2014

Association for Conservation Information *Awards Results*

Annual Meeting held in Flagstaff, Arizona July 13–17, 2015

One-time Publication: Brochure

First Place Score: 311

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Texas State Park Rack Cards

Second Place Score: 283

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Texas Game Wardens Recruiting Brochure

Third Place Score: 279

WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES WVGAMECHECK: Log in. Stop in. Check in.

Low Score: 211

Category Chair: Tom Dickson, Montana

Judges:

Tom Dickson is the editor of Montana Outdoors and a former writer at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Over the past 22 years, his articles and publications have won 17 first-place ACI awards and two first-place awards from the National Association of Government Communicators. He is also the author of two books on fish natural history, published by the University of Minnesota Press. He has been writing for National Wildlife since 1987.

Bruce Capdeville worked for nine years at Genesis, Inc., an ad agency in Denver, before moving to Helena in 1995 and starting Real World Design (realworld-design.com).

Luke Duran has been the art director of Montana Outdoors since 2002. During that time, the magazine has won four first-place awards in the ACI magazine category, three first-place ACI article awards, and two first-place awards from the National Association of Government Communicators. He is also the owner of Element L Design in Helena, Montana (elementl.net).

One-time Publication: Other

First Place Score: 328

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Arizona Wildlife Views Magazine Special Issue: Mexican Wolf

Second Place Score: 308

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Arizona Wildlife Views Magazine Special Issue: Wildlife Management

Third Place Score: 302

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Bear Logic Month: Keep Our Bears Wild

Low Score: 256

Category Chair: Susie Vance, Ohio

Judges:

Vicki Ervin is a member of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio and has 30 years of communications experience, most recently with the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Her duties included overseeing product production, including the division's magazine, television show, print production, website, enewsletter, social media and various other communications coordination. Ervin is a recent retiree from the agency who has found new freedom in gardening, not setting an alarm clock ... and packing her oldest for his first year at college.

John Windau has more than 20 years of agency experience with the Ohio Division of Wildlife. He is a regional communications specialist as well as fulfilling the temporary acting role of the agency's communications manager. He's a current member of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio, a competitive shooter and difficult to locate when the walleye are biting on Lake Erie.

Susie Vance is the executive administrator for the Ohio Division of Wildlife's Information and Education Group. She has varied communications experience, including editor of Wild Ohio Magazine and producer of Wild Ohio Television. Vance is a member of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio and enjoys eating and cooking in that order, hunting and fishing in that order and antique furniture restoration.

One-time Publication: Book/Report

First Place Score: 263

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Texas State Parks Guide

Second Place (Tie) Score: 261

GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO

Great Outdoors Colorado Annual Report 2014

VERMONT FISH AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

A Landowner's Guide: Wildlife Habitat Management for Lands in Vermont

Third Place Score: 259

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Beautiful Nebraska

Low Score: 188

Category Chair: Julie Hammonds, Arizona

Judges:

Since 2009, **Kelly Kramer** has been the books editor and managing editor of Arizona Highways. Currently editing a guide to Arizona's wildlife, she holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University, where she serves as adjunct faculty.

Amanda Krause is the production editor at the University of Arizona Press. She has enjoyed work in editing and writing positions, both full-time and freelance, for the past seven years. She is an avid bibliophile and loves helping authors make their work the best it can be.

As manager of the New Mexico Public Lands Information Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico, **Bill Tefft** is daily exposed to the public's buying and reading decisions when presented with nonfiction and natural history material. He says, "By now I think I can recognize a good book not only from its content but the way it's typeset, printed, bound and priced." Tefft's eclectic background in geography, history, geology, biology, and astronomy serves him well. He has been involved in the publication of more than 50 successful maps and atlases. Many are themebased and demanded extensive research, writing, design and editing skills on a wide variety of topics. Most of his pleasure reading is nonfiction, with a strong emphasis in natural science.

Audio Program

First Place Score: 281

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

The Angler

Second Place Score: 260

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION Seasons Sportcast

Third Place Score: 197

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Reintroducing Paddlefish to East Texas Waters

Low Score: 190

Category Chair: Jamey Emmert, Ohio

Judges:

A lifelong journalist, **D'Arcy Egan** covers the outdoors for The Plain Dealer and has been at the forefront in the Ohio outdoor media for almost 40 years. He has hosted and produced the "Outdoors Ohio with D'Arcy Egan" television show and the "Inside the Great Outdoors" and "All Outdoors" radio shows. Egan has worked in the newspaper business for 50 years as a reporter, columnist and editor. He and his wife, artist Laura Brown Egan of Desdemona's Art Gallery, live on the shores of Lake Erie in Marblehead, Ohio, with their hunting dogs, Dezzie and Bluebelle, as well as Gabby, an elderly feline.

