

2016

Association for Conservation Information  
*Awards Results*

Annual Meeting held at Brown County State Park  
Nashville, Indiana  
July 9–12, 2017

*Compiled by Julie Hammonds, Awards Chair  
Hammonds.julie.c+ACI@gmail.com*

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

### **First Place**

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION  
*Hunter Education Brochure*

**Score: 302**

### **Second Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Texas State Parks Rack Card Series*

**Score: 301**

### **Third Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Hunting 101 Brochure*

**Score: 299**

**Maximum Score: 330**

**Low Score: 222**

### ***Judges:***

**Joey Frazier** is editor of South Carolina Wildlife. A magazine feature writer and photographer her whole career, she now plans, writes for, edits, and takes photographs for this magazine and leads a staff of three.

**Karen Hudson** works for the Missouri Department of Conservation, where she developed the Discover Nature Notes radio segments with a companion website/social media promotion and is a staff contributor for the children's magazine Xplor, among other projects. She led the planning, development, and publication of the "Cooking Wild in Missouri" cookbook and was on the photo-editing team for the Missouri Natural Events Calendar. She moonlights as an adjunct professor for Columbia College, where she teaches marketing. Hudson has a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing and an MBA.

**Donna Schimonitz** has been a graphic designer for over 30 years, 19 of which have been at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, whose creative department has received numerous awards, both local and nationally, for design, color, photography, and content.

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

### **First Place**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Super Tag Informational Flyer*

**Score: 285**

### **Second Place**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*Wild, Not Free*

**Score: 281**

### **Third Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Pattern Your Shotgun—Turkey Target*

**Score: 264**

**Maximum Score: 330**

**Low Score: 190**

### ***Judges:***

**Joey Frazier** is editor of South Carolina Wildlife. A magazine feature writer and photographer her whole career, she now plans, writes for, edits, and takes photographs for this magazine and leads a staff of three.

**Jessica Pernell** has worked for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for 17 years in the Outreach and Communications Office as a graphics consultant. She is a graphic designer for the research arm of the agency and has worked on numerous graphics products.

**Dorothy Zimmerman** has been a multimedia communications professional for Florida Sea Grant, headquartered at the University of Florida, for 17 years. She also serves in a dual appointment as assistant director for the communications division of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Program at the University of Florida. In this dual capacity, she is responsible for the planning and implementation of communications programs, products, and services that support the research and outreach needs of Sea Grant researchers and extension faculty throughout the state of Florida.

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

### **First Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Texas State Park Guide, 13<sup>th</sup> Edition*

**Score: 272**

### **Second Place**

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Conserving Georgia's Nongame Wildlife 2016 Report*

**Score: 269**

### **Third Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Texas Waters: Exploring Water and Watersheds*

**Score: 256**

**Maximum Score: 330**

**Low Score: 174**

### ***Judges:***

**Todd Berger** has 23 years' experience editing, writing, and publishing, including editing books on wildlife, the outdoors, national parks, geology, and hiking. Now editor of Geosynthetics magazine, he is the author of five books, including two on the history of Grand Canyon National Park. He previously served as the director of publishing for the Grand Canyon Association.

**Leigh McDonald** is the art director for the University of Arizona Press and has been designing books in conservation and other related scholarly fields for 10 years.

Until 2017, **Miriam Warren** was the production coordinator at the University of Arizona Press, where her focus was overseeing printing and production for all titles. She also designed covers, assisted with typesetting, and supported daily functions for the Editing, Design, and Production Department. Warren has a bachelor of fine arts degree in graphic design from the University of Arizona and more than 15 years' experience in the publishing industry, including positions at California Bill's Automotive Handbooks, No Nonsense Fly Fishing Guidebooks, and Fisher Books. She is now publishing manager at the Western National Parks Association.

## *News Release*

### **First Place**

**Score: 278**

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*Sea Turtle Recovery Hits Nesting Benchmark in Georgia*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 275**

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

*Valles Caldera Bear Attack*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 274**

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

*Mexican Gray Wolves Temporary Restraining Order*

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 181**

### ***Judges:***

**Noah Austin** has been the associate editor of Arizona Highways magazine for four years. His position includes writing, copy editing, line editing, fact-checking, proofreading, and creating content for the website and blog. Before that, he was a copy editor and page designer at the East Valley Tribune newspaper. He has also done part-time and freelance work for The Arizona Republic and the Associated Press.

