



ASSOCIATION *for*

CONSERVATION

INFORMATION, INC.

2018
Awards Results

Annual Meeting held at
The DeSoto
Savannah, Georgia
July 07–July 11, 2019

Compiled by Blake Podhajsky, Awards Chairperson
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2018 ACI AWARDS

One-time Publication: Brochure

First Place

Score: 195

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Careers

Second Place

Score: 177

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Statewide Trout Derby

Third Place

Score: 176

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Texas State Parks Interpretive Guides

Maximum Possible Score: 220

Low Score: 141

Judges:

Kristie Hilgedick

Hilgedick works for the Missouri Department of Conservation. As news services coordinator, she writes for Missouri Conservationist magazine, creates short videos for the department's social media channels, and answers the public's questions about forests, fish and wildlife. Previously, she was a news reporter for several midsize newspapers in the central Missouri region. Kristie has a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri.

Luke Duran

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

One-time Publication: Other

First Place

Score: 295

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
Wolverine Article Reprint

Second Place

Score: 294

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
FWP Brand Cube

Third Place

Score: 286

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
CWD Sampling Promo

Maximum Possible Score: 330

Low Score: 227

Judges:

Craig Sanchez

Residing in Grants, N.M., Sanchez has worked for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in many capacities during the past 23 years. He has been assistant chief of education since 2015. Some career highlights for Sanchez are directly related to the progressive and successful R3 efforts accomplished by the education team. The New Mexico native holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from New Mexico State University.

Donna Schimonitz

Schimonitz, of Lincoln, Neb., has been a graphic designer for more than 30 years, with more than 20 years at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The Communications Division has received numerous local and national awards for design, illustration, color, photography and content. Schimonitz exhibits in local, state and national art competitions. She has art in private collections in Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Nebraska and its neighboring states. Her subjects are of nature, illustrated with graphite, acrylic or computer. Growing up on a dairy farm, she developed her love of exploring and enjoying the outdoors.

Jerry Kane

Kane works for Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and is internal communications and news manager in the Commission's Communications Division. His duties include providing internal communications for all divisions, writing news releases, serving as media liaison, and producing in-house publications. He has been at the agency for 13 years, working out of the Lincoln, Neb., headquarters. He volunteers as an instructor in the Youth Fishing Program and as a range safety officer at the firearms range.

One-time Publication: Book/Report

First Place

Score: 311

OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Raptors of Ohio Field Guide

Second Place

Score: 307

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Looking Forward - Strategic Plan Overview

Second Place

Score: 307

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Natural Heritage Conservation Program 2018 Field Notes

Third Place

Score: 303

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
A Guide to Missouri's Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms

Maximum Score: 330

Low Score: 232

Judges:

Mandy Futey

Futey has worked in communications for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for 15 years. She plans for and manages large-scale projects and events, designs and implements public relations and marketing plans, and creates an integrated communications strategy to support agency goals. She is experienced in technical writing, graphic arts, social media, and publication layout and design. She holds a bachelor's degree in public relations and a master's degree in communications management.

Keya Jackson

Jackson is a diversity outreach specialist for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, where she focuses on promoting outdoor recreational activities to minority audiences. Originally from Fredericksburg, Va., she currently lives in Columbia, S.C. Her background is in marine science research, and she has focused on science education and outreach for about 10 years.

Joey Frazier

Frazier is editor of South Carolina Wildlife. A magazine feature writer and photographer his whole career, he now plans, writes, edits, and takes photographs for the magazine.

News Release

First Place

Score: 190

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Make a Difference! Create Wildlife Habitat in Your Backyard

Second Place

Score: 188

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Biologist's Award Honors Legacy in Longleaf

Third Place

Score: 185

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Trout Take 11-month Journey to Stocking

Maximum Score: 200

Low Score: 126

Judges:

Cindy Thompson

Thompson has been managing editor of South Carolina Wildlife magazine for the past three years. In her journalism and marketing career, she served as public information coordinator for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division and in the agency's communications division. She also served in this capacity as administrative coordinator in the Office of the Commissioner at the South Carolina Department of Agriculture. In the private sector, she was an account representative for a marketing and communications firm for more than five years.

Phil Bloom

Bloom is acting executive director of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and two-time past president of the organization. He previously worked as communications director for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for 10 years after devoting 33 years as a newspaper reporter and editor, including 18 years as the award-winning outdoors editor of the Fort Wayne (Ind.) Journal Gazette. He resides in his hometown of Fort Wayne.

Calendar

First Place

Score: 268

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
2019 Natural Events Calendar

Second Place

Score: 262

OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Wild Ohio Magazine Calendar

Third Place

Score: 258

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
2018-19 Private Lands Calendar

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 210

Judges:

Jonathan Carlucci

Carlucci has worked with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife for the past five years as a public information officer focusing on graphics and publications, photography and video, and as the division's Facebook administrator. Previously, he represented New Jersey's Natural and Historic Resources for 14 years as a photographer and graphic designer with the Division of Parks and Forestry.

Rinee Merrit

Merritt has been with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as graphic design specialist since May 2015. She's worked as a professional graphic designer and web content manager since 2010, working under contract for many clients and as an in-house designer for ODFW and Hewlett-Packard. She holds a master's degree in adult education and a bachelor's degree in horticulture. She owns an active freelance design business in graphic design, web site management and fine glass art. At ODFW, she creates outdoor and indoor signage, trailer wraps, logos, brochures, fliers, calendars, retail displays, outdoor recreation panels, stickers, packaging, posters, illustrations, infographics and other materials. Her fused glass artwork can be seen at the Coos Bay Historical and Maritime Museum, Samaritan Pastega Cancer Center in Corvallis, several galleries in Oregon and in many private homes.

