

2013

Association for Conservation Information
Awards Results

Annual Conference held in Nebraska City, Nebraska
July 7-10, 2014

Compiled by Kim G. Nix, Awards Chair

One-time Publication—Brochure

First Place

Score: 301

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Trails – Tippecanoe River State Park

Second Place

Score: 295.5

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Project Wild Florida

Third Place

Score: 293

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

2013 Community Fishing

Low Score: 236.5

Category Chair: Lindsay Simpson, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Judges

Kevin Adams is a marketing professional for Sierra Trading Post, a top outdoor retailer headquartered in Wyoming. In addition to excellent customer service, he takes pride in launching Sierra's Corporate Stewardship Program and extending outreach efforts to include local, regional, and national partners. Prior to working in the corporate world, Adams was a web writer for the Climate Change Response Program at the National Park Service. He believes stewardship represents the vital intersection for humans and nature.

Joseph Champ is an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Journalism and Technical Communication at Colorado State University. After working for more than 10 years in television news as a reporter, photographer, and anchor, Champ earned a master's from the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado. His research focuses on the intersection of communication, culture, and the natural world. He has often collaborated with USDA-Forest Service to study resource management issues faced by the agency. Champ teaches in a variety of areas including the role of media in society (more accurately, "media *as* society"), TV/video production, and qualitative research methods at the graduate level.

Jaimel Blajszczak is a Graphic Designer/Multimedia Specialist with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the features designer for *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine. Blajszczak previously served as creative services and e-commerce manager, webmaster, catalog and graphic designer manager for Corral West Ranchwear. Her responsibilities included national advertising, catalog and website campaigns for 140 stores nationwide. Blajszczak proudly supported our armed forces as the graphic designer/multi-media specialist for the United States Air Force, F.E. Warren Air Force Base. The Westwood College graduate also has extensive freelance design experience ranging from political campaigns to professional photography.

One-time Publication—Other

First Place

Score: 306

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Trees Work Wooden Postcards

Second Place

Score: 297

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Conservation Makes Missouri a Great Place to Live

Third Place

Score: 286

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE
Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail Map Series

Low Score: 233

Category Chair: Vicki Ervin, Ohio Division of Wildlife

Judges

Vicki Ervin is the Communications Manager for the Ohio Division of Wildlife. She works with *Wild Ohio* magazine, Wild Ohio TV show, the division's website, intranet, displays and tradeshow, publications and coordinates media relations for the state wildlife agency. She has worked in area of fish and wildlife communications for the past 29 years, and is a graduate of The Ohio State University.

A veteran communications professional, **Heidi Hetzel-Evans** began her career with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in 1990. She is currently serving as the Community Relations Manager for Ohio State Parks. Heidi is responsible for administering the division's volunteer program, travel and tourism outreach, media relations, and Ohio State Fair display areas. Prior to Ohio State Parks, Heidi served as the department's media relations manager for three years. Previously, she served in various public information roles for a number of ODNR divisions. Through the years, she has handled a variety of communications duties including newsletter editing, educational program development and special event coordination.

Susie Vance has worked for the Ohio Division of Wildlife in various capacities in the information and education group since 2004, and currently serves as the administrator of that group. She's a graduate of The Ohio State University and a Fellow of the National Conservation Leadership Institute. She prefers dogs over cats; enjoys pursuing fur, feathers and fins (in that order), and cannot survive the day without caffeine. Reviewing the submissions for ACI awards is one of the highlights of her year, she says, because there is so much to be learned through the process of collaboration and peer review, and the submissions never fail to be anything but awesome.

One-time Publication: Books/Reports

First Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS
Nebraska Pond Management Manual

Score: 313

Second Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE
2013 Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan

Score: 312

Third Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS
2012 Annual Report

Score: 309

Low Score: 260

Category Chair: Kenny Johnson, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Judges

David Rainer joined the Information and Education staff at the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in 2006 after 14 years as outdoors editor of the Mobile Press-Register. Rainer shares his love of the outdoors in a weekly column on outdooralabama.com and writes feature articles for *Outdoor Alabama* magazine. When not out hunting, fishing or exploring the outdoors for story material, Rainer can be found pampering his vegetable garden at his home near Silverhill, Ala.