**Phil Bloom** is the director of communications for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Prior to joining the department in 2007, he spent 33 years as a newspaper reporter and editor, including 18 years overseeing the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette's award-winning outdoors page. He is past president of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and currently that group's vice president.

**Lawrence Morgan** is a university professor of English with a previous career as a newspaper outdoor writer. His university courses include Outdoor Writing, Business Writing, Writing Proposals and Grants, and Technical Communication.

# *Calendar*

## **First Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*2017 Texas State-Fish Art Calendar*

**Score: 282**

## **Second Place (Tie)**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*2017 Private Lands Calendar*

**Score: 270**

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
*2016 Wildlife Calendar*

## **Third Place**

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT  
*2017 New Hampshire Wildlife Calendar*

**Score: 264**

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 154**

## ***Judges:***

**Colleen Miniuk-Sperry** is a full-time freelance professional photographer and writer focused on nature, outdoor recreation, and conservation topics. Her work has been published in National Geographic calendars, Arizona Highways publications, Outdoor Photographer, AAA Highroads and VIA, and other publications. She is author, co-author, photographer, and/or publisher of several books, including “Wild in Arizona: Photographing Arizona’s Wildflowers.” Miniuk-Sperry also leads instructive photography workshops and women’s photography retreats. Her numerous awards for artistic merit for photography and writing include the President’s Choice Award from the Outdoor Writers Association of America (2011).

**Amanda Nalley** has been a public information specialist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Division of Marine Fisheries Management for five years. She has a background as a newspaper multimedia journalist with experience in videography and photography, and as an outdoor educator working in Georgia and Alaska. Nalley’s degrees are in English literature and environmental studies.

**Amanda Robinett** has a bachelor’s degree in communication from Pacific Lutheran University and over seven years’ experience in graphic design and marketing. She has worked in marketing and graphic design for nonprofit organizations, retailers, and now the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. At Pacific Lutheran University, she was a marketing manager who designed many product catalogs for their bookstore including graphics, photography, and pre/post press work. She has also designed many text-heavy print pieces and editorial advertisements and led teams on marketing projects and creative productions.

## ***Education***

### **First Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Discover Nature Schools — “Nature Unhooked” Student Book*

**Score: 267**

### **Second Place**

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*Saltwater Fishing How To Video Series*

**Score: 255**

### **Third Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*Trail Tales Magazine*

**Score: 254**

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 191**

### ***Judges:***

**Mandy Harling** has a bachelor’s degree in communications and is Director of Hunting Heritage for the National Wild Turkey Federation. She has 14 years’ experience working with outreach programs that teach people across the United States about the outdoors and conservation. She writes a column for Turkey Country magazine and is on the development team for the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports. She is also a fellow of the National Conservation Leadership Institute.

**David Stambaugh** is executive director of New Mexico’s First in the Field program, whose mission is recruiting, retaining and reactivating youth and families all over New Mexico by providing outdoor education and opportunities to reconnect with nature. These activities have included hunting, angling, shooting and hunter education camps; seminars; and habitat restoration projects. Stambaugh is the 2017 recipient of the Outstanding Citizen Wildlife Contributor of the Year award from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

**Kellie Tharp** has a bachelor’s degree in wildlife biology and a master’s degree in environmental science from Johns Hopkins. She started work at the Arizona Game and Fish Department as manager of the Environmental Education Program and served in that capacity for three years, before being promoted to chief of the Education Branch.