Aaron Meier

Meier has been a public information officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife for 14 years. Before becoming the boating education coordinator last year, Meier worked as NDOW's publications coordinator for 11 years and was responsible for the layout and design of all the department's materials including posters, magazines, brochures, postcards, displays and graphics. His work has been recognized by ACI several times including awards for poster design, regulations publications, news release and communications campaign.

Education

First Place **Score: 273**
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Conserving Through Fishing

First Place **Score: 273**
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SCDNR Caminatas Ecológicas

Second Place **Score: 270**
NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
Trail Tales Magazine

Third Place **Score: 269**
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Prescribed Burn Story Map

Third Place **Score: 269**
TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY
Tennessee Outdoor Youth Summit

Third Place **Score: 269**
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Tennessee Outdoor Youth Summit

Maximum Score: 300
Low Score: 165

Judges:

Paige Pearson

Pearson has been marketing and public relations manager for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries since March 2017. Pearson oversees all internal and external communications, digital and print advertising and marketing, social media, videography, photography, Virginia Wildlife Magazine and Calendar, hunting, fishing, boating and waterfowl regulations, and events. She also served as lead contact for the agency rebranding in 2017. Previously she served as the community relations manager for Kalkomey Inc., the prime vendor for state fish and wildlife agencies' online education. She also served as director of communications and operations for the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports. And she worked for Gannett Healthcare Group, a subsidiary of Gannett Inc., in multiple roles such as online content manager, online account manager and social media manager. She hails from Raleigh, N.C., and attended the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She enjoys traveling the world, being on the water and spending time with friends and family.

Eric Proctor

Proctor has been the wildlife education coordinator for the Arizona Game and Fish Department for 14 years. He develops classroom curriculum and also provides training to teachers. Prior to this, he was a middle school science teacher while also providing education for the Phoenix Zoo, the Challenger Space Center, and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. He helped develop national curricula focused on the history of wildlife conservation and the Mars gamma ray spectrometer, among other topics.

Kathy Church

Church is a wildlife interpretive specialist/programming coordinator at the Smithgall Woods Regional Education Center in Helen, Ga. As part of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division, she teaches wildlife-based educational programs in northeastern Georgia. She has a bachelor's degree in wildlife management and a master's degree in secondary science education. Previously she taught various sciences for almost 15 years.

Photography: Flora and Fauna

First Place **Score: 287**
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Smallmouth Bass in Snell's Window

Second Place **Score: 285**
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES
Fawn Peeking Out at the World

Third Place **Score: 274**
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Baby Box Turtle Hatching From Egg

Third Place **Score: 274**
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Pipevine Swallowtails

Maximum Score: 300
Low Score: 224

Judges:

Linda May

May has served as an environmental educator for Georgia DNR's Wildlife Resources Division for almost 25 years. As outreach coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Section, she highlights the state's rich biodiversity by sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm of all things wild. Through public programs, festivals, kids' art contests, educational videos and other initiatives, May enjoys inspiring others to conserve wildlife and their habitats. A well-seasoned amateur nature photographer, she regularly contributes photos for DNR e-newsletters, social media posts, annual reports and other media. She earned a wildlife management degree from the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources.

Jenifer Wisniewski

Wisniewski is the chief of outreach and communications for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and current president of ACI. She has worked actively over the past few years to bring marketing to the forefront of what agencies do to make a difference in recruiting, retaining and reactivating hunters and anglers as well as keeping agencies and the work they do relevant to the public at large. As former marketing and communications manager for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, her marketing successes increased license revenue overall by more than 25 percent in five years and reduced customer churn by 10 percent. Her successes in Georgia and Tennessee have garnered much attention nationwide and efforts have been featured by national organizations including ACI, The Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Archery Trade Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Wildlife Management Institute, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Kyle Martens

Martens spent nearly five years in television broadcasting before shifting his efforts to natural resources communications. He led divisions at two TV stations, an AmeriCorps nonprofit, and now Nebraska's state forestry agency. His teams procured two broadcasting Emmy Awards (2009, 2010) for stories in "breaking news" and "severe weather" categories. He has received several awards for website design and digital content creation. He is in his final year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, pursuing a master's degree in natural resource sciences.

Photography: People

First Place

Score: 271

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Sea Star Tide Pool Research

Second Place

Score: 264

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Trout Stocking on the Eleven Point River

Third Place

Score: 261

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
Arizona Game and Fish Department Employee Photo

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 216

Judges:

AJ McWhorter

McWhorter lives in Honolulu and works as a communications specialist for the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. He spent a decade as a newspaper columnist for the Honolulu Star Bulletin and Honolulu Star Advertiser, covering the history of local media in Hawaii. He spent a decade working at local television stations in Honolulu as a segment producer, executive producer and assignment editor. He wrote "Honolulu Television" in 2017 and has produced several television specials.

Kelly Kerr

Kerr was born and raised in Ada, Okla., and is a videographer/adviser at Oklahoma State University, his alma mater. He spent 30 years as a photojournalist, mainly with the Tulsa World. In 2008, the Tulsa World published a 300-page book of his work named "Oklahoma Revisited." His byline has appeared in TIME magazine, The New York Times, Sports Illustrated and on MTV.

Jason Harmon

Harmon, from Lebanon, Tenn., has been with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for 12 years. He is digital media specialist in the Communications Division and hosts the agency podcast, "Tennessee WildCast." He also manages social media, helps with website content and design, and shoots photos and produces videos. When not at work, he enjoys hunting and fishing, performing with The Road Crew (drummer/vocals), and hanging out with his wife and kids.

