing Robin*

**Score: 88.67**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 75.50**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Louie Bond**

N/A

#### **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. 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.

#### **Jane Gustafson**

N/A



## Magazine Categories

### *Magazine*

**First Place** **Score: 182.67**  
MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
*Montana Outdoors*

**Second Place** **Score: 171.33**  
ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
*Arizona Wildlife Views*

**Third Place** **Score: 171.00**  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Xplor*

**Maximum Score: 200**  
**Low Score: 111.33**

#### ***Judges:***

##### **Matthew McDaniel**

After five years working in television news, Matthew joined the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in 2020. He now works as a Public Information Officer, using his multimedia experience to further the Department's goal of preserving and enhancing Nevada's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

##### **Natalie Krebs**

Krebs is the Executive Editor of *Outdoor Life*. After graduating from Northwestern University with a BSJ in magazine journalism, Krebs joined OL full time in 2014 to work on hunting, fishing, and conservation stories. In addition to writing, reporting, and editing digital stories across multiple platforms, she has edited the FOB, BOB, sections, and feature well of OL's print and digital editions. She lives in northwest Arkansas with her bird dog, Hatchet.

##### **Robert Gagliardi**

Robert is the associate editor for *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine, a monthly publication by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, where he produces content, edits copy and works with freelancers. He's been with the magazine for nearly four years. Prior to that, Robert was a sports journalist for 26 years for newspapers in Cheyenne and Laramie, Wyoming, where he primarily covered college and high school sports. Robert also is a published author. He co-wrote a book titled "The Border War" about the history of the college football rivalry between the University of Wyoming and Colorado State University that was released in the fall of 2018.

## ***Magazine: Destination, Historical or Cultural Article***

### **First Place**

**Score: 88.67**

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*Indiana's French Connection*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 88.00**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*A Place of Prominence*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 86.67**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

*A Rapid City*

**Maximum Possible Score: 100**

**Low Score: 66.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Alli Williams**

N/A

#### **Tony Colyer-Pendas**

Tony Colyer-Pendas is the Assistant Editor for New York State's *Conservationist* magazine. In addition to writing and editing, Tony also has a background, education, and professional experience in art and design.

#### **Kieran Ash**

Kieran Ash is a graphic designer with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, a graduate of the University of South Carolina, and volunteered for judging for the first time this year out of sheer curiosity. In her work for SCDNR, she designs brochures, posters, flyers, forms, and more. She enjoys reading, nature photography, and trying to teach her cat how to high-five for treats in her free time to varying degrees of success.

## ***Magazine: Fisheries Article***

**First Place** **Score: 93.50**  
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Tiny Trophies*

**Second Place** **Score: 87.00**  
WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
*Rare Records*

**Third Place** **Score: 86.67**  
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Back in the Day - If It's Friday, It's Fish*

**Third Place** **Score: 86.67**  
NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
*Rainbows in the Piedmont*

**Maximum Possible Score: 100**  
**Low Score: 71.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Marty Benson**

Benson has been assistant director for the Indiana DNR Division of Communications since 2007 and managing editor of Outdoor Indiana magazine since 2010. Before his DNR career, he worked in communications for the NCAA and in sports information for two different colleges. He is a graduate of St. Bonaventure University with a degree in mass communications.

#### **Angela Levins**

N/A

#### **Hannah Brown**

Dr. Hannah O. Brown is the Communications & Engagement Specialist for the NOAA RESTORE Science Program. Hannah uses her experience as a social scientist, science communicator, and journalist to build a network of resource users, managers, and scientists in the Gulf. Hannah is a Florida native with deep roots in the state who has researched the human dimensions of Gulf Coast fisheries. She holds a BA in Psychology from New College of Florida, a MA in Mass Communications from the University of Florida, and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Ecology from the University of Florida. She is also co-founder and editorial director of The Marjorie, an online reporting nonprofit that covers environmental and social justice stories in Florida.

## ***Magazine: General Interest Article***

**First Place** **Score: 98.50**

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

*A Year in the Life of a Wetland*

**Second Place** **Score: 97.00**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*I Bought Invasive Plants...Now What?*

**Second Place** **Score: 97.00**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*State Park Underground*

**Third Place** **Score: 95.00**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*The Lower Yellowstone's Untapped Potential*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 63.50**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Phil Bloom**

Bloom is a mostly retired journalist who worked 33 years in the newspaper business before spending 10 years as communications director for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He was twice elected president of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and served one term on the ACI board of directors.

#### **Chris Sharp**

N/A

#### **Ty Whitaker**

Whitaker is the CEO of The Abbi Agency, an integrated marketing communications firm based in Nevada. He has led advertising/marketing outreach efforts for a variety of clients for more than 10 years. He has overseen the creation of new brands, websites, and a suite of creative marketing materials that have led to positive impacts for communities throughout the West Coast.