# *Photography*

## **First Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Least Bittern Chick*

**Score: 389**

## **Second Place**

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*It's a Colorful Life ... In the Keys (Tokay Gecko)*

**Score: 383**

## **Third Place**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*A Boy and His Fish*

**Score: 371**

**Maximum Score: 400\***

**Low Score: 305**

## ***Judges:***

**James Brown** is an Executive Associate Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus at the Indiana University School of Journalism. He holds a Ph.D. from Indiana University in Instructional Systems Technology and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Robin F. Garland Education Award from the National Press Photographers Association (2009) and induction into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

**Tim Christie** has been a full-time freelance photographer and writer since 1981. His photos have been featured on over 500 magazine covers, and his work has appeared in more than 100 publications, calendars, books, and corporate campaigns. Three times, his images have received the President's Choice Award from the Outdoor Writers Association of America. He has also received awards from the Professional Outdoor Media Association. In 2011 and 2012, his photos were included in the Showcase competition hosted by the North American Nature Photography Association. In 2015, Christie received OWAA's Excellence in Craft Award, which recognizes his lifetime of achievement in both photography and writing.

**Josh Olive** has been the publisher of WaterLine Weekly Magazine since 2010. Previously, he designed that publication and worked as its advertising and editorial photographer.

The St. Louis Regional Media Specialist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, **Dan Zarlenga** has a bachelor's degree in communications with an emphasis in radio/TV production and a strong background in photography.

*\*The Awards Chair decided to use four judges for this category this year; thus, the maximum score was  $4 \times 100 = 400$ .*



## *Success on a Shoestring*

### **First Place**

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

*FlashMob*

**Score: 245**

### **Second Place**

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

*WDFW Statewide Trout Fishing Derby*

**Score: 243**

### **Third Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*Halloween in Nebraska State Parks*

**Score: 234**

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 191**

### ***Judges:***

**Tristanna Bickford** has worked in conservation education, communications, and outreach at state wildlife agencies since 2005, first in Arizona, currently in Wyoming.

**Katie DeLorenzo** is the creative services manager at Albuquerque advertising agency McKee Wallwork + Co and has an MBA in Marketing and Policy Planning and a minor in art history. At McKee, she is immersed in strategic communications and the creative process from concept to final execution. Part of her job is to build a “collective” of the most talented creatives (copywriters, designers, art directors, photographers, etc.). She also has three years’ experience as an account executive at McKee, acting as liaison between agency and client, often presenting creative to clients and walking them through concept, design, copy, etc.

**Rick Lavender** worked for 20-plus years as a newspaper reporter/editor, 18 with a small north Georgia daily. For the past nine years, he has been a communications specialist with Georgia Department of Natural Resources, focusing on nongame conservation content—largely newsletters, releases, etc. His experience includes outdoors freelancing and about three years as a Southeast region and state editor of various publications (including Georgia Sportsman) with what is now the Game & Fish outdoors magazine company. Lavender has a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Georgia.

## ***Video Short***

### **First Place**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*"I Support Conservation" Promotional Video*

**Score: 564**

### **Second Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Traversing the Trinity*

**Score: 548**

### **Third Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*The Cup Crusaders*

**Score: 522**

**Maximum Score: 600**

**Low Score: 238**

### ***Judges:***

**Dan Bertalan** has over 30 years' experience as an outdoors media professional with multiple awards in film and television production, including five Emmys from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for nature and outdoor programming. A television host, director, producer, editor, and syndicated radio host, he has also served as judge for the Midwest Emmys for three years.

**Bill Graham** was a newspaper reporter and editor for 30 years. For the past seven years, he has worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation as a writer, photographer, and marketing specialist.

**James Swan** was the co-executive producer of "Wild Justice" on National Geographic Channel; writer for "Ancient Mysteries," "Sports Afield TV," "Bushnell's Secrets of the Hunt," and "Sightings" on ESPNOutdoors; and has appeared on "Ancient Mysteries," "Sightings," "World of Beretta," University of Michigan TV, etc. He has produced over 100 shows, judged in Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival four times, and taught environmental communications at the University of Michigan. As an actor, he has been a member of SAG-AFTRA since 1991.

## ***Video PSA***

### **First Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Trees Work “Kid Artist”*

**Score: 595**

### **Second Place**

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY  
*TWRA East TN Outdoors: Dove Season*

**Score: 546**

### **Third Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Twin Pines Nature Center*

**Score: 530**

**Maximum Score: 600**

**Low Score: 436**

### ***Judges:***

**David Majure** has a bachelor’s degree in broadcasting from Northern Arizona University and nearly 30 years of broadcast journalism experience as a television producer, writer, videographer and editor in the Phoenix, Arizona market.