Photography: Other

First Place TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT <i>Caddo Morning</i>	Score: 300
Second Place TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY <i>TWRA Boating</i>	Score: 280
Second Place TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT <i>Water Safari Start</i>	Score: 280
Third Place ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES <i>The Lodge at Gulf State Park</i>	Score: 279
	Maximum Score: 300
	Low Score: 183

Judges:

Gary Chun (Bio not available.)

Meghan Marchetti

Marchetti is a Richmond-based freelance photographer/videographer and business owner with more than eight years of photography and customer service experience in the digital media sector. As a media specialist working for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Meghan's photos are featured in many venues including Virginia Wildlife Magazine, the DGIF website, hunting and fishing regulations, and social media. She is known for her technical expertise and stunning photography, as well as her video production skills, social media campaigns, digital media management and website design.

Don P. Brown

Since 2014, Brown has served as associate editor of Outdoor Oklahoma magazine. The Tulsa native holds a bachelor's degree in photojournalism from Oklahoma State University, and spent more than 20 years in newspaper photography, photo editing, reporting and copy editing. He's won awards from the Associated Press, Oklahoma Press Association, American Copy Editors Society, American Press Institute, Society of Professional Journalists and the Association for Conservation Information. Brown also has experience as a portrait and wedding photographer, and as a photo print and film processor. He enjoys the occasional fishing or waterfowl hunting trip.

Photography: Scenic

First Place **Score: 286**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Matagorda Mornings

Second Place **Score: 271**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Misty Pines

Second Place **Score: 271**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
An Oglala Sunrise

Third Place **Score: 261**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Devils River

Third Place **Score: 261**

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES
Blazin' for Habitat

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 203

Judges:

Kyle Martens

Martens spent nearly five years in television broadcasting before shifting his efforts to natural resources communications. He led divisions at two TV stations, an AmeriCorps nonprofit, and now Nebraska's state forestry agency. His teams procured two broadcasting Emmy Awards (2009, 2010) for stories in "breaking news" and "severe weather" categories. He has received several awards for website design and digital content creation. He is in his final year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, pursuing a master's degree in natural resource sciences.

Lisa Ballard

Ballard is a freelance writer/photographer based in Red Lodge, Mont., and editor of New York By Rail magazine. She contributes regularly to 25-plus magazines and websites including Colorado Outdoors, Wyoming Wildlife, Montana Outdoors and New Hampshire Wildlife Journal. She is a past-president of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, from which she has received numerous Excellence in Craft awards in writing and photography.

Stephen Webber

Webber is a retired photographer and videographer for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. He was raised in California and holds a photography degree from Montana State University. He has 50 years of experience as a photographer.

Success on a Shoestring

First Place

Score: 284

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY
Elk Tag Raffle

Second Place

Score: 246

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Daily Red Tide Sampling Map

Third Place

Score: 245

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Controlled Hunts Market Research & Promotion 4.0

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 205

Judges:

Matt Harlow

Harlow's work at D.J. Case has primarily been in the research and communications aspects of human dimensions. Much of his work has focused on R3 and landowner outreach. He is also working with Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration on revising its strategic communications plan and serves on AFWA's National Communications Outreach Plan Committee. He has taught college marketing classes and presented to marketing and advertising organizations. He has served as an officer in the American Advertising Federation for over 20 years. He holds a master's degree in business administration with a marketing emphasis and a bachelor's degree in marketing from the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University, and a bachelor's degree in advertising from The Ohio State University School of Communication. Away from work, he kayaks, camps, fishes, and photographs wildlife and landscapes.

Alix Pedraza

Pedraza serves as the diversity outreach manager for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Originally from Colombia, Pedraza facilitates SCDNR communication and education initiatives that connect Spanish-speaking communities and African-American communities to natural resources information, public events, opportunities and advisories. The Wildlife Society honored Pedraza with the 2016 Diversity Award for her invaluable contributions to South Carolina's Hispanic outreach efforts and her dedication to natural resources conservation.

Janis Johnson

Johnson manages several marketing programs at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. In her career, she wrote direct marketing plans for The New York Times; managed a nationwide outreach campaign for The White House Council on Y2K conversion; helped launch an internet telephone company; and conducted marketing and sales for a San Francisco television station. She also worked in marketing for MCI and global ad agency Ogilvy & Mather Direct in New York. She graduated from Texas State University with a degree in journalism and currently manages marketing for TPWD's Big Time Texas Hunts, Conservation License Plates and Coastal Invasives programs.

Video Short

First Place **Score: 757**
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
The Outside is in Us All

Second Place **Score: 755**
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
NDOW License Simplification

Second Place **Score: 755**
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Huntsville State Park

Third Place **Score: 745**
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
Open Water Fishing in Maine: Fly Fishing

Maximum Score: 800

Low Score: 382

Judges:

Tony Dolle

Dolle has worked in public relations, communications and marketing for the past 40 years as a writer, editor, photographer and public relations executive. He has served as corporate communications director for Cabela's, Ducks Unlimited and The Nashville Network (TNN). Tony is a past president of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers, the Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association, and has served as the corporate liaison for OWAA and the Outdoor Writers Association of Canada. He is an award-winning photographer and a Pulitzer Prize-nominated writer for his work as a newspaper reporter. He is a freelance writer and is launching a weekly outdoor-based podcast/Internet radio program during summer 2019 titled "The View From Saddle Ridge" based out of the Nashville area. Tony is a University of Missouri School of Journalism graduate and is executive director of TOWA.