Steve Jones has been in the radio and television business since 1980. He began his career in media as the host of "The Hunting and Fishing Show" (on Akron's WNIR 100 FM and WAI TV) from 1990 to 1999. He now hosts "Destination Outdoors" on Fox Sports 1350 AM and iHeartRadio.

Joe Keough is a retired Geauga County sheriff's deputy (30 years), a U.S. Air Force veteran, father of four boys, Habitat for Humanity volunteer, Passport to Fishing instructor, NRA pistol instructor, hunter, fisherman and trapper. He also loves to cook. He's been a permanent co-host on "Inside the Great Outdoors" (WHK 1420 AM) for the last three years.

News Release

First Place Score: 263

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Gone Coastal: Father-daughter Fishing Adventure Leads to Unexpected Surprise in Saltwater Catfish Dinner

Second Place (Tie) Score: 246

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Bighorn Sheep Hunt

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Deer Gun Season 2014

Third Place Score: 243

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

AmeriCorps Lends Hand With Projects

Low Score: 181

Category Chair: Louie Bond, Texas

Judges:

Dalton Sweat is the general manager and editor of the Wimberley View and Dripping Springs Century-News, two weekly newspapers in central Texas. He was previously a reporter for the San Marcos Daily Record and the news director for KBEY-FM in Marble Falls.

Charles Lohrmann serves as editor of Texas Co-op Power magazine, a general-interest monthly publication with a circulation of 1.2 million. Previously, he was editor-in-chief and publisher of Texas Highways magazine, the official travel magazine of Texas. He also served as managing editor, then associate publisher of Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine.

An independent journalist since 1993, **Melissa Gaskill** specializes in science, nature and outdoor travel. Her articles have appeared in Texas Highways, Wildflower, National Wildlife, Men's Journal, Scientific American, StarDate, Sport Diver and many other publications. She is the author of "Best Hikes with Dogs: Texas Hill Country and Gulf Coast" and "A Worldwide Travel Guide to Sea Turtles."

Calendar

First Place Score: 295

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION 2015 North Carolina Wildlife Calendar

Second Place Score: 290

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT 2015 New Hampshire Wildlife Calendar

Third Place Score: 285

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES 2015 Virginia Wildlife Calendar

Low Score: 186

Category Chair: Don Cash, Texas

Judges:

Shane Townsend is the Senior Program Advisor for Strategic Communications at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University. His duties address branding, print and web design, media relations, resource development and capacity building. Townsend contributes to national and regional outdoor magazines, and his work has been recognized for excellence by state and national competitions. In 2014, FalconGuides released his first book: "Paddling Texas: A guide to the state's best paddling routes."

Kim Greyer has been a graphic designer and creative director in Austin for over 30 years. In addition to running her own design and marketing business, Greyer is also an adjunct professor in the Visual Communications Department at Austin Community College, where she has the pleasure of molding the beginning career steps of students interested in graphic arts and design. Greyer received her degree in visual communications from Illinois State University.

Sam Caldwell's coastal scenes of waterfowl, gamefish and people are prized by collectors from Texas to Maine. "Wildlife is primary in my work," he says, but notes that "people are important elements of wildlife." The Texas Commission on the Arts named him as the Texas State Artist for 2004. Caldwell is also well known as an outdoor writer. His co-authored book for the CCA, "Change of Tides, A Narrative History of the Coastal Conservation Association," was named as Texas's best outdoor book for 2000. Caldwell has produced and edited the CCA's Currents Newsletter for years.

Education

First Place Score: 258

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Trail Tales Magazine

Second Place Score: 248

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Pennsylvania Bald Eagles: Celebrating 30 Years of Restoration

Third Place Score: 247

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fish Iowa! Basic Spincasting Module

Low Score: 171

Category Chair: Liz Barraco, Florida

Judges:

Rebecca Harvey has 15 years of experience conducting outreach and education about wildlife, ecology and environmental issues. Since obtaining a double Master of Science in Sociology and Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, she has worked with universities, businesses and interagency groups to educate communities about issues including invasive species, Everglades ecology and restoration, climate change, alternative transportation and sustainability. Harvey also specializes in survey research investigating human perceptions of wildlife, particularly large carnivores and invasive species.