**David Nelson** is a former radio personality and program director in the Oklahoma City and Houston radio markets who did numerous voice-overs for training videos and radio commercials in his 10-year professional career in radio. Now a Professor of Mass Communication, he has taught a variety of media communication courses for 21 years in the areas of digital audio production and radio production. He has a bachelor’s degree in broadcasting communication, a master’s in communication, and a doctorate in education with an emphasis in mass communication.

**Daniel Wincentsen** has worked in film and television for over 20 years and edited shows for major clients, including ABC, NBC, CBS, AMC, TBS, Bravo, TruTV, DirecTV, Fox Movie Channel, TLC, Travel Channel, and Food Network.

## ***Video Long***

### **First Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*The Texas Water Safari, a Race to Remember*

**Score: 563**

### **Second Place**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing*

**Score: 545**

### **Third Place (Tie)**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*The Night's Watch*

**Score: 527**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Eagles in Missouri*

**Maximum Score: 600**

**Low Score: 392**

### ***Judges:***

**Heidi Ferguson** works in the Wildlife Resources Division at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, where she has produced a number of videos for social media channels. The work involves lots of filming and editing, some narrating, and in one instance, hosting. She enjoys spending time in the field with biologists and technicians, both following them in a work day and coaching them as they present information.

**Robin Hill** of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation has been a communication specialist for over 30 years, participating in the production of audio/video materials, communications education pieces, graphic design/photography, new media, magazines, and other printed products.

**Andrea Jones** is the information and education manager for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in southwest Montana. A former broadcast journalist with a good amount of camera work under her belt, she also has a master's degree in journalism.

## ***Television Series***

### **First Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Texas Parks & Wildlife*

**Score: 542**

### **Second Place**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
*Arizona Wildlife Views Television*

**Score: 456**

### **Third Place**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*Outdoor Oklahoma*

**Score: 454**

**Maximum Score: 600**

**Low Score: 419**

### ***Judges:***

**Dan Bertalan** has over 30 years' experience as an outdoors media professional with multiple awards in film and television production, including five Emmys from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for nature and outdoor programming. A television host, director, producer, editor, and syndicated radio host, he has also served as judge for the Midwest Emmys for three years.

**Dan Dennison** has over 40 years' experience as a broadcast journalist (25 years as reporter/photographer, primarily in the Denver market, and 15 years as TV news director for six newsrooms in Colorado, Hawaii, California, and Virginia). Now the senior communications manager for the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, he continues to produce multi-media content on a daily basis. Recipient of six regional Emmys and numerous state and national journalism awards for reporting, photography, and newsroom leadership, Dan has a bachelor's degree in technical journalism from Colorado State University and a master's in journalism media management from the University of Missouri.

**Kipp Woods** served as executive producer and host of the Missouri Department of Conservation's TV show (Missouri Outdoors) for 17 years (1991–2006).

## ***External Newsletter***

### **First Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*State Parks Getaways*

**Score: 266**

### **Second Place**

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

*Wildlines*

**Score: 259**

### **Third Place**

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*Georgia Wild*

**Score: 257**

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 214**

### ***Judges:***

**David Allen** served as a communications and outreach specialist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in the Wildlife Resources Division for more than four years, managing web content, social media, and email communications; filmed and edited videos; and worked on other marketing and communications projects. He has received ACI awards in the Success on a Shoestring and Online Community Engagement categories. He is now a public relations coordinator for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia, serving as a content manager for the college's website, managing the college's social media accounts, and working on other marketing and communications materials.

**Claudia Harden** has 15 years' experience in marketing. She is the director of communications at Cat Depot in Sarasota, Florida, overseeing all aspects of the shelter's marketing and public relations strategies. Previously, she served as the marketing manager for the Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society. Her areas of experience include development, production, and maintenance of collateral, website content, e-newsletters, direct mail campaigns, posters, contests, advertising, news and social media, events, and community relations.