Dr. Jill Narak received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Creighton University, and her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University. She completed postgraduate specialty training in neurology and neurosurgery at Auburn University and has authored several textbook chapters in the field of small animal neurology and neurosurgery. Dr. Narak is an Assistant Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine. In her free time, she is an avid hiker and voracious reader.

Hillary Andrews is the Digital Director at Cunningham Group, a marketing and PR firm in Montgomery, Ala. Hillary earned her Bachelors of Science in Design, Technology, and Innovation from Troy University. In her free time, she enjoys screen-printing, photography and hanging out with her cat, P.

Audio Program

First Place

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Perfect Game

Score: 260

Second Place

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

On the Water

Score: 246

Third Place

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Trees Work

Score: 241

Low Score: 161

Category Chair: Randy Zellers, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Judges

Scott Nauman is a radio producer with KARN news radio in Little Rock, Arkansas. In addition to general programming, he focuses his efforts on The Dave Elswick Show, a weekly program devoted to conservative views and talk. He also produces the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's weekly radio show Call of the Wild, which is broadcast on the Arkansas Radio Network.

Ashley King is co-host of KPPT's drive time morning talk/music radio programming serving the greater Little Rock area. She has worked for Signal Media of Arkansas for three years, and previously worked at Citidel Communications for three years before claiming the rush-hour slot with The Point 94.1 FM

Drew Mitchell co-hosts The Point 94.1's Morning Routine, the rush-hour time slot in the greater Little Rock area. After the KPPT's Morning Routine, Drew continues as DJ of Heartbeat 106.7 FM each weekday. Drew has produced, edited and been on-air personality for radio communications for years.

News Release

First Place

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Film Celebrates Bald Eagle's Success

Score: 277

Second Place - TIE

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

History Made: Angler Reels in State's Heaviest Recorded Fish

Score: 273

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Rattlesnake Safety Tips

Score: 273

Third Place

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Arizona Becoming Destination for Monster Flathead Catfish

Score: 271

Low Score: 239

Category Chair: Don King, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Judges

Doug Markham is the Information and Education Coordinator for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Region 2 Office. Doug handles public relations for the region, which include press releases and community education outreach programs. Doug is an avid angler.

Cheri Irwin is the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Information and Education Publications Editor. She is the executive editor, art and production director for the Tennessee Wildlife magazine.

Lee Wilmot is an Information and Education Wildlife Information Specialist for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Lee is responsible for all agency statewide press releases. He edits the agency employee newsletter, Shoptalk, and is also copy editor for the *Tennessee Wildlife* magazine.

Calendars

First Place

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
2013-2014 Arkansas Wildlife Calendar

Score: 254

Second Place

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT
2014 New Hampshire Fish and Wildlife Calendar

Score: 250

Third Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS
2014 NEBRASKAland Calendar of Color

Score: 238

Low Score: 164

Category Chair: Aaron Meier, Nevada Department of Wildlife

Judges

Aaron Meier has been a public information officer with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) since 2006 and the Publications Coordinator for NDOW since 2008. Besides his public relations duties, he handles the layout and design of all brochures, magazines, posters and billboards produced by NDOW. Meier is also a staff photographer for the Department. He earned his bachelor's degree in Journalism from California State University at Northridge in 2000.

Tim Torell is a professional wildlife photographer based in Reno, Nevada. His images have graced several magazines and newspapers, including multiple issues of *Nevada Magazine*. Besides being a contract photographer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Torell is also the staff photographer for the Animal Ark Wildlife Sanctuary near Reno. He also puts out an annual wildlife calendar. Tim was recognized as the Photographer of the Year three consecutive years (2009-2011) by the Reno Photo Club.

Teresa Moiola has been in public relations and public outreach with the State of Nevada for 12 years and is currently serving as the Conservation Education Division Chief for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. She writes regularly for a variety of agency publications as well as oversees many of their design aspects. She recently led a team that redeveloped and redesigned the entire agency website. Moiola, a Certified Public Manager, also holds a BA in Public Relations/Journalism from the University of Nevada Reno. In addition, she completed course work in Biological Science, with a focus in wildlife biology and pre-veterinary among other areas of science.

