



ASSOCIATION *for*  

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CONSERVATION  

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INFORMATION, INC.

2021  
*Awards Results*

Annual Conference hosted by  
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency  
July 24-27, 2022



*Compiled by Aaron Meier, Awards Chairperson ([ameier@ndow.org](mailto:ameier@ndow.org)) and  
Co Awards Chairperson Karen Parker ([Karen.Parker@myfwc.com](mailto:Karen.Parker@myfwc.com))*

## Audio/Video Categories

### *Audio Program or Podcast*

**First Place** **Score: 95.67**  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Nature Boost: Family Camping Tradition*

**Second Place** **Score: 85.33**  
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
*Beaver State Podcast*

**Third Place** **Score: 84.33**  
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Wild Wisconsin: Logging Off - Outdoors and Your Mental Health*

**Maximum Score: 100**  
**Low Score: 68.67**

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

##### **Chris Clayton**

Armed with nothing but an English major and a coffee habit, Clayton has spent nearly 20 years navigating journalism's peaks and valleys. He's held leadership positions at regional and national magazines, and his conservation and outdoor adventure writing has appeared in *Outside*, *Runner's World*, and other publications. Clayton is currently editor in chief of *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, the award-winning magazine of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

##### **David Nelson**

David Nelson worked 10 years in the broadcast industry in Oklahoma and Texas as a sports photojournalist, radio sports director, high school and college football radio color commentator, radio personality, radio program director, radio public service director and radio news director. He also has performed the voice-over work for numerous organizational training videos, radio commercials and station imaging campaigns.

##### **Samantha Pedder**

N/A

## ***Recurring Video Program***

**First Place** **Score: 194.67**  
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Texas Parks & Wildlife*

**Second Place** **Score: 183.67**  
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*Outdoor Oklahoma*

**Third Place** **Score: 169.33**  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Nature's Calling*

**Maximum Score: 200**  
**Low Score: 124.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Ashley Sanchez**

Ashley Sanchez is a Public Information Officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Sanchez is NDOW's media contact and spokeswoman on all wildlife-related topics, and oversees the agency's social media channels, website, and mass communications to hunters, anglers, and all other recreationists. Sanchez also manages and hosts the Department's weekly podcast, Nevada Wild. Before beginning her position with NDOW four years ago, Sanchez was a broadcast journalist in Montana and then in Kentucky. During her time as a reporter, she captured her own video, edited, wrote and presented her stories. Sanchez has been recognized by ACI for NDOW's podcast and social media campaigns.

#### **Brett Billings**

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

#### **Matthew McDaniel**

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

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

### **First Place**

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

*Snipe Hunting*

**Score: 178.33**

### **Second Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Bird Hunting Bear Aware*

**Score: 178.00**

### **Third Place**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*Colorado's Record "Fish Stories"*

**Score: 173.33**

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 138.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **JH Whatley**

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

#### **Kevin Farron**

With a degree in communications and English from the University of Michigan, Farron has combined his professional skillset with his passions of hunting, fishing and outdoor adventures; he currently serves as the Montana Chapter Coordinator for Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, and he's been working in the field of conservation since 2016. He lives with his wife and young daughter in Missoula, MT.

#### **Tony Dolle**

Tony 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. Tony is a University of Missouri School of Journalism graduate and is executive director of TOWA.

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

### **First Place**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
*Field to Table: Fried Trout*

**Score: 185.00**

### **Second Place**

NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
*How to Poop in the Woods*

**Score: 179.00**

### **Third Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Deer Antler Shed Hunting*

**Score: 178.67**

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 130.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Bart Nester**

Bart Nester has more than 25 years of experience as a director, editor, and videographer primarily with the Irving Community Television Network. He has spent most of his career in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex as a video editor. One of his main responsibilities is editing feature stories for an arts and entertainment show. Nester grew up in South Texas and was no stranger to outdoor recreation and reconnecting with the natural world.