Cheryl Millett has been a biologist with the Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy at Tiger Creek Preserve since 2005. She leads landscape-scale partnership programs focused on land and invasive species management. Each project has involved education, including Jay Watch, Python Patrol, the Ocala Longleaf Local Implementation Team, Central Florida Lygodium Strategy and Heartland CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area). A common theme to her work, even before she earned a Master of Science in Natural Resources from Humboldt State University, has been working collaboratively across fence lines with public and private partners and sharing information.

Andrew Derksen defends the United States from alien invasions. He serves as an invasive species biologist for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services with a ragtag crew of scientists and nozzle-heads. Together, they monitor invertebrate pests dangerous to agriculture and natural resources from their Miami watchtower. When he finds a bad bug, they hunt the critters down and eliminate them before the invaders can become established.

Photography

First Place Score: 277

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Summer Sunset Swim

Second Place Score: 274

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION Evening Swift Fox

Third Place Score: 271

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION Going Home

Low Score: 240

Category Chair: Marianne M. Burke, Louisiana (ret.)

Judges:

Marianne Burke is the former Public Information Director for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and an ACI veteran. Her photography experience started in her early teens and continued through college and into her 33-year government career. She retired in 2013 but has stayed active in ACI and continues her photography through freelance opportunities and personal travels.

Mark Southern is a film producer and interpretive media specialist for the National Park Service. He plans and produces films, exhibit videos, interactive kiosks, soundscapes, mobile apps and other electronic media for National Park visitor centers across the country. Recent projects include Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in Alabama, Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park in California, Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi and Dry Tortugas National Park in Florida. In his career as a producer, director, photographer, writer and editor, Southern has won numerous national awards. He has a degree in radio-TV-film from the University of Texas, and is a former ACI board member and awards chairman. He lives in Frederick, MD, and is an avid cyclist, hiker, and live music fanatic.

Linda Medine retired from banking after a 40-year career. Her love of banking has always competed for attention with her love of photography. Banking taught Medine that learning requires involvement. This philosophy served her well in photography, also. She is active in the Louisiana Photographic Society, of which she is currently president. She also co-chaired the Gulf States Camera Club Regional Conference in Baton Rouge in 2014. A member of PSA, she is working on PSA's Photography Project Course. Photography has taken Medine to many parts of the United States. She loves Louisiana landscapes and is passionate for the outdoors and the beauty of nature.

Success on a Shoestring

First Place Score: 278

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Georgia Lifetime License Contest

Second Place Score: 277

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION Archery on Fire, Part II

Third Place Score: 272

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES They Gotta Have Cover

Low Score: 168

Category Chair: Whitney Jenkins, Oklahoma

Judges:

Terry G. Cox is a supervisor and plant operator for a wastewater treatment plant in Oklahoma. With 27 years' experience, Cox has been named "Wastewater Operator of the Year" as well as "Plant Manager of the Year." He has experience conducting major projects on a budget and facing multiple obstacles along the way. Cox has taken on tasks that weren't favorable and turned them into successful, flourishing projects. He has spent most of his life as an avid outdoorsman.

Clinton Treat received his agricultural management degree from North Central Texas College. He is a first-generation farmer and conservationist who believes each person has the responsibility to do his part for conservation. Being a first-generation farmer, he is well aware of the importance of making wise decisions for the future successes of an organization. Treat enjoys hunting, fishing and contributing to future sportsmen and women.

Charles Wheeler is a shop foreman for a measurement-while-drilling company. He is responsible for keeping costs below the previous month's revenue. He conducts weekly meetings and corresponds with new vendors. Wheeler is responsible for using one budget on three different shops and their projects.

Television Series

First Place Score: 485

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

Tennessee Uncharted

Second Place Score: 478

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION Outdoor Oklahoma

Third Place Score: 430

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT Arizona Wildlife Views

Low Score: 389

Category Chair: Blake Podhajsky, Oklahoma

Judges:

Ron Stahl is an award-winning television journalist with more than 40 years' experience, now retired. He was a news anchor and feature reporter for KFDX-TV in Wichita Falls, Texas, and KOCO-TV in Oklahoma City, Okla. He was co-host and producer for "The Great Outdoors," a nationally seen outdoor program that aired on The Outdoor Channel and Fox Sports Southwest. For 13 years, he was reporter, producer and co-host of "Discover Oklahoma," a travel program produced by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. His work has been honored by The Associated Press, United Press International, The Society of Professional Journalists-Sigma Delta Chi and others. He was part of the news team at KOCO-TV honored with a George Foster Peabody Award for coverage of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Dino Lalli is a co-host and producer for "Discover Oklahoma." Prior to joining the crew, he worked in the Oklahoma Film and Music Office for almost nine years as a field representative. Over a 20-year period, Lalli served as entertainment editor and film critic for the ABC and NBC affiliates in Oklahoma City and KNBC in Burbank, Calif. While at Channel 5 in Oklahoma City, he hosted and produced an award-winning, nationally syndicated program on movies. Several Academy Awards specials he produced and hosted at Channel 5 were nominated for regional Emmy Awards. Much of Lalli's work has aired nationally. Lalli received his Bachelor of Arts in Journalism Radio/TV Broadcasting from the University of Oklahoma in 1978.

Cooper Ross owns Insight Visual Media Productions in Edmond, Okla., a full-service "visual media" firm specializing in video production, public relations, advertising and graphic design. An award-winning director of photography, graphic designer and non-linear editor, Ross is also the director of photography and producer for the award-winning outdoor adventure show "Young Wild," which was awarded the No. 1 new show on the Sportsman Channel. Previously, he was the assignment editor at Oklahoma City's KWTV News 9 for five years. Ross received his Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Communications from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Television PSA

First Place Score: 589

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

MoNASP: Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program

Second Place Score: 556

RECREATIONAL BOATING AND FISHING FOUNDATION *Pesca y Protege*

Third Place Score: 499

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES *PFD "Types"*

Low Score: 443

Category Chair: Aaron Meier, Nevada

Judges:

Ryan Coleman is an Emmy-nominated director who has overseen the production of multiple PSAs for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. He specializes in creating custom marketing plans and producing compelling and creative content for a variety of businesses.

Ford Corl is a four-time nominee and two-time Emmy-award-winning director. Born and raised in Tucson, Ariz., he earned his degree in media and digital arts from the University of Arizona film school. There he was taught the art of filmmaking and storytelling. Ford's short films have played in film festivals around the country. He has worked in the film/television industry for more than 10 years, directing live programs for PBS and NBC, along with being an editor and motion graphic artist for large-scale production companies.

Andrea Farnsworth has worked as a public information officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife for the past three years. Her duties include the production of nearly all of the department's public service announcements. She also produces all of the video features for the department's "Nevada Wild" program.

Video Other

First Place Score: 582

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT North America's Wildlife Conservation Legacy

Second Place Score: 579

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT *Harris Ilsely, Trapper*

Third Place Score: 578

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION Buying Her First Bow

Low Score: 402

Category Chair: Darrin Hill, Oklahoma

Judges:

Steve Easom started out hunting and fishing with his family. Service in the U.S. Air Force brought him to Oklahoma. After leaving the Air Force, he entered the broadcast field and spent the next nine years as general manager for 14 TV stations, launching the first network and HD block of hunting and fishing in Oklahoma. Easom then built a TV production business that produced five different hunting and fishing shows. One lasted eight years, producing a new episode each week that aired nationwide. He is now in the 12th year of promoting and producing the Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Turkey Hunt. He also hosts a live call-in hunting and fishing radio show on more than 20 stations.

Fritz Kiersch is an American film director, writer and producer. He is perhaps best known for directing "Children of the Corn" and "Tuff Turf." Kiersch is head of Oklahoma City University's Moving Image Arts Program.

Laura Pollard graduated from Oklahoma State University with a major in wildlife biology and a minor in journalism. She worked as an information specialist with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for 10 years, where her responsibilities included shooting and editing film for the "Outdoor Oklahoma" TV program and serving as on-air host for five years; photography and writing for Outdoor Oklahoma magazine; coordinating the Project WILD teacher-training program; and then serving as information specialist for the Nongame Program (now called the Wildlife Diversity Program). Pollard was awarded the Wendell Bever Award from the Oklahoma/National Wildlife Federation and Phillips Foundation in 1984 for her efforts in promoting the Nongame Program. She also worked for 12 years as the district manager for the Oklahoma County Conservation District, promoting conservation information/education efforts.

External Newsletter

First Place Score: 524

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

Wild Times for Kids

Second Place Score: 440

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE *Life's Better Outside*

Third Place Score: 341

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Georgia Wild

Low Score: 273

Category Chair: Tom Dickson, Montana

Judges:

Tom Dickson is the editor of Montana Outdoors and a former writer at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Over the past 22 years, his articles and publications have won 17 first-place ACI awards and two first-place awards from the National Association of Government Communicators. He is also the author of two books on fish natural history, published by the University of Minnesota Press. He has been writing for National Wildlife since 1987.