**Liza Poinier** has worked in the fields of communications and publications throughout her career and was an ACI member (working for New Hampshire Fish and Game) from 2002 to 2012. She has been a frequent entrant and judge in ACI's contest. Poinier is now the communications director at the Concord Community Music School in New Hampshire and does contract work with other nonprofits.

## *Online Community Engagement*

### **First Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*30 Years of Taking Texans Outside!*

**Score: 271**

### **Second Place**

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*Iowa DNR Social Media*

**Score: 262**

### **Third Place**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Fish AZ*

**Score: 247**

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 151**

### ***Judges:***

**Dawn Anderson** is the Geographic Data Services Bureau Chief at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, where she is responsible for the spatial data, mapping resources, and interactive web-mapping applications for the agency. Her team creates public-facing web-mapping applications and uses ArcGIS Online. Anderson has worked with data, maps, and the web for about 20 years. She says, “I am a scientist at heart, but I have a passion for communicating with our public in new and innovative ways, engaging them to help cultivate a love for the outdoors and our recreational resources.”

**Rebecca Mauser** worked for 18 years as Communications and Public Affairs Program Director at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Past experience includes graphic design, project management, map design, web content design, video production, and GIS.

**Keith Shannon** has worked for the Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for eight years as the Social Media Manager and Digital Media Strategist, focusing on incorporating “new media” into the region’s communication efforts. He sits on national teams designing social media strategies and is well versed in the field of social media analytics, often giving presentations on the topic.

## ***Conservation Post of the Year***

### **First Place**

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*First Georgia Wild Video*

**Score: 251**

### **Second Place**

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*Beating the Odds to Rescue Displaced Manatee Pair*

**Score: 242**

### **Third Place**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*Ho-Lee Cow Crappie*

**Score: 239**

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 192**

### ***Judges:***

**Jonathan Carlucci** is the principle public information officer for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. His roles include Facebook administration, photography/videography, web and print production design, and IT project coordination. Carlucci has 20 years' experience in digital and print design, marketing, photography, and communications.

**Kristen Gillman** works for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and was a member of the department's Information and Education Division for 11 years. Up until September 2011, she oversaw the department's website and social media outlets. (Note: She recused herself from judging Oklahoma entries.)

**John Strauss** is a nine-year member of the Ball State University journalism faculty and a public television and radio producer who previously served as a reporter and editor for the Associated Press. He has also been a local television reporter and a reporter and digital news producer for the Indianapolis Star.



## ***Graphics: Layout***

### **First Place**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*“Arizona’s Wonder-Rabbit”*

**Score: 268**

### **Second Place**

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

*WDFW Welcome to Washington Guide*

**Score: 264**

### **Third Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*“One Way to Start”*

**Score: 260**

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 190**

### ***Judges:***

**Taylor Brown** has worked for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the past four years, where she manages social media platforms, assists with marketing campaigns, designs advertisements and flyers, and produces hunting and fishing publications.

A graphic designer for the past 35 years, **Kimberly Greyer** is a professor for the Visual Communications Department of Austin Community College.

ACI past president **Micah Holmes**, a graduate of Oklahoma State University with a degree in wildlife and fisheries biology, has been the Information Supervisor at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for 16 years.

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

### **First Place (Tie)**

**Score: 271**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*“Brush Pile Up”*

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Texas Aquatic Science Program Logo*

### **Second Place (Tie)**

**Score: 268**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*“Get Outside” Program Exhibit Graphics and Wayfinding System*

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
*2016 Manatee Decal*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 263**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
*Bucket Full of Trouble Poster*

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 202**

### ***Judges:***

**Megan Johansen** is a graphic designer and experienced art director who worked as art director for The Iowan magazine/Pioneer Communications 2013–2017. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in graphic design from Drake University in Des Moines and a Fine Arts Teaching Certificate from the University of Iowa, K-12.

**Kurt Krause** has over 30 years’ experience in graphic design. He has worked for a number of ad agencies and corporations and owned a graphic design business for over 15 years. He now works at Arizona State University as a graphic designer for the Global Institute of Sustainability, where his responsibilities include graphic support for a number of units, including the School of Sustainability.