#### **Dan Dennison**

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

#### **Madison Rice**

N/A

## ***Video Feature: Natural Resource Conservation***

### **First Place**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*Coming Home: Return of Swift Fox to Fort Belknap*

**Score: 182.00**

### **Second Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Saving the Kemp's Ridley: A 40 Year Success Story*

**Score: 178.67**

### **Third Place**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*Colorado's Kokanee Salmon Spawn*

**Score: 178.33**

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 111.33**

### ***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.

#### **Bill Graham**

Bill Graham is a media specialist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, based in the Kansas City area. Prior to that, he was a reporter, editor, and columnist for The Kansas City Star newspaper, with a heavy emphasis on natural science stories. He has a lifetime interest in the outdoors and especially enjoys the way science is exploring landscape ecology.

#### **Greg Lucas**

Greg Lucas has worked with the S.C Department of Natural Resources in conservation education, outreach and recreation for 31 years. He is a longtime contributor to South Carolina Wildlife magazine and is stationed at SCDNR's Clemson regional office.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 187.67**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*Hunting Through the Lens*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 177.67**

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*Habitat and Birdwatching at Goose Pond*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 176.33**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Trail Through Time*

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 156.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Jennifer Ramella**

Jenny Ramella has been an Education and Information Officer for the Nevada Division of State Parks since 2015. Her mission is to encourage Nevada's to explore their own backyards by visiting State Parks, while educating them on the importance of outdoor ethics, sustainability, and conservation.

#### **Malorey Henderson**

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

#### **Tristanna Bickford**

N/A

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

**First Place** **Score: 190.00**  
WESTERVELT ECOLOGICAL SERVICES  
*15 Years of Mitigation Banking*

**Second Place** **Score: 186.00**  
NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS  
*Adventures in History: Discovering Nebraska's State Historical Parks*

**Second Place** **Score: 186.00**  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Never Lose Touch Camping*

**Third Place** **Score: 184.67**  
NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS  
*Take 'Em Fishing 2021*

**Third Place** **Score: 184.67**  
New York Department of Environmental Conservation  
*Future of the Hudson: Developing a Climate Resilience Vision*

**Maximum Score: 200**  
**Low Score: 161.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Doc Kokol**

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

#### **Malorey Henderson**

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

#### **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. Tony is a University of Missouri School of Journalism graduate and is executive director of TOWA.



## Communication/Education Categories

### *Best Use of Humor*

<b>First Place</b> NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES <i>What is a Birder?</i>	<b>Score: 92.33</b>
<b>Second Place</b> NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE <i>Goggles are Optional</i>	<b>Score: 90.00</b>
<b>Third Place</b> UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES <i>April Fools' Day Social Media Post 2021</i>	<b>Score: 86.67</b>
<b>Third Place</b> UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES <i>Wildlife Holiday Cards</i>	<b>Score: 86.67</b>

**Maximum Score: 100**  
**Low Score: 75.00**

#### *Judges:*

#### **Alicia Wellman**

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

#### **Cindy Kuenstner**

Recently retired after 41 years as a wildlife biologist with New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Cindy's career focused on wildlife-related education, communications and outreach. More than half of those years included serving as project manager and editor of the agency's marine, freshwater fishing and hunting regulations publications.

#### **Marty Benson**

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

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

### **First Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS  
*Lake Mac Know Before You Go*

**Score: 85.00**

### **Second Place**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
*Boat Safe Nevada*

**Score: 84.67**

### **Third Place**

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES  
*Utah Native Fish Quiz Campaign*

**Score: 83.00**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 61.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Bebe Dalton Harrison**

BeBe Dalton Harrison has worked in the natural resources field for more than 22 years. Her background in natural resources education quickly bloomed into a world of program design, development, marketing, and outreach. She currently serves as the director of Outreach and Engagement for the Angler Action Foundation. As a former ACI Award winner, she was very excited to be able to show support and serve as a judge for this year.