Bruce Capdeville worked for nine years at Genesis, Inc., an ad agency in Denver, before moving to Helena in 1995 and starting Real World Design (realworld-design.com).

Luke Duran has been the art director of Montana Outdoors since 2002. During that time, the magazine has won four first-place awards in the ACI magazine category, three first-place ACI article awards, and two first-place awards from the National Association of Government Communicators. He is also the owner of Element L Design in Helena, Montana (elementl.net).

Online Community Engagement

First Place Score: 191

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Media Coverage and Exposure to New Audiences as a Result of Social Media

Second Place Score: 183

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Supporting Conservation and Increasing Online Engagement Through Wildlife Cameras

Third Place Score: 181

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION 12 Days of Conservation

Low Score: 137

Category Chair: Kelly Richmond, Florida

Judges:

Jennifer Wallace is the Director of Development at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Fla. She earned her bachelor's degree at Kent State University, completed her master's coursework at John Carroll University and is pursuing a master's in project management at Florida Tech. With 10 years of experience in fundraising, primarily in higher education, Wallace aligns the passions of funders with creative and meaningful opportunities for students. Working closely with the Women's Business Center at Florida Tech, she's able to secure grants that impact the growth of the local small-business community.

Paul Rogers is a program manager for the Online Campaign Ratings product at Nielsen Media Research. For over 11 years, he has managed a wide variety of deeply technical, globally diverse initiatives and teams in the financial and consumer insight industries. He holds a Master of Science in Information and Communication Sciences from Ball State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Telecommunications from Youngstown State University.

The third judge in this category withdrew at a late date to handle a personal emergency.

Graphics

First Place Score: 296

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

"Flashy Facts" Illustrations in Xplor Magazine

Second Place Score: 290

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

"Sandhills and Cycles" Design in Arizona Wildlife Views Magazine

Third Place Score: 286

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

"Strange but True" Illustrations in Xplor Magazine

Low Score: 158

Category Chair: Cliff White, Missouri

Judges:

Bob Elliott is a professor of graphic design and photography at William Woods University in Fulton, Mo. He has held that position for the past 25 years. Prior to joining the WWU faculty, he was self-employed in the design and photography fields. Aside from teaching, Elliott is active as a photographer and digital artist.

Belinda Hughes' interest in graphics started at a young age with lots of doodling and drawing huge, funny heads on cartoon characters. She attended Truman State University and has worked in a variety of print environments. More recently, she has worked with internet design. Hughes is currently a graphics supervisor at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, where she has been employed for over 16 years.

Mary Davis is the advertising and production manager for Rural Missouri, the official publication for rural electric cooperatives, with a circulation of 550,000. Before joining Rural Missouri, Davis was the public affairs specialist for the Missouri Department of Agriculture. She has a degree in public relations and advertising from Central Missouri University.

Internal Communication

First Place Score: 255

SOUTH DAKOTA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE 2014 Annual Report

Second Place Score: 228

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS *The Information Officer*

Third Place Score: 203

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION Wildlife-O-Gram (WOG)

Low Score: 179

Category Chair: Darcy Bontempo, Texas

Judges:

Victoria Corcoran Neal, principal and founder of Corcoran & Co., has created development and marketing plans that are sustainable, mission-based and successful for more than 50 nonprofit organizations. Before founding Corcoran & Co. in 2006, she served as development director for KMFA Classical 89.5 FM and the Texas Advocacy Project, which provides free legal services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. She also directed programs for the Texas Engineering Foundation. Neal began her professional career as a private consultant and curator of 20th-century and contemporary art, advising major private collectors, corporations, galleries and more. She graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Southern Methodist University with a bachelor's degree in art history.

Jennifer Bristol coordinates Texas Children in Nature, 300 organizations committed to connecting children and families to nature. Before joining this project, she was the program director for Camp Fire, where she developed award-winning environmental science and outdoor skills curricula for afterschool programs and family nature clubs. She is a former natural resource manager and state park ranger, business owner and marketing director. She has served on multiple national and local boards and is an avid volunteer. While at Texas State University, she earned a bachelor's degree in history.