Education and Outreach

First Place

Score: 289

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Nature Revealed

Second Place

Score: 271

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Aquatic Science Teacher's Guide and Website

Third Place

Score: 270

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

How to Choose a Trout Lure

Low Score: 240

Category Chair: Marjorie Casey, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Judges

April Rust earned her B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies and an M.S. in Forestry with an environmental education and international environmental issues focus at the University of Minnesota. She completed a 6-month social forestry internship in Kenya and began her professional career as a seasonal naturalist at William O'Brien State Park. After finishing graduate school, Rust worked for a small nonprofit organization in Minneapolis, developing and establishing sustainability-focused K-12 curriculum and working with teachers and students throughout the Twin Cities. She has worked as an education specialist for the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources since 2000 and is currently Aquatic Invasive Species Training Coordinator.

Laura Duffey is an education/outreach specialist at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. She coordinates Minnesota Project Learning Tree, delivers teacher in-service workshops, develops forestry lessons for the Minnesota School Forest Program, and writes and edits forestry-related books, newsletters and web content. She also works on stewardship-related projects such as invasive species management and outdoor classroom development. Laura has a M.S. in environmental education and a B.A. in English.

Ron Brodigan is the owner/instructor of the Great Lakes School of Log Building in Isabella, MN. Since 1975, he has been teaching students from around the world how to make hand-scribed Finnish-style log cabins. Brodigan studied at Allan Mackie's original school near Prince George, British Columbia and in 1983 accepted an invitation to be a guest teacher at the Mackie School. In addition, Brodigan has taught special log building courses for several colleges, environmental learning centers, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Corps. He is a past president and former board member of the International Log Builders' Association and a member of the Great Lakes Log Crafters' Association.

Photography

First Place

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Bickering Tree Swallows

Score: 292

Second Place

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

On Silent Wings

Score: 289

Third Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

Eye of the Turkey

Score: 286

Low Score: 253

Category Chair: Cliff White, Missouri Department of Conservation

Judges

Robert Breshears is a photography instructor at the University of Central Missouri. His passion for photography began on a trip to the Grand Canyon over 30 years ago. He specializes in nature and editorial travel photography. Robert has hauled his camera gear to 21 countries and on extended backpacking trips in 13 states and Canada. He has had several gallery exhibits in Missouri and Kansas. His work has been featured on posters, in scientific journals, media guides, newspapers, and the Internet. He currently teaches nature, creative, portrait and editorial photography.

Dr. Thomas Mitchell is the photography program coordinator and associate professor of photography at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. He has been a professional photographer for 25 years specializing in editorial, sports, event and commercial photography. He is the owner of Eastern Light Images, a custom fine art traditional and digital photography lab and gallery. He is a professional member of the American Society of Media Photographers, Mid-America chapter. Dr. Mitchell is an avid cyclist, backpacker, and nature/landscape photographer using imagery to communicate his vision of the world.

Jason Jenkins of Holts Summit, MO, is managing editor of *Rural Missouri* magazine, a 545,000-circulation monthly tabloid published by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. He joined *Rural Missouri* in 2007 after spending the previous five years as a news writer and photographer with the University of Missouri Extension and Ag Information News Group. Named the Cooperative Communicators Association's Photographer of the Year in 2009 and 2012. Jason is a member of the Missouri Outdoor Communicators and the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

Big Ideas, Small Budgets

First Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

Archery on Fire

Score: 282

Second Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Great Texas Birding Classic

Score: 277

Third Place

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

License Simplification Campaign

Score: 266

Low Score: 134

Category Chair: Darcy Bontempo, Texas Parks And Wildlife

Judges

Robert Lewis is a professor at the University of Texas at Austin. He teaches advertising theory, management, and American culture. He also conducts research on the psychology of entertainment media. He received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in communication with a focus on cognitive science. In teaching, Dr. Lewis makes attempts for his students to work on pro-social causes with noncommercial clients (such as environmental or health-related organizations), and hopes his students take ethical lessons from such projects.

Emily Baker is Vice President/Outreach Director at Sherry Matthews Advocacy Marketing. Emily oversees account management for clients, develops innovative grassroots initiatives, and builds partnerships that best enable clients to engage with targeted constituents on a meaningful level. Emily brings more than 25 years of experience in communications, project management, and event planning to public education campaigns developed on behalf of state agencies and nonprofit organizations. Previous positions include Director of Special Programs for United Way for Greater Austin and Special Events/Communications Manager for Caritas of Austin. She is a graduate and former board member of Leadership Austin. Emily earned a Bachelor of Journalism, with High Honors, from The University of Texas at Austin.