## ***Magazine: Wildlife Article***

### **First Place**

**Score: 96.00**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Deer and Data*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 93.00**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*That's Not My Name*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 92.00**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Leave It To Beavers*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 60.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Robert Gagliardi**

Robert is the associate editor for *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine, a monthly publication by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, where he produces content, edits copy and works with freelancers. He's been with the magazine for nearly four years. Prior to that, Robert was a sports journalist for 26 years for newspapers in Cheyenne and Laramie, Wyoming, where he primarily covered college and high school sports. Robert also is a published author. He co-wrote a book titled "The Border War" about the history of the college football rivalry between the University of Wyoming and Colorado State University that was released in the fall of 2018.

#### **Nancy Kreuder**

Kreuder is the Wildlife Education Outreach Coordinator for Arizona Game and Fish, moving into the role after nearly 20 years in the zoo industry. She enjoys the opportunity to travel throughout Arizona and focus on native wildlife. Outside of work, life revolves around her family, horses, cats, and attempts at gardening.

## **Social Media Categories**

### ***Best Social Media Campaign***

**First Place** **Score: 48.00**  
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*Gar Week*

**Second Place** **Score: 47.33**  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Creepy Critter Week*

**Third Place** **Score: 45.67**  
GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE  
*Weird Wonders of the Gulf*

**Third Place** **Score: 45.67**  
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
*Manatee Unusual Mortality Event*

**Maximum Score: 50**  
**Low Score: 26.33**

#### ***Judges:***

**Amy Gleich**  
N/A

#### **Joanne Martonik**

Martonik started working at RBFF in 2015 and currently is the Senior State Marketing Manager. She manages state marketing programs, communications and outreach efforts with state agencies and is responsible for tailoring RBFF programs to meet state agency needs and work with states on implementing these programs. Joanne manages the annual State Agency Marketing Workshop and develops webinars and other resources to assist state agencies. Prior to joining RBFF, Joanne used her communications, marketing, and outreach skills to provide coalition creation, membership coordination and project management for organizations in Washington, DC and Helena, MT.

#### **Scott Davis**

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 as a graphics artist and copy editor. Davis led Indiana DNR through adoption of social media, numerous website redesigns, and implementation of new technologies such as video and online calendars. Davis is passionate about usability, web writing, and information architecture. He graduated from Ball State University with degrees in journalism education and digital storytelling.

## ***Best Social Media Presence***

### **First Place**

**Score: 113.67**

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

### **Second Place**

**Score: 111.33**

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

### **Third Place**

**Score: 105.00**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
*Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Social Media*

**Maximum Score: 120**

**Low Score: 48.50**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Mark Martinez**

Martinez has worked for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources for the last 15 years and currently serves as the conservation outreach section chief. Before becoming chief, Mark worked in web and print design, social media and email marketing.

#### **Erin Aker (Landry)**

After 5 years of managing social media at a top 100 internet retailer in the outdoor industry, Martin transitioned into a similar role working for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Now as the marketing supervisor for Wyoming Game and Fish, Martin manages the department's social media platforms and a talented team that develops a range of print and digital resources to further the department's mission of conserving wildlife and serving people.

#### **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**

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
*The Crappie and the Northern Watersnake*

**Score: 89.00**

### **Second Place**

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Bears Don't Have Collarbones*

**Score: 81.33**

### **Third Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
*Adventures of Miffy at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park*

**Score: 76.67**

**Maximum Score: 90**

**Low Score: 66.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Addelyn Ratcliff**

Ratcliff works for the Indiana DNR's Division of Fish & Wildlife as their Social Media Outreach Specialist. Addelyn has over 10 years of experience working in social media, videography, and community engagement. She loves seeing the incredible work from other conservation agencies and is continually amazed how they can find creative ways to do so much with limited resources!

#### **Brett C. Billings**

Billings is a senior video producer with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, where he still shoots high-definition 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: 300 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.

#### **Patricia Allen**

N/A



## **Other Printed Products Categories**

### ***Calendar***

**First Place**

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT  
*New Hampshire Wildlife Calendar 2023*

**Score: 96.67**

**Second Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*2023 Natural Events Calendar*

**Score: 88.00**

**Third Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS  
*Nebraskaland 2023 Calendar*

**Score: 85.33**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 63.33**

***Judges:***

**Ashley Sanchez**

Ashley Sanchez is a Public Information Officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Sanchez 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. Sanchez also manages and hosts the Department's weekly podcast, Nevada Wild. Before beginning her position with NDOW four years ago, Sanchez 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. Sanchez has been recognized by ACI for NDOW's podcast and social media campaigns.