Cris Mueller has worked creatively with brands from large corporate to small business and nonprofit. Mueller assists new and experienced brands to tell their stories of business, history, passion, travel, food and good people doing great things. With a background in public relations, Mueller has a vast understanding of media relations and the importance of press-ready collateral.

Website

First Place Score: 263

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Second Place (Tie) Score: 258

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION trophycatchflorida.com

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE ndow.org

Third Place Score: 257

OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE wildohio.gov

Low Score: 206

Category Chair: Amanda Stroud, South Carolina

Judges:

Amanda Stroud and her husband, Justin, live in West Columbia, S.C., where she works for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources as assistant director of the Office of Media and Outreach. Stroud works with several agency divisions on marketing, outreach and education. Outside the office, she is a huge college sports fan who loves being around South Carolina lakes and the ocean, spending time with family and friends and, of course, her dogs.

Glenn Gardner got started in the video production business in 1984 when a "laptop computer" was a four-function calculator. He joined the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in 1990 and has been video production manager since 2006.

Patty L. Epley has been the webmaster for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for more than 11 years. She has over 17 years' experience in web design, layout, graphics and compliance with established standards, including access requirements in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. She has developed web applications, forms and FLASH movies, including a character animation for SCDNR.

Communications Campaign

First Place Score: 294

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Zebra Mussels Public Awareness Campaign

Second Place Score: 290

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION Be the Predator/Report Florida Lionfish Campaign

Third Place Score: 286

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Conservation License Plates Campaign

Low Score: 219

Category Chair: Alicia Wellman, Florida

Judges:

Jennifer Strickland is the digital communications lead for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southeast Region. She graduated from the University of Georgia in May 2009 with an Advertising Bachelor of Journalism and a certificate from the university's innovative New Media Institute, then began her career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the agency's first social media specialist. She lives in Atlanta and thoroughly enjoys jamming to disco music, spending time with friends and finding uncommon solutions to common problems.

Niki McKinnell (Pocock) joined the Florida Department of Children and Families in December 2011 as Director of Digital Media and Outreach before being promoted to Chief Marketing Officer. She has rebranded and launched social media, marketing and public relations campaigns for many organizations, including the Florida Department of Education, Florida Healthy Kids and the Florida Dental Association. She has also served in the press office at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, where she was a public information officer for Florida State Parks, Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, Green Lodging, Clean Marinas, environmental education. Serving in this role during the 2005 hurricane season was especially memorable. McKinnell has a bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of Florida.

Matt Albert of MLT Creative has worked with myriad clients in the B2B marketing sphere over the last eight years. He is an art director at MLT Creative in Clarkston, Ga., and routinely produces concepts, artwork and campaigns under extreme time constraints. In his free time, Albert enjoys music, illustration and painting.

Poster

First Place Score: 274

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Coastal Bend Bays Foundation 2014 Earth Day Bay Celebration

Second Place Score: 265

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TrophyCatch in 3 Easy Steps

Third Place Score: 259

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION Nebraska's Backvard Birds

Low Score: 197

Category Chair: Amber Leberman, Wyoming

Judges:

Chris Botkins has been a graphic designer and web designer for 15 years. He earned his degree in visual communication from Al Collins Graphic Design School in Tempe, Ariz. He loves to be outside relaxing at home on his deck with his family and three Labrador retrievers. And when the fall weather comes, he can't wait to hear the elk bugle and see the ducks start flying.

Tannon Asche received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Concordia University in Seward, Neb. Nebraska Life Magazine brought her to Norfolk, where six years later, she continues to bring her graphic design and photography experience to work for each issue of Nebraska Life Magazine, Colorado Life Magazine and all the special publications published at Flagship Publishing. Recently married and living a rural lifestyle, Asche works to create layouts that combine her best abilities with those of her team members.

Diana LeVasseur has been photographing wildlife and the beautiful scenery of this country since the 1970s, when she got her first 35 mm camera. She's originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and moved to Evanston, Wyo., in 1988, where she met her husband, Jon. She's happiest behind her camera and tripod, photographing the wonders of Wyoming.

Regulations Publication

First Place Score: 548

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION Florida Saltwater Recreational Fishing Regulations and Quick Chart

Second Place Score: 544

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES *Indiana Fishing Regulations Guide*

Third Place Score: 531

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT Community Fishing Program Guidebook

Low Score: 336

Category Chair: Cory Maylett, Utah

Judges:

Christy Merrick is a former outreach coordinator for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, where she served as editor of the agency's hunting and fishing regulations publications and wildlife magazine. During her tenure, she helped redesign the agency's regulations publications, guided by very helpful feedback from the ACI awards program. She now works as a program director for the North American Association for Environmental Education.