Glenda Beasley is the senior marketing director of the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE). Glenda leads ATPE's communications, branding and membership efforts. Beasley previously was marketing manager at Texas Parks and Wildlife. Beasley is active within the Austin community and is on the board of Women Communicators of Austin, Westcave Preserve and the marketing steering committee for Texas Children in Nature.

Television Series

Note: Because there were only three qualified entries in this category, ACI bylaws allow just a first place to be awarded.

First Place

Score: 596

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Texas Parks and Wildlife

Low Score: 497

Category Chair: Phil Bloom, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Judges

Lt. William Browne is an Indiana Conservation Officer with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division. He has been a Conservation Officer for 26 years, including the last three as chief public information officer for that division, working directly with print, radio, and TV media on DNR law enforcement matters. Lt. Browne has played a key role in developing several story lines for Indiana DNR's relatively new video program.

Michael Carney graduated from Purdue University with a degree in wildlife biology while pursuing a career in photography and filmmaking. He has since become an award-winning photographer, filmmaker and videographer for both outdoor, narrative and commercial work. Since joining the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in 2012, he has produced more than 140 videos on a variety of subjects.

Scott Davis is the senior webmaster for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He earned a master's degree in Digital Storytelling from Ball State University. Before joining state government, he was heavily involved in video production in the newspaper industry and a teaching adjunct position at Ball State.

Television PSA

First Place

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

Get Outta the Truck

Score: 556

Second Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Take Care of Texas

Score: 546

Third Place

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Fall Colors

Score: 507

Low Score: 447

Category Chair: Kipp Woods, Missouri Department of Conservation

Judges

Beth Pike is co-owner of Orr Street Productions with 25-plus years in the broadcast industry as a producer, director, writer and editor. She is a regional EMMY award-winning producer of documentaries, commercials and news and entertainment programs. She has contributed to shows such as NBC News, Entertainment Tonight, America's Most Wanted, and on the Discovery Channel, among others. In addition to broadcast, Pike has produced a variety of video projects for state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations.

John Baker has more than 35 years' experience in the TV industry including 13 years at TV stations in Tulsa and St. Louis. As current owner of One Take Bake Productions in St. Louis, he has worked on numerous outdoor related video projects during the past 20 years. His work has garnered numerous regional Emmy and Telly awards.

Scott Conger is editor/part owner of 90 Degrees West Productions in St. Louis. He was the primary post-production editor on Missouri Outdoors, the Missouri Department of Conservation's television series for 15 years and has more than 20 years of video production experience. His work on national TV spots, PSAs and documentaries has won numerous regional Emmy and Telly awards.

Video Other

First Place

Score: 589

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

The Wizard of Wildlife

Second Place

Score: 579

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

My Hero

Third Place

Score: 573

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Winter Rap

Low Score: 333

Category Chair: Blake Podhajsky, Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation

Judges

Todd Roberts was formally trained as a commercial still photographer at the Ohio Institute of Photography. He quickly added moving images to his storytelling skills. Numerous awards, accolades and happy clients would attest to that. Todd has made over 300 corporate videos and commercials, over 400 episodes of television and a feature film. He has successfully worked with still and moving pictures for 30 years. “I’m a gear head. I love playing with all the equipment and staying on top of new tech, but when it comes down to it, storytelling is the core.”

While at the University of Oklahoma from 1992 -1995, **Alan McGuckin**, or “Guck,” as his closest friends call him, earned a Master’s degree in Fisheries Management, but he soon traded biology for the business side of fishing. He served a short but invaluable 21-month marketing apprenticeship with GPS-Sonar manufacturer Lowrance Electronics. In 1997, Alan helped take a start-up lure company from an unknown in its infancy, onward to national popularity. More than 10 million premium -priced Terminator Lures were sold in a 10-year span. Alan’s greatest strength is his savvy for garnering brand exposure for clients via his public relations wisdom.