**Aaron Meier**

Meier has been a public information officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife for 18 years. Before becoming the boating education coordinator, 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 release and communications campaign.

**Patricia Allen**

N/A

## ***One-time Publication: Book/Report***

### **First Place**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
*NDOW Strategic Plan*

**Score: 98.00**

### **Second Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Strange But True*

**Score: 95.00**

### **Third Place**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*Hunters Against Hunger Program Guide*

**Score: 94.00**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 84.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Kenyen Hicks**

N/A

#### **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. 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.

## ***One-time Publication: Brochure***

### **First Place**

WESTERVELT ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

*ERBA Trifold*

**Score: 106.67**

### **Second Place**

NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

*Round Goby Brochure*

**Score: 100.67**

### **Third Place**

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

*AGFC Nature Center Rack Card*

**Score: 98.00**

**Maximum Score: 110**

**Low Score: 77.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Kim Nix**

Kim Nix retired in 2019 from the State of Alabama after 31 years. 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. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama and is a former board member, officer and awards chair of ACI.

#### **Connie Anderson**

Connie Anderson is the Chief Strategy Officer at The Abbi Agency, an integrated marketing communications firm. She leads strategy and outreach programs for government entities throughout Nevada and the West Coast.

#### **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. 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.

## ***One-time Publication: Other***

### **First Place**

**Score: 104.50**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Inspire a Kid Adventure Book*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 103.67**

WESTERVELT ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

*California Poppy Seed Pack*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 101.00**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*Texas State Parks Centennial Passport*

**Maximum Score: 110**

### ***Judges:***

**Low Score: 86.50**

#### **Nancy Kreuder**

Nancy Kreuder is the Wildlife Education Outreach Coordinator for Arizona Game and Fish, moving into the role after nearly 20 years in the zoo industry. She enjoys the opportunity to travel throughout Arizona and focus on native wildlife. Outside of work, life revolves around her family, horses, cats, and attempts at gardening.

#### **Patrick Owen**

Owen is the visual information specialist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and creative director for *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine. Before his four years of working for the department, Patrick worked in marketing and public relations for his alma mater, the University of Wyoming.

#### **Donna Shimonitz**

Donna Schimonitz of Lincoln, Nebraska has been a graphic designer for over 35 years, 25 of which have been at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Our Communications Division has received numerous awards, both locally and nationally, for design, illustration, color, photography and content. Outside of the office, Donna exhibits in local, state and national art competitions. She has been president and vice president for two of the state art organizations, and has artwork in private collections in Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Nebraska and its neighboring states. Her subjects are of nature, illustrated with graphite, acrylic or computer. Growing up on a dairy farm, she developed her love of exploring and enjoying the outdoors.

## ***Poster***

### **First Place**

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

*Pearly Mussel of Tennessee Poster*

**Score: 90.67**

### **Second Place**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*Hunters Against Hunger Poster*

**Score: 90.00**

### **Third Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*Texas State Parks Centennial Scratch-Off Map Poster*

**Score: 88.33**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 65.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Kim Nix**

Kim Nix retired in 2019 from the State of Alabama after 31 years. 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. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama and is a former board member, officer and awards chair of ACI.

#### **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.

#### **Ernest Ross**

N/A

# ***Regulations Publications***

## **First Place**

**Score: 89.33**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*Fishing and Hunting Regulations Guide*

## **Second Place**

**Score: 87.67**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
*Nevada Small Game Hunting Regulations and Seasons*

## **Third Place**

**Score: 86.67**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS  
*2022-2023 Small Game and Waterfowl Guide*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 67.67**

## ***Judges:***

### **Robert Owen**

Robert has been with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for 15 years working on the goal of improving the user experience for recreationalists and State Park visitors. His appreciation for all things outdoors offers new and continuing audiences an ally and an advocate for their next adventure.

### **Patrick Owen**

Owen is the visual information specialist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and creative director for *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine. Before his four years of working for the department, Patrick worked in marketing and public relations for his alma mater, the University of Wyoming.

### **Natasha Dickrell**

Natasha Dickrell is currently a Senior Environmental Specialist with the Pinellas County Environmental Management Division in Florida where her role allows her to report, inform, and educate on local, regional, state, and federal regulatory levels. She is recognized for her technical and legal writing skills related to social media administration, public data access and education, Federal grant managing, and water resource monitoring. Previously, she has gained expertise with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Three Rivers Park District in Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. During her free time Natasha enjoys the opportunity to #optoutside while traveling and volunteering for environmental, entertainment, and public health organizations which allow her to have a positive impact on her community and the world.