**Nadia Reimer** is the Assistant Chief of Information Production and Managing Editor of Kansas Wildlife & Parks Magazine. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in communication, with a major in advertising and minors in marketing and public relations. Reimer has 12 years’ experience in graphic design (Adobe Suite, Quark Express), six years of public relations experience, five years of applied social media experience, five years of publication experience, and five years of photography experience. She also studied fine art for three years.

## ***Internal Communication***

### **First Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
*FWP Vision and Guide 2016–2026*

**Score: 270**

### **Second Place**

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
*Field Notes*

**Score: 268**

### **Third Place**

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES  
*Aquatics Pump Video*

**Score: 267**

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 179**

### ***Judges:***

**David Allen** served as a communications and outreach specialist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in the Wildlife Resources Division for more than four years, managing web content, social media, and email communications; filmed and edited videos; and worked on other marketing and communications projects. He has received ACI awards in the Success on a Shoestring and Online Community Engagement categories. He is now a public relations coordinator for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia, serving as a content manager for the college's website, managing the college's social media accounts, and working on other marketing and communications materials.

**Cyrus Baird** works for the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports (previously the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership) and has a background in wildlife, policy, social media, and communications.

**Liza Poinier** has worked in the fields of communications and publications throughout her career and was an ACI member (working for New Hampshire Fish and Game) from 2002 to 2012. She has been a frequent entrant and judge in ACI's contest. Poinier is now the communications director at the Concord Community Music School in New Hampshire and does contract work with other nonprofits.

## ***Website***

### **First Place**

**Score: 549**

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*Floridabirdingtrail.com: The Website for the Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 547**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*mdc.mo.gov: The Website for the Missouri Department of Conservation*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 537**

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

*fws.gov/cno: The Website for the Pacific Southwest Region (California, Nevada and Klamath Basin)*

**Maximum Score: 600**

**Low Score: 472**

### ***Judges:***

**Patty Epley** has been the webmaster for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for more than 13 years. She has over 19 years' experience in web design, layout, graphics, and compliance with established web standards, including access requirements in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act. She has developed web applications, forms, and Flash movies.

**Patti Jett** has over 16 years' experience in public communications on a municipal level. She has been responsible for city websites, printed materials, and other media, including press releases, social media, PSAs, a cable TV channel, and graphic design.

**Erin Landry** is a graduate of Arizona State University and senior manager at her agency, Digital Air Strike, which specializes in social media marketing for the automotive industry. She leads a team of digital specialists who manage social media and reputation accounts for hundreds of clients across the nation.

## *Communication Campaign*

### **First Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Win Your Dream Year Outdoors!*

**Score: 281**

### **Second Place**

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*2016 Python Challenge™*

**Score: 280**

### **Third Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*Explore Your Nebraska State Parks*

**Score: 277**

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 173**

### ***Judges:***

**Mandy DiMartino** crafts targeted and effective public relations plans which combine meticulous writing with creative design to reach audiences and meet objectives. She has been working for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Parks and Forestry in communications for 15 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in public relations and a master's in communications management.

**Matt Harlow** is an engagement strategist at DJ Case and Associates. Before that, he spent 30 years in the advertising/communications industry. Harlow has judged the American Advertising Federation's awards contest (the ADDYs) many times at the local and regional levels and attended the national awards show a number of times. He has also served as ADDY chair several times for his local American Advertising Federation chapter.

**Meagan Racey** is a graduate of the University of North Carolina journalism school who now works at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service as a public affairs specialist. She develops communications plans and strategies and writes news releases and other outreach materials.