Nick Gibson

Nick Gibson is a filmmaker/storyteller based in the Dallas area. He is currently working in the public sector for the City of Garland, where he produces a variety of content including Short Docs, PSA's, Promos and even the occasional Talk Show. Prior to his time with the City of Garland, he was a freelance DP for Commercial and Independent work.

Joseph "Cos" Coslett

Coslett is the chief of operations at the 90th Missile Wing where he plans, executes, and assesses communication throughout the organization. He has 25 years in public affairs, strategic communication, and servant leadership working for the Department of Defense and the U.S. Air Force in 52 countries. He deployed for nine years to support several operations, earning two Bronze Stars. Previously, Coslett served as the academic director for the Defense Information School where he trained all DoD civilians, military and international students from more than 30 countries on executive-level communication. His personal brand is ACT: Advocate, Communicate and Transform.

Dan Bach

Bach has been the video manager for the city of Garland, Texas since 2013. In the past six years, Garland's video team has won many state and national video awards. Before crossing over to municipal government, he spent 25 years in TV news as a photojournalist, news producer and newsroom manager. Bach began his career at WCTE, a public television station in Cookeville, Tenn., after graduating with a communications degree at Tennessee Tech. He was an editor at WTVF in Nashville, worked as a news photojournalist at KTUL in Tulsa, WBRC in Birmingham, and KDAF in Dallas, where he moved into a producer role and desk manager.

Video PSA

First Place

Score: 541.5

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Be Bear Wise This Summer

Second Place

Score: 537.5

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
Ashamed of Your Selfie PSA

Third Place

Score: 510

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Discover Nature TV PSA - Spring Peepers

Maximum Score: 600

Low Score: 467

Judges:

Kim Nix

Nix is Information and Education Section chief for the Alabama Department of Conservation Natural Resources in Montgomery. She supervises print, electronic and video communications, and develops and implements marketing strategies for the department's outreach programs. She is a University of Alabama graduate with a major in journalism and a minor in political science. In 2001, she began serving as managing editor and then editor of Outdoor Alabama magazine until its demise in 2015. She plans to retire from ADCNR on Aug. 1.

Todd Craighead

Craighead has worked for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for 24 years as an information specialist. He's a producer and host of the agency's long-running television show, "Outdoor Oklahoma."

Matthew Hencheck

Hencheck is the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's sole video producer, cameraman and editor. He's been on the job three years and loves it, spending his days filming division employees performing their jobs in the field. His videos cover a wide range of work including projects on freshwater and marine fisheries, wildlife, endangered and nongame species, land management surveys and law enforcement.

Video Long

First Place

Score: 569.5

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
The Fox Finders

Second Place

Score: 518.5

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
The Last of the Strings

Third Place

Score: 514

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Red-cockaded Woodpecker Management

Maximum Score: 600

Low Score: 299.5

Judges:

Tony Dolle

Dolle has worked in public relations, communications and marketing for the past 40 years as a writer, editor, photographer and public relations executive. He has served as corporate communications director for Cabela's, Ducks Unlimited and The Nashville Network (TNN). Tony is a past president of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers, the Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association, and has served as the corporate liaison for OWAA and the Outdoor Writers Association of Canada. He is an award-winning photographer and a Pulitzer Prize-nominated writer for his work as a newspaper reporter. He is a freelance writer and is launching a weekly outdoor-based podcast/Internet radio program during summer 2019 titled "The View From Saddle Ridge" based out of the Nashville area. Tony is a University of Missouri School of Journalism graduate and is executive director of TOWA.

Keith Shannon

Shannon is the digital strategist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Northeast Region in Hadley, Mass., just 10 miles from his hometown. He has helped organize and lead multiple USFWS social media campaigns, including 2015's Ivory Crush in Times Square, and regularly speaks at regional and national workshops about social outreach.

Dan Bertalan

An eight-time Emmy-winning director, cinematographer and editor, Bertalan is driven by a passion to make the world a better place for all species by crafting broadcast television, documentaries for PBS, online videos, curriculum and classroom media that empower audiences to think critically about their roles in shaping the future of planet Earth. With more than 500 productions to his credit, he is currently producing two R3 hunting and fishing television series in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, plus a documentary for PBS on the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's new FishPass project.

Television Series

First Place

Score: 561

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Texas Parks and Wildlife

** Because there were only three entries in this category, only the winning entry is recognized.*

Maximum Score: 600

Low Score: 462

Judges:

Mike Christensen

Christensen has more than 20 years of content experience. He studied film in college then spent five years working on feature films and broadcast television projects across the country. In 1999, he and friends began a marketing and production company called FreedomZone (www.freedomzone.com), which has created content for Pepsi, Mountain Dew, MTV, NBC, and other major brands. After years of traveling and seldom seeing his family, he joined the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, where he loves helping to share conservation stories.

Brett Billings

Billings is a 15-year senior video producer with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, where he still shoots high-definition video and photos, and edits a few projects on AVID. He travels the United States working with USFWS biologists and staff to procure hard-to-get imagery needed by the conservation community. He manages the service's HD B-roll collection: 300 10-minute groupings of the best public domain nature footage available. He is a former Army broadcast journalist, having served in Alaska, Portugal and Germany. He also worked for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources for 10 years before joining USFWS. He lives in West Virginia.