#### **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.

#### **Kristin Coulter**

N/A

## **Communication Campaign - Marketing**

### **First Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

*Nebraska State Parks Centennial Campaign*

**Score: 92.33**

### **Second Place**

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

*Tennessee Conservation Raffle*

**Score: 91.00**

### **Third Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*"Wild to Table" Hunting Social Influencer Campaign*

**Score: 90.00**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 59.33**

### **Judges:**

#### **Connie Anderson**

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

#### **Joanne Martonik**

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

#### **Tiffany Whitsitt**

Tiffany Whitsitt is the Director of Advertising at Fortitude Agency where she oversees all digital advertising from initial strategy, to final design and ad execution. Whitsitt is also the Marketing Committee Chair of the Junior League Fort Collins where she leads all digital and traditional marketing efforts.

## ***Education***

### **First Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

*Trail Tales Magazine*

**Score: 96.67**

### **Second Place**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

*Know Your Nevada*

**Score: 95.67**

### **Third Place**

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

*Hunting and Fishing Academy*

**Score: 94.67**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 73.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Heather Hubbard**

Heather Hubbard has been the Statewide Education Coordinator for Colorado Parks and Wildlife for the past 3.5 years where she has been able to join her two passions - the outdoors and education. Before joining the team, she was in public education for 14 years as a classroom teacher and district content specialist where she supported teachers, instructional coaches and administrators.

#### **Nancy Kreuder**

Nancy Kreuder is the Wildlife Education Outreach Coordinator for Arizona Game and Fish, moving into the role after nearly 20 years in the zoo industry. She enjoys the opportunity to focus on local wildlife while traveling the state. Outside of work she spends most of her time caring for her own critters and hanging out with friends and family.

#### **Shannon Sing-Wai**

N/A

## ***External Newsletter***

### **First Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*State Parks Getaways*

**Score: 91.67**

### **Second Place**

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES  
*NC Wildlife Update*

**Score: 89.00**

### **Third Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS  
*NGPC Weekly*

**Score: 88.67**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 75.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Bebe Dalton Harrison**

BeBe Dalton Harrison has worked in the natural resources field for more than 22 years. Her background in natural resources education quickly bloomed into a world of program design, development, marketing, and outreach. She currently serves as the director of Outreach and Engagement for the Angler Action Foundation. As a former ACI Award winner, she was very excited to be able to show support and serve as a judge for this year.

#### **Joey Frazier**

Joey Frazier enjoys hunting, fly fishing and photography in his home state of South Carolina. Currently, he works for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources as editor of *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine.

#### **Kippy Spilker**

An artist her entire life – including a year spent studying art/design internationally – Kippy has worked in Graphic Design, Art Direction, and Creative Design Management for over 25 years. Currently the Art Director for *Nevada Magazine*, the state's tourism publication, she is an avid lover of the outdoors with a particular penchant for kayaking and, as of late, hiking.

## ***Internal Communication***

### **First Place**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
*Arizona Game and Fish Department Brand Guidelines*

**Score: 88.33**

### **Second Place**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*Wildlife O' Gram*

**Score: 86.00**

### **Third Place**

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
*January Regional Insider*

**Score: 85.33**

### **Third Place**

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES  
*DWR Style Guide*

**Score: 85.33**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 72.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Claudia Harden**

Claudia Harden has 18 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.

#### **Kelly Broderick**

Kelly Broderick began her career working for a national publishing company, then moved to the local daily newspaper where some of her many jobs included graphic design, editing, training, event planning and production coordination. From there she became the editor of a newly-revived Florida Wildlife Magazine with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, restarting the magazine from scratch after it had been shuttered. She now edits releases, newsletters and special publications as well designs some of them, makes PDFs ADA compliant as needed, and is the lead administrator for the agency's GovDelivery system.

#### **Lou Elliott Jones**

"She has lived a Forrest Gump life."

## ***Website***

### **First Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Website*

**Score: 175.67**

### **Second Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

*Parks 100 website*

**Score: 175.00**

### **Third Place**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

*Welcome to Your Wild Life*

**Score: 172.67**

**Maximum Score: 190**

**Low Score: 144.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Erin Landry**

After starting off her career as a Public Information Officer Intern at the Arizona Department of Game and Fish, she joined Scottsdale-based marketing agency, Digital Air Strike, working as a social media specialist. She has been in the industry for over ten years and while she's enjoyed her career in automotive marketing, wildlife conservation and education will always have a special place in her heart. Erin is now a Senior Engagement Support Specialist with Digital Air Strike, helping her clients with their online presence and reputation. She is also a Walker Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Arizona State University alumni.