Rick Allen Lippert is an award-winning writer/producer/director and a 35-plus-year video veteran. His company, Lippert Media LLC, produces informational videos and television commercials. Rick also works as an actor and a voice-over and on-camera narrator. As an Apple Certified Trainer in Final Cut Pro X and Motion, Rick teaches certification classes and provides on-site private training. He also offers private coaching for on-camera presentation and media survival. Rick teaches a variety of media-related courses as a journeyman adjunct professor. Lippert holds two degrees from the University of Central Oklahoma, a B.A. in Broadcasting and a M.A. in Creative Studies.

External Newsletter

Note: Because there were only three qualified entries in this category, ACI bylaws allow just a first place to be awarded.

First Place

Score: 572

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Wyoming Wildlife News

Low Score: 481

Category Chair: Don King, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Judges

Doug Markham is the Information and Education Coordinator for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Region 2 Office. Doug handles public relations for the region, which include press releases and community education outreach programs. Doug is an avid angler.

Cheri Irwin is the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Information and Education Publications Editor. She is the executive editor, art and production director for the Tennessee Wildlife magazine.

Lee Wilmot is an Information and Education Wildlife Information Specialist for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Lee is responsible for all agency statewide press releases. He edits the agency employee newsletter, Shoptalk, and is also copy editor for the *Tennessee Wildlife* magazine.

Online Community Engagement

First Place

Score: 286

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa DNR Social Media

Second Place

Score: 268

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Increasing Audience Engagement and Web Traffic

Third Place

Score: 257

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' Social Media

Low Score: 244

Category Chair: Kelly Adams, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Judges

Dana Coover is a resident of Oklahoma County and a chemical engineer at Tinker Air Force Base. Dana likes learning about and exploring new ways to enjoy the outdoors including camping, fishing, and kayaking. Dana is an avid user of social media and enjoys connecting with people and sharing information online.

Michael Bergin is part of the Information and Education Division of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. He has specialized in content generation for the agency's print and digital media, including serving as the news release coordinator and associate editor of the agency's conservation magazine. His current focus is building on and evaluating the Department's marketing efforts, working on the agency's social media team, and further developing programs that build good rapport for the agency. Like most wildlife professionals, he loves all aspects of the outdoors from hunting and fishing to camping and natural history.

Russell Graves is an outdoor photographer, videographer and writer. Since 1989, he's been traveling Texas, telling stories with his camera and his words. Through his photographs, films and stories, he hopes to express his passion for the outdoors.

Graphics

First Place

Score: 288

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Weekend for Wildlife Logo

Second Place

Score: 274

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Transformers Illustrations from XplorMagazine

Third Place

Score: 271

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Black-tailed Prairie Dog Information Signs

Low Score: 154

Category Chair: Jodie B. Owen, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Judges

Victoria Cumbee first gained an eye for design as a child in Maryland. She traded in the mean streets of Baltimore for hours spent in The Museum of Art where she first formalized her understanding of color and composition that led her to study design and work at various publications, including *Wildlife in North Carolina* and *NC State* magazine, where she is now art director.

Susie Meadows just completed a graphic and web design program at Wake Technical Community College. Prior to this, she received her degree in Organisms and Structural Biology from the University of Tennessee and has spent 10 years working as an Environmental Biologist for the state of North Carolina

Wib Owen is a registered wildlife biologist/forester and former State Forester who retired from the N.C. Dept. of Agriculture in 2011. He is currently executive director of the nonprofit Southern Group of State Foresters, where he oversees all aspects of forestry programs in the southeast.

Internal Communications

First Place-TIE

Score: 289

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

The Wildlife-O-Gram

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

AGFC Strategic Plan

Score: 289

Second Place

Score: 280

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Inside Job

Third Place

Score: 274

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH

2012 Year in Review

Low Score: 249

Category Chair: Kim Nix, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Judges

Lenore Reese Vickrey is vice president for communications at Alabama Rural Electric Association and editor of *Alabama Living*, AREA's statewide publication. Vickrey was formerly director of strategic affairs and advocacy communication at the Business Council of Alabama. A former award-winning newspaper reporter and editor at the Montgomery Advertiser, Alabama Journal and the Anniston Star, Vickrey has an extensive background in communications and public relations. She is also a freelance writer for several local and national publications. She is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College.