## ***Poster***

### **First Place**

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*Some of Florida's Freshwater Exotic Fishes*

**Score: 279**

### **Second Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Zebra Mussel Poster*

**Score: 272**

### **Third Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Birds of Spring Meadow Lake*

**Score: 269**

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 185**

### ***Judges:***

**Colleen Miniuk-Sperry** is a full-time freelance professional photographer and writer focused on nature, outdoor recreation, and conservation topics. Her work has been published in National Geographic calendars, Arizona Highways publications, Outdoor Photographer, AAA Highroads and VIA, and other publications. She is author, co-author, photographer, and/or publisher of several books, including "Wild in Arizona: Photographing Arizona's Wildflowers." Miniuk-Sperry also leads instructive photography workshops and women's photography retreats. Her numerous awards for artistic merit for photography and writing include the President's Choice Award from the Outdoor Writers Association of America (2011).

**Donna Schimonitz** has been a graphic designer for over 30 years, over 19 of which have been at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, whose creative department has received numerous awards, both local and nationally, for design, color, photography, and content.

**Kimberly Wright** has a background in industrial design. She edited and designed Alabama Wildlife magazine, as well as all printed materials for the Alabama Wildlife Federation and the Alabama Nature Center, for six years. She also edited and designed the Alabama Pharmacy Association magazine. Wright redesigned and now maintains the website for the City of Montgomery.

## ***Regulations Publication***

### **First Place**

**Score: 279**

VERMONT FISH AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Vermont 2017 Fishing Guide and Regulations*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 270**

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION  
*2017 Arkansas Fishing Guidebook*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 267**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION  
*2017 Nebraska Boating Guide*

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 190**

### ***Judges:***

**Carol Lyn Parrish** has 32 years' experience in outreach and education at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, heavy customer service knowledge, and a thorough understanding of conservation agencies and missions.

**Samantha Pedder** has served in a communication/outreach position for the last seven years. While working for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, she helped to launch their first email marketing campaigns, as well as the GoHuntPA campaign. She then worked for the National Shooting Sports Foundation (previously the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership), managing marketing efforts to make hunting and target shooting more inclusive. Now, she is the Director of Business Development for the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports, where she manages the National R3 Community and helps the organization lead national efforts to recruit, retain, and reactivate hunters and target shooters.

**Kevin Dodd** has a Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences (wildlife biology) from Auburn University and recently retired after 32 years' service as conservation enforcement officer with the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. He hosted the department's television show for two years and served as public information contact. In his last five years at the department, he was chief of law enforcement.

## *Magazine Wildlife Article*

### **First Place**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Coming Home*

**Score: 266**

### **Second Place (Tie)**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Overdue*

**Score: 265**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Studying White-Tailed Deer in the Digital Age*

### **Third Place (Tie)**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*The Big Stink*

**Score: 262**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*Small Harvest—Big Impact*

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 221**

### ***Judges:***

**Tony Dolle** has been a member of the outdoor media for the past 35 years and has worked for Ducks Unlimited and Cabela's, among other organizations. He is the CEO of Advantage Communications, which specializes in marketing communications, digital content, public relations, and media relations.

**Josh Leventhal** has spent 20 years as a reporter and editor for a variety of newspapers and magazines, and has been editor of *Wildlife* in North Carolina for the past two years.

**Amanda Stroud** has worked in outreach and marketing at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for over 10 years and is now the assistant director of the Office of Media and Outreach. That office produces the department's magazine, graphics, diversity outreach, litter prevention, special events, marketing, media relations, and social media.



## *Magazine Destination, Historical or Cultural Article*

### **First Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Lady Bird in Big Bend*

**Score: 280**

### **Second Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Caring for Missouri's Best Wild Places*

**Score: 275**

### **Third Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Natural Connections*

**Score: 259**

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 206**

### ***Judges:***

Two years of regularly submitting material to Nebraska Life Magazine led to **Alan Bartels'** first feature and photos being published in the magazine in 2007. After learning from all those rejections, and working with the publication's staff, he was published in every issue of the magazine over the next three years. Bartels was then asked to come work for Nebraska Life. The lifelong Nebraskan was the Nebraska Wildlife Federation's Conservation Educator of the Year in 2002. More recent awards include the International Regional Magazine Association's Magazine Writer of the Year Award of Merit in 2016, and that organization's Bronze Award for magazine cover photography, also in 2016. Today, he is the assistant editor of Nebraska Life Magazine.

**Tom Dickson** is the editor of Montana Outdoors and a former writer for the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer. 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.