#### **Jonathan Myatt**

Jon Myatt is a former public affairs officer, web manager, journalist and video producer for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Over his 45-year career in federal and state government, his work has appeared major US newspapers and magazines. He recently retired from public service and lives in Eugene, Oregon, accompanied by his German shepherd, Ursa.

#### **Scott Davis**

Scott Davis is the Senior Webmaster for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He remembers the time of dialup modems and no World Wide Web. After 20 years in the newspaper industry as a graphics artist and copy editor, he joined Indiana DNR in 2008. His web team has led the DNR through several website redesigns, adoption of social media, and implementation of new technology such as video and online calendars. Davis is passionate about usability, web writing, and information architecture. He holds a MA in Digital Storytelling from Ball State University. A native Hoosier, Davis lives in East Central Indiana with his wife, two stepsons and dogs Ray and Sam. Outside of work, he rides his recumbent trike and watches the night sky.

## Graphic Design/Photo Categories

### *Graphics: Advertising/Display*

**First Place** **Score: 92.00**  
WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
*Native Cutthroat Trout Display*

**Second Place** **Score: 90.67**  
ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION  
*AGFC Bell Slough Nature Trail Signs*

**Third Place** **Score: 89.33**  
ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION  
*Lake Maumelle Water Trail Signs*

**Maximum Score: 100**  
**Low Score: 69.67**

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

##### **Kippy Spilker**

An artist her entire life – including a year spent studying art/design internationally – Kippy has worked in Graphic Design, Art Direction, and Creative Design Management for over 25 years. Currently the Art Director for *Nevada Magazine*, the state's tourism publication, she is an avid lover of the outdoors with a particular penchant for kayaking and, as of late, hiking.

##### **Rinee Merritt**

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.

##### **Thaison Kawal**

N/A



## ***Graphics: Layout***

### **First Place**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*Bass on the Fly*

**Score: 94.67**

### **Second Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Never Lose Touch*

**Score: 93.33**

### **Third Place**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Wyoming Wildlife*

**Score: 91.33**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 70.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Aaron Meier**

Aaron Meier has been a public information officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife for 17 years. Before becoming the boating education coordinator, Meier worked as NDOW's publications coordinator for 12 years and was responsible for the layout and design of all the department's materials including posters, magazines, brochures, postcards, displays and graphics. His work has been recognized by ACI several times including awards for poster design, regulations publications, news release and communications campaign.

#### **Ellen Marcus**

After graduating with a degree in fine arts, Marcus worked for advertising agencies for two years. Then she was a freelance graphic designer for twenty years, overlapping her current role as Regional Graphic Designer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### **Kippy Spilker**

An artist her entire life – including a year spent studying art/design internationally – Kippy has worked in Graphic Design, Art Direction, and Creative Design Management for over 25 years. Currently the Art Director for *Nevada Magazine*, the state's tourism publication, she is an avid lover of the outdoors with a particular penchant for kayaking and, as of late, hiking.

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

### **First Place**

WESTERVELT ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

*Sandhill Cranes*

**Score: 95.33**

### **Second Place**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*State Parks Illustrations*

**Score: 92.33**

### **Second Place**

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

*Longear Sunfish License Plate Illustration*

**Score: 92.33**

### **Third Place**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Wyoming Outdoor Expo Illustration*

**Score: 91.67**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 67.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Ellen Marcus**

After graduating with a degree in fine arts, Marcus worked for advertising agencies for two years. Then she was a freelance graphic designer for twenty years, overlapping her current role as Regional Graphic Designer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### **Thaison Kawal**

N/A

#### **Tiffany Whitsitt**

Tiffany Whitsitt is the Director of Advertising at Fortitude Agency where she oversees all digital advertising from initial strategy to final design and ad execution. Whitsitt is also the Marketing Committee Chair of the Junior League Fort Collins where she leads all digital and traditional marketing efforts.