Kim Moon is the City of Montgomery, Alabama's webmaster and has worked for the past decade in communication roles around the tri-county area. A 2001 graduate of Auburn University with a degree in Industrial Design, she served seven years as the managing editor and designer for the Alabama Wildlife Federation's quarterly magazine and has done her fair share of print and digital newsletters. In her new role with the City of Montgomery, Kim is overhauling its website and Intranet. She is a board member of Public Relations Council of Alabama and member of the National Association of Government Web Professionals.

Elishia Ballentine is a Public Information Manager with the Alabama Forestry Commission, where she has been editing *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine and other agency publications for the past 12 years. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Auburn University at Montgomery. Her career in public relations, marketing, and media communications spans almost 30 years.

Website

First Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Outdoor Annual Hunting and Fishing Regulations Website

Score: 282

Second Place

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

NDOW.ORG

Score: 255

Third Place

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

GFP.SD.GOV

Score: 247

Low Score: 216

Category Chair: Amanda Stroud, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Judges

Patty L. Epley has been the Web Master for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) for more than 10 years. She has over 16 years of experience in web design, layout, graphics and ensuring that websites meet Federal Section 508 Accessibility Standards. She has developed web applications, forms and FLASH movies, which included a character animation for SCDNR.

Amanda Stroud has been the Public Information Director for the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources since 2008. Originally from southern Michigan, Amanda moved to South Carolina to complete her education in Marine Science and Public Administration from the University of South Carolina. Since working with the SCDNR, Amanda has focused on outreach and education through collaborations with the technology, graphics, social media, magazine and biological staffs.

Dan DuPre has been an Education Specialist within the Outreach and Support Services Division of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources since 1999. During his tenure, he has help design, implement, market and facilitate various departmental educational programs reaching a wide array of audiences. While in this position, he gained knowledge of graphic design, web design and strategic market planning.

Communications Campaign

First Place

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Trees Work

Score: 292

Second Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE
50th Anniversary of Texas Parks and Wildlife

Score: 285

Third Place

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2013 Python Challenge

Score: 282

Low Score: 165

Category Chair: Joe Jerek, Missouri Department of Conservation

Judges

Holly Dentner is a customer relations manager for the Missouri Department of Transportation where she coordinates department communications, media relations, and public information programs. She has worked in state government communications for almost 16 years, having also worked at the Department of Economic Development and the Missouri State Library. During her tenure at the State Library, Holly served as coordinator for a literary heritage program called the Missouri Center for the Book, and as a liaison to the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. She has a B.A. in English from Missouri Southern State University and an M.A. in English from Pittsburg State University.

Stephen Foutes is the communications manager at the Missouri Division of Tourism where he has worked since 2009. A Missouri native and graduate of Central Methodist College in Fayette, Foutes worked in the Missouri newspaper industry for 10 years before joining Tourism. In his current role, Foutes leads a public relations team that focuses on promoting the Show-Me State as one of the nation's leading vacation destinations.

Ginny Wallace works for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Ginny has 25 years of experience in natural resources communications, outreach, and education. She spent 28 years at the Missouri Department of Conservation, 18 of which were in outreach and education roles. In 2007 she retired to become a project manager at D.J. Case & Associates, a natural resources communications consulting firm, working with state and federal natural resource agencies and organizations. While there, she worked on a variety of projects including Mexican Wolf reintroduction and the North American Conservation Education Strategy. In 2013 she joined the Department of Natural Resources as a planner in the Director's office. In that role, she has been involved in developing and implementing key messages.

Posters

First Place

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Trees Work

Score: 289

Second Place

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Nature Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival

Score: 265

Third Place

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Big Catch Angler Recognition Program

Score: 251

Low Score: 184

Category Chair: Amber Leberman, Wyoming Game and Fish

Judges

Lindsey Beal is a graphic designer for the outdoor company Osprey Packs. She has a bachelor's degree in graphic design from Arizona State University and a total of 10 years of advertising agency and graphic design experience in Chicago, Denver and now Cortez, Colorado. She has been a long-time lover of both backcountry backpacking in the U.S. and traveling internationally. Other favorite pastimes in the great outdoors include climbing, hiking, skiing and photography.

Chris Botkins has been a graphic designer and web designer for 14 years. He earned his degree in Visual Communication from Al Collins Graphic Design School in Tempe, Arizona. He loves to be outside relaxing at home on his deck with his family and three labs. And when the fall weather comes he can't wait to hear the elk bugle and see the ducks start flying.