James Swan

Swan is co-executive producer of the "Wild Justice" docu-reality show on the National Geographic Channel, which was inspired by a documentary about California game wardens that he produced. A trailblazer in the fields of environmental education and environmental psychology, he has written for and consulted on more than 100 produced TV shows and has written 10 nonfiction books and more than 800 articles and columns about the psychological aspects of connection with nature. He has taught environmental communications, psychology and ecology at the Universities of Michigan, W. Washington State, Oregon and Washington. James' connection to nature began while growing up on an island in Lake Erie. He has a website at www.jamesswan.com.

Audio Program or Podcast

First Place

Score: 190

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Nevada Wild: Bear Awareness

Second Place

Score: 186

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

Tennessee WildCast

Third Place

Score: 184

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

Tennessee WildCast

Maximum Score: 210

Low Score: 153

Judges:

Tristana Bickford

Tristana Bickford is the Communications Director for New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Previously she had served 11 years with Arizona and Wyoming Game and Fish Departments.

Amanda Nalley

Nalley lives in Tallahassee, Fla., where she has been the Marine Fisheries Management public information specialist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the past seven years. She previously worked as a reporter for a local newspaper and enjoys writing, taking photos, shooting and editing video, learning about marketing, and dabbling in graphic design. When not talking about saltwater fishing and regulations, she is mom to a 4-year-old girl, a stepmom and a new homeowner.

Danielle Kent

Kent has worked in the broadcasting business for more than 20 years in various positions including newscast director, audio board operator and editor. Kent has produced hundreds of successful TV and radio commercials, including a commercial for a versatile business in Lafayette, Ind., that sold used cars, cowboy boots and prom dresses.

External Newsletter

First Place

Score: 260

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Fish Texas E-newsletter

First Place

Score: 260

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Georgia Wild E-newsletter

Second Place

Score: 245

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Michigan DNR Weekly News Digest

Third Place

Score: 234

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Go Hunt Georgia Newsletter

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 170

Judges:

David O. Lucas

Lucas, from Pelion, S.C., attended the University of South Carolina in Columbia. He lives in Beaufort, S.C., where he is regional public information coordinator for the Coast and Pee Dee regions for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. He writes and edits the agency's S.C. Natural Resources Blog and helps manage the agency's Facebook page. Previously, Lucas was editor of South Carolina Wildlife magazine for eight years, after about 20 years working in daily newspaper journalism, technical writing, and other state agency public information and administrative roles. Lucas also has experience as cannery worker, forklift driver, fisheries technician, campground attendant, Zamboni driver, filling station attendant, line cook, bar back, law enforcement dispatcher and window washer.

Nathan Gonzalez

Gonzalez has served as a public information officer with the Arizona Game and Fish Department in Phoenix for more than four years. Previously he was the PIO for Coconino County, the second-largest county in the country. He was also a print journalist for 10 years, writing for newspapers in New Mexico, Utah and Arizona. He's an award-winning storyteller and social media video producer who has overseen the production of multiple publications for audiences from 30,000 to 3 million.

Dottie Head

Head is the director of membership and communications at Atlanta Audubon Society, where she oversees all communications efforts of the organization, including monthly print and e-newsletters, blog content, news releases, media relations, social media content and website management. Previously, she supervised the Public Affairs Office of the DNR, Wildlife Resources Division; served as editor of the ACI newsletter, The Balance Wheel; and worked as a freelance writer and editor for several outdoor publications. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Georgia.

Online Community Engagement

First Place**Score: 266**

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Hurricane Michael

Second Place**Score: 264**

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Instagram: Ask a Biologist Series

Third Place**Score: 261**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Building Awareness for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Maximum Score: 300**Low Score: 167****Judges:****Sarah Young**

Young is the director of public affairs and communications for the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority. She has more than 10 years of experience working in program management, events, communications and public relations for energy organizations, local government, nonprofit organizations, health care, and political campaigns. Originally from Beaverton, Ore., she holds bachelor's degrees in business administration and in psychology from the University of Oregon.

Jenifer Wisniewski

Wisniewski is the chief of outreach and communications for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and current president of ACI. She has worked actively over the past few years to bring marketing to the forefront of what agencies do to make a difference in recruiting, retaining and reactivating hunters and anglers as well as keeping agencies and the work they do relevant to the public at large. As former marketing and communications manager for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, her marketing successes increased license revenue overall by more than 25 percent in five years and reduced customer churn by 10 percent. Her successes in Georgia and Tennessee have garnered much attention nationwide and efforts have been featured by national organizations including ACI, The Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Archery Trade Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Wildlife Management Institute, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Samantha Pedder

Pedder, from Pennsylvania, works for the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports as director of business development. She started her career in wildlife biology and has shifted focus on ways to engage people in outdoor recreation. She has worked for the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. She has been engaged with ACI for a half-dozen years.

Conservation Post of the Year

First Place

Score: 283

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Snakes of Georgia

Second Place

Score: 282

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Rescuing Cold-stunned Sea Turtles

Third Place

Score: 280

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

When Fish Fly

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 246

Judges:

Nadia Reimer

Reimer serves as chief of information production, and executive editor of Kansas Wildlife & Parks Magazine, at the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. She oversees KDWPT's statewide news release program, printed publications, social media presence, in-house marketing campaigns and strategic communications. Reimer served as an ACI awards category chair in 2016 and 2019, and awards judge in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Reimer also serves on ACI's national board of directors.

Kyndel McConchie

McConchie is the social media coordinator for Shimano North America Fishing. Born and raised in the Texas Panhandle, she worked in television broadcasting and won regional and national Edward R. Murrow Awards for contributions to team coverage of Colorado's Waldo Canyon Fire in 2012. She moved to South Carolina seven years ago and worked for SCDNR before transitioning to Shimano. One of her SCDNR news releases won an ACI award in 2018.