**Jim Low** has a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri Columbia. His experience includes five years as daily newspaper reporter, two years as magazine editor, and 26 years as public information officer for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Missouri Department of Conservation. He has been a frequent winner in ACI's news release and magazine article categories. (Note: He recused himself from judging Missouri entries.)

## ***Magazine Fisheries Article***

### **First Place**

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

*Winter Cusk*

**Score: 280**

### **Second Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Fishing for First-Timers*

**Score: 279**

### **Third Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Open or Close?*

**Score: 273**

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 211**

### ***Judges:***

**Rory Aikens** has a Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Arizona University, worked in newspapers and magazines for a dozen years, spent 22 years as a public information officer for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, authored the “Official Arizona Fishing Guide” in collaboration with Arizona Highways Magazine, and wrote for Arizona Wildlife Views magazine for 25 years. He is now a freelance writer, photographer, editor, and public relations consultant.

**David Brown** of Tight Line Communications has spent 25 years working as a freelance writer/photographer, primarily in the outdoors industry. He regularly contributes to Florida Sportsman, Louisiana Sportsman, Outdoor Life, Bassmaster.com, FLW Fishing, FLWFishing.com, Bassfan.com, and Wired2Fish.com. The author of two fishing books, he has also scored numerous magazine cover shots.

**Dan Henkel** has 30-plus years’ experience in strategic communications, mostly in-house or as a consultant to nonprofits. He is accredited in public relations by the Public Relations Society of America. He is the former director of public information and education at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and former editor of Outdoor Indiana magazine. He has also judged the PRSA chapter awards. Henkel has earned Apex, Epic, Keystone, and Encore awards for crisis communications, op/ed writing, publications, and more. He received the National Education Association’s Pioneer Award for communication achievements.

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

### **First Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*Aspens: Ice Age Relicts in Nebraska*

**Score: 287**

### **Second Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Climbing Anthony's Nose*

**Score: 277**

### **Third Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*The Mighty Ones*

**Score: 275**

**Maximum Score: 300**

**Low Score: 224**

### ***Judges:***

**Lawrence Morgan** is a university professor of English with a previous career as a newspaper outdoor writer. His university courses include Outdoor Writing, Business Writing, Writing Proposals and Grants, and Technical Communication.

**Troy Swauger** is the editor of Outdoor California magazine, published by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The magazine has received the Gold Award for four consecutive years as the State of California's best magazine. Swauger has a bachelor's degree in technical journalism from Colorado State University.

**Riley Woodford** edits, writes, and produces the Alaska Department of Fish and Game magazine, Alaska Fish and Wildlife News. He also writes, records, and produces the nature radio program Sounds Wild. Woodford has 10 years' experience as a print journalist and editor. He is the author of three wildlife viewing guides and a guide for beginning hunters, and has edited several books. Woodford has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

## *Magazine*

### **First Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Montana Outdoors*

**Score: 524**

### **Second Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Texas Parks & Wildlife*

**Score: 518**

### **Third Place**

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

*Wildlife in North Carolina*

**Score: 517**

**Maximum Score: 600**

**Low Score: 410**

### ***Judges:***

**Scott Gillihan** has more than 10 years' experience as an editor and is the technical and managing editor of *Natural Areas Journal*, copyeditor of *The Auk* and *The Condor*, editor-in-chief of *Colorado Birds*, and managing editor of *Bluebird*. He is also the author of numerous peer-reviewed and popular publications. Gillihan has a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology, a master's in zoology, and 20-plus years' experience as a wildlife biologist.

**Troy Swauger** is the editor of *Outdoor California* magazine, published by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The magazine has received the Gold Award for four consecutive years as the State of California's best magazine. Swauger has a bachelor's degree in technical journalism from Colorado State University.

**Jeff Weakley** is the executive editor of *Florida Sportsman* magazine, where he has been employed since graduating from Stetson University with an English degree in 1995. He is the founding editor of *Shallow Water Angler* magazine, an offshoot of *Florida Sportsman*. Weakley has penned hundreds of magazine articles and won numerous writing awards from the Florida Outdoor Writers Association.