Laurie Ann March is an avid outdoorsperson and wilderness cook from Brantford, Ontario, Canada. She loves to canoe, backpack, bikepack, and fish with her family. Laurie Ann is the author of two backcountry cookbooks (*A Fork in the Trail* and *Another Fork in the Trail*) and the editor of the online magazine *Outdoor Adventure Canada*.

Regulations Publications

First Place

Score: 532

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Freshwater Fishing Digest

Second Place

Score: 506

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Hunting and Trapping Digest

Third Place

Score: 500

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Hunting and Trapping Guide

Low Score: 399

Category Chair: Don Cash, Texas Parks and Wildlife

Judges

Patti Jett is the City of Baytown's first-ever public affairs coordinator, a position she has held for five years. Prior to this, she served eight years as public communications and marketing assistant for the City of College Station. A regular participant as a moderator and speaker at TAMIO (Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers) and 3CMA (City/County Communications and Marketing Association) conferences, she has coordinated judging teams for the TAMI Awards program and served as a 3CMA Awards judge. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&M University (Whoop!) and lives in Houston with her husband and two sons.

Ken Kurzawski is a program manager for the Inland Fisheries Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He began his career with TPWD in 1985 as a district fisheries biologist in Southeast Texas. After a two-year stint working for the Minnesota DNR, he returned to TPWD in 1992. Ken's current responsibilities include planning, coordinating, and supervising the Inland Fisheries Division's public information, regulatory, human dimensions, and data management functions. A primary responsibility is coordination of the changes to the freshwater fishing rules including contributing to the production of the annual digest of fishing and hunting regulations. Ken received his M.S. in fisheries from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale.

Vince Caruso is a former Emmy award winning TV reporter with over 15 years of public relations, marketing and broadcast television experience. His work has been featured on the cover of *Adweek* magazine and in national publications including the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today* and *ESPN The Magazine*. He has amassed over 25 AP media awards. Once Caruso left television, he became the Director of Public Information for the Miss. Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks where he was in charge of a weekly TV show and a monthly magazine. He now owns his own public relations and marketing company in New Orleans called Rebirth Branding.

Magazine: Wildlife Article

First Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

Turkey Vultures—Nature's Cleanup Crew

Score: 278.5

Second Place-TIE

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Case for Copper

Score: 271

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

Another Year at the Sandbar Grill and Café

Score: 271

Third Place

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Plants and Animals: Great Blue Heron

Score: 270

Low Score: 184

Category Chair: Scott Ball, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Judges

Andi Blount has more than 15 years of experience in producing educational materials for natural resource agencies, having served as editor of *Florida Wildlife* magazine and senior public information specialist for Georgia DNR. She is also a former lead librarian for the Gadsden County (Fla.) Public Library and recently returned part-time to the Florida Fish AND Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Kelly Broderick is editor-in-chief of *Florida Wildlife* magazine. She was hired by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to edit and manage the magazine after it had ceased publication for almost two years, and continues her work as the magazine evolves as a digital-only publication.

Joy Hill was a regional public information coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for 20 plus years, where she played an active role in ACI and served on the Board of Directors. She is currently a freelance writer and lives with her dog Pip in Summerfield, Fla.

Magazine: Destination, Historical or Cultural Article

First Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Goodbye to a Writer

Score: 184

Second Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Hueco Rocks

Score: 165

Third Place

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

To Heaven and Back on the Upper Jacks Fork

Score: 158.5

Low Score: 95

Category Chair: Rachel Bradley, Texas Parks and Wildlife

Judges

Pam LeBlanc covers fitness, adventure travel and recreation at the Austin American-Statesman, where she's been writing the Fit City column for 10 years. She swims on a swim team, rides her bike to work and runs with her friends. Her husband is an expert at applying Band-Aids and sunscreen.

Charles Lohrmann, a writer in Austin, Texas, specializes in a range of topics, including western history and Native American art. He is the coauthor with Robert W. Kapoun of *Language of the Robe: American Indian Trade Blankets and Chihuly's Pendletons*, and founding editor of *Four Winds* magazine, a journal of Native American art, culture and history. Additionally, he is the publisher of *Texas Highways* magazine and volunteers at the annual Santa Fe Indian Market as a judge for the art competition.