Tim Akimoff

Akimoff is social media coordinator for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Before returning to his home state of Oregon, he worked as digital director for WBEZ, Chicago Public Radio, where he managed the station's digital properties and worked with national shows such as "This American Life" and "Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me." He spent two years running Alaska NBC station KTUU's digital content, chasing pirate ships in the Aleutian Islands and covering two Iditarod sled dog races. Before that, he was one of the ink-stained wretches in the trenches covering local government at newspapers in Oregon and Montana.

Graphics: Layout

First Place

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
The Shell Rings of Pockoy

Score: 262

Second Place

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Mobile Conservation Outreach Trailer

Score: 258

Second Place

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
Cedar Spread Infographic

Score: 258

Third Place

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Nop's Guide to Nature Photography

Score: 256

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 174

Judges:

Meghan Marchetti

Marchetti is a Richmond-based freelance photographer/videographer and business owner with more than eight years of photography and customer service experience in the digital media sector. As a media specialist working for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Meghan's photos are featured in many venues including Virginia Wildlife Magazine, the DGIF website, hunting and fishing regulations, and social media. She is known for her technical expertise and stunning photography, as well as her video production skills, social media campaigns, digital media management and website design.

Hayley McGhee

Hayley Riggs McGhee serves as Publications Manager for Guides and Brochures for the Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department. She supervises the production of the department's publications and writes many of them, including the yearly Oklahoma Travel Guide and Oklahoma State Parks & Outdoor Guide. She previously served as an assistant sports editor with *The Oklahoman* newspaper, where she designed pages and edited content for the department's award-winning sports section.

Micah Holmes

Holmes is information and education supervisor at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and has been with the agency about 15 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife and fisheries ecology from Oklahoma State University, and began his career as a reporter for a small-town newspaper. He oversees all of the agency's online, print and televised communication efforts and acts as the organization's media spokesperson. As immediate past president of the Association for Conservation Information, he has taken active roles in the conservation communications field including graduating from the National Conservation Leadership Institute, participating in the RBFFs marketing efforts, joining the CAHSS development working group, and training participants in the Oklahoma Wildlife Resource Professionals course.

Graphics: Advertising/Display

First Place

Score: 291

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Texas State Parks Logo

Second Place

Score: 278

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Outdoor Alabama Photo Exhibit

Third Place

Score: 273

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Sportsman Show Booth Display with Banners

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 146

Judges:

Brock Henderson

Henderson is an award-winning graphic designer from Lexington, S.C., currently residing in Columbia, S.C. He is the public information coordinator – graphic designer for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Molly Cleveland

With an eye for design and passion for creating, Cleveland applies her writing and design skills to communicate messages through various mediums. She's worked for Braun & Gresham, Plateau Land & Wildlife, and Plateau Land Group for nearly five years, and now leads design for all companies. She provides creative for targeted campaigns, branding materials, promotional materials, websites, events, newsletters and more.

Aaron Meier

Meier has been a public information officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife for 14 years. Before becoming the boating education coordinator last year, Meier worked as NDOW's publications coordinator for 11 years and was responsible for the layout and design of all the department's materials including posters, magazines, brochures, postcards, displays and graphics. His work has been recognized by ACI several times including awards for poster design, regulations publications, news release and communications campaign.

Internal Communication

First Place

Score: 286

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Brand Book

Second Place

Score: 258

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Employee Appreciation

Third Place

Score: 252

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

Shoptalk

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 232

Judges:

Jeff Kurrus

Kurrus is editor of Nebraskaland Magazine. Originally from Memphis, Tenn., he also authored three children's books. His most recent, "Can You Dance Like John?," debuted in 2018 with the University of Nebraska Press.

Carol Lyn Parrish

Parrish is the public information coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, covering 10 counties in southern Florida. She is the primary media liaison, promoting and supporting agency initiatives in a broad range of topics ranging from boating safety to wildlife conflicts. She writes and provides photography and videography content in agency publications and across social media platforms. She is a 35-year employee who has worked in law enforcement communications, administration and community relations.

Greg Lucas

Lucas, born and raised in South Carolina, has worked for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources for the past 29 years in a variety of education and outreach positions. He has been a field editor for South Carolina Wildlife magazine, serves on the coordinating committee for the Upstate Master Naturalist program and has taught a Jocassee Gorges class with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Clemson University each spring and fall for the past 17 years. Lucas serves on the boards of the Foothills Trail Conservancy and Preserving Our Southern Appalachian Music.

Website

First Place

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
OutdoorAlabama.com

Score: 538

Second Place

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
New Michigan DNR Website

Score: 520

Third Place

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division Website

Score: 511

Maximum Score: 600

Low Score: 422

Judges:

Erin Landry

Landry is senior digital performance manager at Digital Air Strike, one of the top social media marketing agencies in Arizona. She is a graduate of Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and has resided in the Scottsdale area for more than 10 years. Previously, she worked for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, assisting public information officers with wildlife news and social media.

Andrew Johnson

Johnson founded the consulting company Rehash in 2010. Based out of Oklahoma City, Rehash partners with e-commerce businesses worldwide to build products and offer services to help them scale their business. Rehash is routinely cited for industry-leading, award-winning work.

Jason Dickson

Dickson is the information systems manager for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. He oversees the agency's Information Technology section, which includes agency IT architecture, budget, planning and application development. Over the past 14 years, he has been an integral part in design and development of KDWPT's public and internal web applications.

Communication Campaign

First Place

Score: 290

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Get Online - Get Outside

Second Place

Score: 272

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Ride With the Wild!