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

**First Place** **Score: 96.67**  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Leafcutter Bee on Coneflower*

**Second Place** **Score: 93.00**  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
*Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Release*

**Second Place** **Score: 93.00**  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Northern Harrier vs. Prairie-Chicken*

**Second Place** **Score: 93.00**  
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Sheldon Lake Prairie*

**Third Place** **Score: 92.33**  
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH  
*Mule Deer Buck*

**Maximum Score: 100**  
**Low Score: 80.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Alan Bartels**

Alan J. Bartels is a writer, photographer, student of nature, and wanderer. He's been knocked unconscious by an emu; bitten by snakes, snapping turtles and a sandhill crane; has come home smelling of skunk, and once had a wild black-footed ferret run up his leg. Alan's award-winning children's book, *What's Going Down in Prairie Dog Town?* was published in 2018 and included a foreword by primatologist Jane Goodall. His photograph of a Blanding's turtle appeared in the March 2020 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*, and his work has appeared in the Smithsonian Institution's *Air & Space Magazine*, *USA Today*, and dozens of other publications. After 11 years with *Nebraska Life* magazine – most recently as editor – Alan left the fast-paced world of magazine deadlines in September 2021 to become the Information Specialist at the Lower Loup Natural Resources District in Ord, Nebraska; a job that allows him to continue exploring, photographing and writing about the state that he loves.

#### **Brooke Myres**

Brooke Myres works for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. As the Program Development Manager for the Conservation Districts Section of the agency, she provides support to the 46 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in South Carolina through coordinating trainings, providing outreach and education outlets, and building conservation partnerships throughout the state. Beyond work, she loves the outdoors and has a passion for photography.

#### **Jonathan Myatt**

Jon Myatt is a former public affairs officer, web manager, journalist and video producer for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Over his 45-year career in federal and state government, his work has appeared in major US newspapers and magazines. He recently retired from public service and lives in Eugene, Oregon, accompanied by his German shepherd, Ursa.

## ***Photography: People***

### **First Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

*Clean-up*

**Score: 90.67**

### **Second Place**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*Young Female Bowhunter*

**Score: 90.33**

### **Third Place**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*Emily's First Turkey*

**Score: 89.00**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 64.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Brooke Myres**

Brooke Myres works for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. As the Program Development Manager for the Conservation Districts Section of the agency, she provides support to the 46 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in South Carolina through coordinating trainings, providing outreach and education outlets, and building conservation partnerships throughout the state. Beyond work, she loves the outdoors and has a passion for photography.

#### **Eric Cachinero**

Eric Cachinero is a native Nevadan who has turned his adventures and misadventures in the Silver State into a career. After completing his Bachelor of Arts in print journalism at the University of Nevada in 2013, he worked as Associate Editor of Nevada Magazine for 8 years before joining the Nevada Department of Wildlife in 2021 as Public Information Officer/Publications Coordinator for the Conservation Education Division.

#### **Matthew McDaniel**

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

## ***Photography: Scenic***

### **First Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Bell Mountain Sunrise*

**Score: 92.00**

### **Second Place**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS  
*Sunrise over Smiley Canyon*

**Score: 91.00**

### **Third Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Frozen Missouri River*

**Score: 87.33**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 64.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **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.

#### **Gina Long**

N/A

#### **Paul Moore**

Paul Moore enjoyed a nearly 30-year career as a photographer and videographer for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. He has been a student and teacher of photography for over a half century and loves the outdoors, hiking, boating, and camping.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 94.00**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Milky-way Over Lower Rock Creek*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 93.67**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Guadalupe Peak*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 91.67**

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

*Rainbow Trout*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 77.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Alicia Wellman**

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

#### **Brooke Myres**

Brooke Myres works for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. As the Program Development Manager for the Conservation Districts Section of the agency, she provides support to the 46 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in South Carolina through coordinating trainings, providing outreach and education outlets, and building conservation partnerships throughout the state. Beyond work, she loves the outdoors and have a passion for photography.

#### **Eric Cachinero**

Eric Cachinero is a native Nevadan who has turned his adventures and misadventures in the Silver State into a career. After completing his Bachelor of Arts in print journalism at the University of Nevada in 2013, he worked as Associate Editor of Nevada Magazine for 8 years before joining the Nevada Department of Wildlife in 2021 as Public Information Officer/Publications Coordinator for the Conservation Education Division.