Mark Martinez works as a web developer and writer at the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. He is responsible for the printing, layout and production of Utah's hunting and fishing regulation guidebooks.

With more than 25 years in magazine publishing, **Randy Brudnicki** has been involved in all facets of print production and management. He has more than 15 years of experience in the communications departments of state conservation organizations and has worked on state regulations books in two states.

Magazine Wildlife Article

First Place Score: 269

WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Stealth Hunters

Second Place Score: 267

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS Weighing in on Wolves

Third Place Score: 264

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT Sand-script

Low Score: 185

Category Chair: Wendy Dial, Florida

Judges:

Karl Etters has been a journalist at the Tallahassee Democrat in northwest Florida for three years. His focus has ranged from state and local government to crime and courts, but he always finds time to break away to write about wildlife and the environment. In his career, he has covered Florida's growing bear population, Apalachicola's ailing oyster industry, land conservation and invasive Burmese pythons in the Florida Everglades. A native Floridian from Osceola County, Etters has always had a passion for the animals that swim, fly and inhabit the state's wild lands.

Sandy Beck serves as education director with the St. Francis Wildlife Association, a nonprofit dedicated to the conservation of native wildlife in north Florida through rescue and rehabilitation and public education. Funded by grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, she created "Wild Words for Wild Wings," a unique program for schoolchildren that combines birdwatching and poetry-writing. Beck writes an environmental column for the Tallahassee Democrat and does freelance writing. In 2009, Tallahassee Community College honored her with their annual Women's History Month Award for "taking the lead to save our planet." In 2008 and 2011, The Florida Magazine Association presented her with their Charlie Award for Writing Excellence. Beck received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Florida International University and her Master of Science in English Education from Florida State University.

Billy Cox says he feels like a native Floridian because he has lived in the Sunshine State since graduating from college in North Carolina in 1976. The journalist has covered sports, written features, worked investigations and been a columnist over many years with Florida Today in Melbourne, Fla., where he won numerous journalism awards. He's been at the Herald-Tribune in Sarasota, Fla., since 2006, where he is a senior feature writer. He enjoys kayaking, hiking and cycling in local state parks.

Magazine Destination, Historical or Cultural Article

First Place Score: 272

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Powderhorn

Second Place Score: 267

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION Browsing Nature's Library

Third Place (tie) Score: 264

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION It's Still Hard to Believe

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION Long Live Anglers

Low Score: 221

Category Chair: Janis Johnson, Texas

Judges:

Before **Matt Joyce** joined Texas Highways, the state's official travel magazine, in 2012 as associate editor, he worked as a reporter and editor at newspapers and The Associated Press in Texas, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico.

Mike Blackwell's writing career has lasted more than 30 years, since he left the University of Texas in 1984. He is currently freelance web editor for Inside Texas website/magazine and video/audio manager for the Texas House of Representatives. He was previously publications manager for two years at Texas Parks and Wildlife. Blackwell's career has included stints at newspapers (Austin American-Statesman, Brownwood Bulletin). In 2004, Blackwell wrote his first book, "Unbroken Promise," about a man's long-distance motorcycle trip with his son.

Tom Widlowski has been associate editor at Texas Co-op Power for nearly three years. Texas Co-op Power is a mostly general-interest magazine for the members of electric cooperatives. Before that, Widlowski had a 26-year career at the Austin American-Statesman newspaper as an editor and page designer: 22 years in sports and four years working with the editorial board.

Magazine Fisheries Article

First Place Score: 276

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

Winter Stream Fishing

Second Place Score: 274

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT *Hard to Let Go*

Third Place Score: 266

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION The 'Eyes Have It

Low Score: 161

Category Chair: Ken Fry, Ohio

Judges:

Tory Gabriel is the Fisheries Outreach Coordinator and Extension Program Leader of the Ohio Sea Grant College Program in Oak Harbor, Ohio. His primary responsibilities are research, education and outreach on the Lake Erie fisheries, which often finds him interacting with the Lake Erie fishing public and stakeholder groups such as charter captains and fishing associations. Gabriel holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology, and his master's degree in life science Education is from Ohio University. He is a member of many professional organizations, including the American Fisheries Society and Ohio Chapter, International Association for Great Lakes Research, Lake Erie Charter Boat Association, Joint Council of Extension Professionals and Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals.