Third Place

Score: 255

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Life's Short, Conserve BIG!

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 115

Judges:

Amanda Stroud

In January 2015, after 10 years in outreach and communications with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Stroud accepted the position of assistant director for the Office of Media and Outreach, where she is charged with overall coordination of outreach and marketing efforts. She grew up near the lakes and rivers of Michigan and knew she wanted a career that keeps her in touch with her love for water and all the animals within it. She holds a bachelor's degree in marine science and a master's degree in public administration from the University of South Carolina. Stroud is married, has a daughter, and spends much of her free time in the woods and on the waters of South Carolina.

Kristen Black

Black, from Kentucky, is manager of R3 programs and community engagement for The Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports. She holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife science from the University of Georgia and a master's degree in human dimensions of wildlife management from the University of North Dakota. A career highlight includes developing and co-running the Illinois Learn to Hunt Program

Alix Pedraza

Pedraza serves as the diversity outreach manager for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Originally from Colombia, Pedraza facilitates SCDNR communication and education initiatives that connect Spanish-speaking communities and African-American communities to natural resources information, public events, opportunities and advisories. The Wildlife Society honored Pedraza with the 2016 Diversity Award for her invaluable contributions to South Carolina's Hispanic outreach efforts and her dedication to natural resources conservation.

Poster

First Place

Score: 267

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
Maine Stocking Program Poster

Second Place

Score: 254

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
Wild About Cinema

Third Place

Score: 251

WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Statewide Trout Derby

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 208

Judges:

Steve “Wild Man” Wilson

Wilson was born in Little Rock in 1950. He holds a bachelor’s degree in speech, business and education from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Okla., and a master’s degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, Okla. During his 37 years with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, he won numerous awards and earned his nickname. Soon after retirement, he was inducted into the Arkansas Tourism Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation’s Outdoor Hall of Fame. He produces and hosts a statewide radio program, “Call of the Wild,” and enjoys spending time in the outdoors with his family, especially his grandson, Luke.

Nicola Whitley

Whitley, of Concord, N.H., is Public Affairs Division chief for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, overseeing information and education. She previously worked for the state health department. Her background is science communication, and she previously worked in the publishing industry in Boston. She holds a master’s degree in journalism from Boston University.

Taylor J. Main

Main, from Columbia, S.C., has been a photographer and videographer for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for more than two years. Main loves being able to see personal work published for the people of South Carolina to enjoy.

Regulations Publication

First Place

Score: 265

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Nevada Small Game Hunting Guide

Second Place

Score: 263

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Migratory Bird and Waterfowl Hunting Digest 2018-2019

Third Place

Score: 248

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations 2018-2019

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 218

Judges:

Justin Joiner

Joiner is the communication and outreach supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and previously served as the department graphic designer. Previously, he served as editor at various newspapers across the West.

Austin Bornheim (*Bio not available*)

Jessica L. Elmore

Elmore, from Columbia, S.C., is publications coordinator at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. She manages the graphics team in the Office of Media and Outreach. This is her third year handling the S.C. Hunting and Fishing Regulations. She also volunteers with SCDNR's Diversity Outreach Program.

Magazine Wildlife Article

First Place

Score: 270

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Bursting at the Seams

Second Place

Score: 254

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Searching for Swift Foxes

Third Place

Score: 251

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

How Did the Wildlife Cross the Road?

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 211

Judges:

Tim Mead

Mead, of Charlotte, N.C., is professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. During the past 35 years, he has published several hundred articles and a comparable number of photographs in national, regional, state and local outdoor magazines, winning Excellence in Craft awards from the Outdoor Writers Association of America and the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association. Marquis Who's Who recently cited Mead for lifetime achievement. He is president of OWAA and past president of SEOWA.

Jack Ballard

Ballard, an award-winning author and photographer, has written hundreds of articles on outdoor topics (wildlife biology and conservation, hunting, fishing, etc.) that have been published in more than 50 different national and regional magazines. He has written 13 books, his latest being "Large Mammals of the Rocky Mountains."

Jonathan Veach

Veach is information specialist in the communications office for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, a division of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. His background is primarily in writing and editing, and he holds a master's degree in creative writing from the University of Mississippi. He hails from Quincy, Ill., a town on the bluffs above the Mississippi River, and considers himself a passionate conservationist.

Magazine Destination, Historical or Cultural Article

First Place

Score: 383

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Buffalo Trace

Second Place

Score: 382

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sweet Present, Rich Past

Third Place

Score: 380

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Undiscovered Palo Duro

Maximum Score: 400

Low Score: 329

Judges:

Ally Caldwell

Caldwell is an account executive at Gŭd Marketing, a full-service marketing and public relations firm based in Lansing, Mich. She leads project management and content marketing for the Michigan Wildlife Council to effectively highlight Michigan's unique wildlife and natural resources, including many wildlife conservation success stories. She has guided the creation and placement of more than 90 unique stories in statewide newspapers and more than 90 television interviews since the inception of the council's campaign in 2016. She is a graduate of Michigan State University and a proud Michigan native.

Dave Books

Books is a freelance outdoor writer, book author and photographer from Helena, Mont. He taught technical writing at the University of Montana for five years and served as editor of Montana Outdoors for 24 years. He's a senior-active member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, with magazine credits in Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Montana Outdoors, Quail Forever, Sporting Classics, Gray's Sporting Journal, The Upland Almanac and many other magazines.

Lee Wilmot

Wilmot is the statewide wildlife information specialist for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. He produces news releases and a statewide newsletter for TWRA employees along with various other duties. He has 35 years with the state of Tennessee and worked in collegiate athletics, primarily at the University of Tennessee at Martin, prior to joining TWRA in 2007.