## Magazine Categories

### *Magazine*

**First Place** **Score: 176.33**  
MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
*Montana Outdoors*

**Second Place** **Score: 168.00**  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Missouri Conservationist*

**Third Place** **Score: 167.33**  
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine*

**Third Place** **Score: 167.33**  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*Xplor*

**Maximum Score: 200**  
**Low Score: 130.33**

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

##### **Matthew McDaniel**

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

##### **Natalie Krebs**

After graduating from Northwestern University with a BSJ in magazine journalism, Krebs joined *Outdoor Life* full time in 2014 to work on hunting, fishing, and conservation stories. In addition to juggling digital content across multiple platforms, she has written for and edited the FOB, BOB, sections, and feature well of *Outdoor Life's* print edition, as well as sister publication *Field & Stream*. She lives in northwest Arkansas with her bird dog, Hatchet.

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

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

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

### **First Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*From Warrior to Warrior*

**Score: 86.50**

### **Second Place**

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

*Drop in the Bucket / OSPR's 30 Years*

**Score: 84.33**

### **Third Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Repairing Sheldon's Prairie*

**Score: 81.67**

**Maximum Possible Score: 100**

**Low Score: 55.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Chris Clayton**

Armed with nothing but an English major and a coffee habit, Clayton has spent nearly 20 years navigating journalism's peaks and valleys. He's held leadership positions at regional and national magazines, and his conservation and outdoor adventure writing has appeared in *Outside*, *Runner's World*, and other publications. Clayton is currently editor in chief of *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, the award-winning magazine of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

#### **Glenn Parker**

Glenn Parker is a retired chief dialysis technician who got roped into judging by his wife, Karen, the awards co-chair. He loves to read. He's also an avid collector of fountain pens and pen memorabilia. This is his third year of judging for ACI.

#### **Karen Parker**

After retiring from the US Army as the senior Public Affairs NCO in the Pacific, Parker stepped into a job with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a regional public information coordinator. Since 2002, she's had a great time photographing and writing about the critters of Florida.



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

### **First Place**

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

*If You Build It, They Will Come*

**Score: 89.50**

### **Second Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Small River, Big Fish*

**Score: 89.33**

### **Third Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Hot Crappie Lakes*

**Score: 86.33**

**Maximum Possible Score: 100**

**Low Score: 72.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **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.

#### **Melody Kilborn**

Kilborn, a Florida native, works for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) as a regional public information director. She started her career in freshwater fisheries biology with the same agency and has been in the public information role for four years. She has been involved with various projects with the FWC that range from advertising and marketing, to creating communications plans, news releases and other publications.

#### **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.

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

**First Place** **Score: 95.33**

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

*Survival Skills for Kids*

**Second Place** **Score: 94.33**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

*Rose Creek Mausoleum*

**Third Place** **Score: 92.00**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*On the Prowl*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 66.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Glenn Parker**

Glenn Parker is a retired chief dialysis technician who got roped into judging by his wife, Karen, the awards co-chair. He loves to read. He's also an avid collector of fountain pens and pen memorabilia. This is his third year of judging for ACI.

#### **Samantha Thompson**

Samantha Thompson is the Public Information and Communications manager overseeing the public relations, communications, branding, and marketing programs for the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. She holds a B.A. in Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations from Sonoma State University, and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Illinois. Previously, she managed e-marketing, social media, and public relations for Carson Tahoe Regional Healthcare System. Additionally, she led marketing, advertising, and social media campaigns focused on rebranding the healthcare system in 2013. Previously, Ms. Thompson served as communications lead for the City of Rohnert Park - Department of Public Works, Community Services & Recreation in Northern California.

#### **Ty Whitaker**

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

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

### **First Place**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*An Eye for the Dragonfly*

**Score: 92.67**

### **Second Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Snake Trek*

**Score: 91.00**

### **Second Place**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*Operation Jersey*

**Score: 91.00**

### **Third Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Tracking Wildlife's Ups and Downs*

**Score: 89.33**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 76.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **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.