Carl "Big Daddy" Bachtel is a photojournalist at WKYC TV 3 in Cleveland, Ohio, and is known locally for his regular nature/outdoors show. An avid fisherman and outdoorsman, he has been exploring the woods and waters of Ohio for nearly 50 years. Bachtel is on the pro staff of Bass Pro Shops, CLAM Corporation, Ice Fish Ohio and Recast Rods. He also cohosts the "Inside the Great Outdoors" radio show on WHK radio 1420AM.

Mike Durkalec has served as Cleveland Metroparks' aquatic biologist since 2005, where his duties include managing the fisheries and aquatic monitoring programs. Durkalec obtained a bachelor's degree in biology from Baldwin Wallace University in 1993 and a master's degree in fisheries management from Ohio State University in 1996. He also serves on the board of trustees for the Rocky River Watershed Council and board of directors for the Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders. Durkalec is passionate about fishing and protecting our waterways and was named 2007 Conservationist of the Year by the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District. He has maintained a popular fishing report blog on the Metroparks website since 2005.

Magazine General Interest Article

First Place Score: 279

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Dirty Secrets

Second Place (Tie) Score: 272

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION Home Sweet Home

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES *Moving Water*

Third Place Score: 271

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT *The Nature of Rain*

Low Score: 195

Category Chair: Diane Hirth, Florida

Judges:

Susan Cerulean (comingtopass.com) is a naturalist, self-described "earth advocate" and well-known author of many books and articles about Florida wildlife and habitat. Her most recent book, "Coming to Pass: Florida's Coastal Islands in a Gulf of Change," is described as a field guide and call for protection for a little-developed necklace of northern Gulf Coast islands. Cerulean has a new blog: "Mostly Coastal: Notes and Essays from the Edge."

Linda Kleindienst is respected for her long-time work as a newspaper reporter covering Florida government and politics. As political writer and Capitol bureau chief for the south Florida Sun-Sentinel, she covered campaigns such as Bob Graham's first run for governor and is well-informed about the full range of Florida issues. She was twice member of a Pulitzer finalist team, for coverage of the 2000 presidential recount and the 2004 hurricane season. Kleindienst is editor of the award-winning 850 magazine, which covers business and other matters in the Florida Panhandle.

Rosanne Wood is recognized as one of Florida's pioneer educational innovators. She was principal for many years of SAIL (School for Arts and Innovative Learning) High School in Tallahassee, a public school that received national and state recognition for focusing on its students' individual needs and aspirations. She has received many honors, including the College Board's recognition of SAIL as one of the six best schools in the nation for "innovation in the arts." Florida State University College of Education gave her its "Distinguished K-12 Educator" alumni award in 2012.

Magazine

First Place Score: 576

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT Arizona Wildlife Views

Second Place Score: 553

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS *Montana Outdoors*

Third Place Score: 549

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT New Hampshire Wildlife Journal

Low Score: 487

Category Chair: Kathy Garza-Behr, Ohio

Judges:

Celeste Baumgartner has been a correspondent for Farm World, published weekly and distributed throughout the Midwest, for 25 years. She is also a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and a member and past president of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio. She writes for Ohio Outdoor News, the Ohio rural electric company's Country Living, Home & Away, Bird Watcher's Digest and other publications. Her Falcon Guide, "Road Biking Ohio," was published in 2010. She has won local and national awards for writing and photography. Baumgartner was the 2014 Ohio Farm Bureau Federation's Agricultural Communicator of the Year (and she won a pie-eating contest in fourth grade!). She lives on a small farm and enjoys gardening, birding, kayaking, bicycling, astronomy and reading.

Julie Sullivan is a soil conservation technician with the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Ross County, Ohio. She has worked in the field of conservation for 20 years, interning with the Ohio EPA and serving as a watershed coordinator for the Paint Creek Watershed Project. She enjoys all things water, including kayaking, fishing and macroinvertebrate sampling with school kids of all ages. She received a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Fisheries Management from The Ohio State University.

Eric Davenport has been involved in environmental education and outdoor skills since childhood. He has worked at some interesting places — including the Army Corps of Engineers, Ohio State Parks and The Nature Conservancy — in educational outreach programs, and as an environmental education instructor at Southern State Technical College and Chatfield College. Davenport has seen unusual creatures and experienced the wilderness at its finest moments. He enjoys hunting, fishing and tent and survival camping, and is a scoutmaster for the local Boy Scout troop. He especially loves working with children and reptiles/amphibians: The combination is always exciting!