Tom Dickson

For the past 17 years, Dickson has been the editor of Montana Outdoors. Before that he was a communications manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. During the past 31 years, his publications and articles have won 20 ACI first-place awards. He has written two books on fish natural history for the University of Minnesota Press and has written articles for Sporting Classics and National Wildlife.

Magazine Fisheries Article

First Place **Score: 280**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Home for Cutts

Second Place **Score: 270**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Lobsters of the Midwest

Third Place **Score: 268**

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Bringing Back Southern California Steelhead

Third Place **Score: 268**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

An Upstream Struggle

Third Place **Score: 268**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Anglers' Guide 2018- Outdoor Oklahoma

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 222

Judges:

Julia McSherry

McSherry is a freelance writer in northern Colorado and was the 2018 High Plains Library District Writer in Residence for 13 libraries in Weld County. In the late 1970s and 1980s, she was editor of Louisiana Conservationist Magazine and public information officer for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. For 17 years, she was publications director then associate vice president for marketing communications at Loyola University New Orleans, where she directed a staff of 18 that produced 600 print publications annually and operated the university website. She lives in Greeley, Colo., where she manages Julia McSherry Communications LLC and a small acreage with two horses, two dogs, two barn cats and a small flock of hens. She is working on a cookbook/memoir about moving from the South to the West, living on a "ranchette," raising farm-fresh food and doing her best to live a sustainable life.

Troy Swauger

Swauger followed a decade working in newspapers with a jump to the communications office of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. As a department information officer, he spent more than a decade answering the questions that he once asked as a reporter. In 2007, he was offered the helm of CDFW's magazine Outdoor California and found a calling that blessed and challenged him daily. Now, he wouldn't be able to decide which he craves more: the liberation of sending the latest magazine issue to the printer, or the expectation on the first day he stares at the blank pages of the next issue and wonders what will be next.

Lawrence E. Morgan

Morgan is a professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he teaches professional writing courses including outdoor writing. Before he started teaching 13 years ago, Morgan was a journalist for 20 years. He is a former outdoor writer at the Corpus Christi (Texas) Caller-Times.

Magazine General Interest Article

First Place

Score: 279

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
The Healthy Goose

Second Place

Score: 272

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
Hunters of Eden Valley

Third Place

Score: 269

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
Connecting People to Great Places

Maximum Score: 300

Low Score: 203

Judges:

Matthew Cameron

Cameron is Region IV information specialist with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. He enjoys his role as a spokesperson and sharing the agency's good work through multiple media outlets and programs.

Matt Markey

Markey is outdoors editor for The Toledo Blade newspaper, a board member of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio, and a member of the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association. He has spent 42 years as a newspaper and magazine journalist and has won more than 60 writing awards at the state, regional and national levels. In the past seven years, he's been named Ohio's top outdoors writer five of those years. Before joining The Blade 25 years ago, he spent six years working in the movie business in California, Montana, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, including working on logistics for the award-winning film "A River Runs Through It" filmed on location in Montana. He's worked for newspapers in Orlando, Bowling Green and Fostoria, Ohio, and is a 1976 graduate of Bowling Green State University.

Pat Gilliland

Gilliland is retired after working 35 years as an award-winning newspaper reporter and editor in Oklahoma and Texas. A native Texan, she has developed a strong interest in outdoors, conservation and travel topics in nearly 37 years with her husband Gene Gilliland, a career fisheries biologist and conservationist and lifelong avid angler. They live in Oklahoma.

Magazine

First Place

Score: 548

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
South Carolina Wildlife

Second Place

Score: 536

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Outdoor Indiana Magazine

Third Place

Score: 531

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
Arizona Wildlife Views

Maximum Score: 600

Low Score: 373

Judges:

Alan Clemons

Clemons is digital editor of Predator Xtreme, Shooting Sports Retailer and Tactical Retailer sites and Editor of Bait & Tackle Business magazine, all owned and produced by Grand View Outdoors in Birmingham, Ala. A hunter and angler for more than 40 years, Clemons has written about the outdoors along with news, food, travel for weekly and daily newspapers, magazines and websites since 1984, earning multiple awards from the Alabama Press Association, Alabama Sports Writers Association, Ducks Unlimited, Alabama Wildlife Federation and others. He is president of the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association and has served on its board of directors or as committee chairman since 1997. Clemons is a native and resident of Alabama.

Paige Pearson

Pearson has been marketing and public relations manager for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries since March 2017. Pearson oversees all internal and external communications, digital and print advertising and marketing, social media, videography, photography, Virginia Wildlife Magazine and Calendar, hunting, fishing, boating and waterfowl regulations, and events. She also served as lead contact for the agency rebranding in 2017. Previously she served as the community relations manager for Kalkomey Inc., the prime vendor for state fish and wildlife agencies' online education. She also served as director of communications and operations for the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports. And she worked for Gannett Healthcare Group, a subsidiary of Gannett Inc., in multiple roles such as online content manager, online account manager and social media manager. She hails from Raleigh, N.C., and attended the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She enjoys traveling the world, being on the water and spending time with friends and family.

Kelly Etzel Douglas

Originally from Iowa, Douglas earned her stripes as a photographer and writer at newspapers in Iowa, Missouri and Wyoming. She settled in Cheyenne, Wyo., where she is managing editor of Wyoming Rural Electric News, a design-driven, statewide, lifestyle magazine for Wyoming's rural electric cooperative members.

2018 ACI AWARDS