Magazine: Fisheries Article

First Place

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

Delta Blues

Score: 287

Second Place

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

2013 Angler's Guide

Score: 282

Third Place

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Turning Over a Green Leaf

Score: 275

Low Score: 164

Category Chair: Julie Hammands, Arizona Game and Fish Department

Judges

Steve Elliott directs the Cronkite News Service, a wire service bureau produced by Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Elliott spent 19 years with The Associated Press, serving as Arizona chief of bureau and as an executive at AP's New York headquarters.

Nick Walter is a lifelong fishing enthusiast with six years of professional outdoor writing experience. He is a public information officer at Arizona Game and Fish, specializing in fishing.

Riley Woodford has served as the "in-house reporter" at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Division of Wildlife Conservation since 2003. He is a writer and editor for *Alaska Wildlife News*, the department's online magazine, and produces a weekly radio program on science and wildlife. He also writes guides and articles about Alaska's wildlife and nature.

Magazine: General Interest Article

First Place

Score: 287

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Old Guard: Retired Fire Towers Bring Memories of Lost Tradition

Second Place

Score: 286.5

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

A Brush with Nature

Third Place

Score: 281.5

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Hello, Hummers

Low Score: 223

Category Chair: Susan Warner, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

Judges

Tom Rogers works in Information and Outreach for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. He has an M.S. in Ecology and Organismal Biology from the University of Montana and a B.A. in Biology and Environmental Science from Colby College. Prior to moving to Vermont, he worked on bald and golden eagles in Grand Teton National Park and on large carnivores in the Yellowstone Ecosystem. With the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, he writes news releases, does photography and video, works on programmatic, legislative, and funding initiatives, and manages the Department's Facebook page.

Chris Saunders has been the Hunter Education Coordinator for the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife for almost 10 years. Besides hunter education, he leads the department's Shooting Range Project and a number of hunting-related communication and outreach efforts. Prior to working for Vermont, he was a public information specialist for Wyoming Game and Fish. He has a master's in forest science with a concentration in human dimensions in wildlife from Yale, and a B.S. in magazine journalism for Syracuse University.

As director of public affairs for Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, **Susan Warner** oversees the Outreach Division including information and marketing, hunter education, and conservation education programs. Prior to joining the department, she was the director of communications for information technology and publications manager at Dartmouth College for 11 years. She has more than two decades of experience in advancement, medical and scientific writing and publishing, and communications strategic planning.

Magazine

First Place

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

Wildlife in North Carolina

Score: 506

Second Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

NEBRASKAland

Score: 501

Third Place (Tie)

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Arizona Wildlife Views

Score: 498

Low Score: 402

Category Chair: Kathy Garza-Behr, Ohio Division of Wildlife

Judges

Larry Moore has been an outdoor columnist for Greene County dailies (Xenia Daily Gazette, Beavercreek News Current, Fairborn Herald) since 1999 and a freelance outdoor writer. He has been a member of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio (OWO) since 2000. Larry has received awards from OWO for environmental and travel writing, best newspaper article and photography awards. A 25-year volunteer Ohio Hunter Education Instructor, he participated on the team that created the Ohio Hunter Education Manual. Moore is married with five children and 11 grandchildren. In addition to writing, he raises and trains both Brittany spaniel bird dogs and beagles.

Jeffrey L. Frischkorn retired in 2013 after a 30-year career as a newspaper reporter for The News-Herald in Lake County, Ohio. His field of responsibilities included the outdoors, the environment, the Earth Sciences as well covering the three county park districts in extreme Northeast Ohio. He has won more than 100 state, regional and national communication awards for writing, photography, book author and speaking. Frischkorn is a two-time George Gund Environmental Journalism Fellow. Currently he blogs on the outdoors as well as pens an every-other-week column for Ohio Outdoor News, a magazine-style newspaper.

Danielle Thompson is an Education and Wildlife Specialist for the Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District. She enjoys the variety of activities her job offers, from working with landowners in the field discussing wildlife damage to educating students in the classroom. Danielle has a Wildlife Management B.S. from The Ohio State University. Previous work experience includes serving as a seasonal Park Ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Caesar Creek Lake, as well as a Program Assistant for OSU Extension.