#### **Kelly Broderick**

Kelly Broderick began her career working for a national publishing company, then moved to the local daily newspaper where some of her many jobs included graphic design, editing, training, event planning and production coordination. From there she became the editor of a newly-revived Florida Wildlife Magazine with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, restarting the magazine from scratch after it had been shuttered. She now edits releases, newsletters and special publications as well designs some of them, makes PDFs ADA compliant as needed, and is the lead administrator for the agency's GovDelivery system.

#### **Nancy Kreuder**

Nancy Kreuder is the Wildlife Education Outreach Coordinator for Arizona Game and Fish, moving into the role after nearly 20 years in the zoo industry. She enjoys the opportunity to focus on local wildlife while traveling the state. Outside of work she spends most of her time caring for her own critters and hanging out with friends and family.

# **Social Media Categories**

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 49.00**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Montana Crayfish Project - crAy Team*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 48.67**

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*Mythbusters: Wildlife Edition*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 48.00**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Lake Elmo Invasive Clam Removal Project*

**Maximum Score: 50**

**Low Score: 40.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Alan Bartels**

Alan J. Bartels is a writer, photographer, student of nature, and wanderer. He's been knocked unconscious by an emu; bitten by snakes, snapping turtles and a sandhill crane; has come home smelling of skunk, and once had a wild black-footed ferret run up his leg. Alan's award-winning children's book, *What's Going Down in Prairie Dog Town?* was published in 2018 and included a foreword by primatologist Jane Goodall. His photograph of a Blanding's turtle appeared in the March 2020 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*, and his work has appeared in the Smithsonian Institution's *Air & Space Magazine*, *USA Today*, and dozens of other publications. After 11 years with *Nebraska Life* magazine – most recently as editor – Alan left the fast-paced world of magazine deadlines in September 2021 to become the Information Specialist at the Lower Loup Natural Resources District in Ord, Nebraska; a job that allows him to continue exploring, photographing and writing about the state that he loves.

#### **Connie Anderson**

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

#### **Tristanna Bickford**

N/A

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 106.33**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Social Media*

**Maximum Score: 120**

**Low Score: 89.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Ashley Sanchez**

Ashley Sanchez is a Public Information Officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Sanchez is NDOW's media contact and spokeswoman on all wildlife-related topics, and oversees the agency's social media channels, website, and mass communications to hunters, anglers, and all other recreationists. Sanchez also manages and hosts the Department's weekly podcast, Nevada Wild. Before beginning her position with NDOW four years ago, Sanchez was a broadcast journalist in Montana and then in Kentucky. During her time as a reporter, she captured her own video, edited, wrote and presented her stories. Sanchez has been recognized by ACI for NDOW's podcast and social media campaigns.

#### **Chris Martin**

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

#### **Erika Sosa**

Erika Sosa is a Texas State Parks Social Media Specialist. When she's not in the office, you can find her in the water kayaking at Lady Bird Lake in Austin, hiking a new trail, or exploring a state park.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 78.33**

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Creepy Critter Week: Hognose Plays Dead*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 78.00**

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Snapshot Wisconsin - "Spot the Bobcats"*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 77.33**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
*#TuesdayswithTorrey Golden Eagle*

**Maximum Score: 90**

**Low Score: 67.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Erika Sosa**

Erika Sosa is a Texas State Parks Social Media Specialist. When she's not in the office, you can find her in the water kayaking at Lady Bird Lake in Austin, hiking a new trail, or exploring a state park.

#### **Kevin Farron**

With a degree in communications and English from the University of Michigan, Farron has combined his professional skillset with his passions of hunting, fishing and outdoor adventures; he currently serves as the Montana Chapter Coordinator for Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, and he's been working in the field of conservation since 2016. He lives with his wife and young daughter in Missoula, MT.

#### **Scott Davis**

Scott Davis is the Senior Webmaster for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He remembers the time of dialup modems and no World Wide Web. After 20 years in the newspaper industry as a graphics artist and copy editor, he joined Indiana DNR in 2008. His web team has led the DNR through several website redesigns, adoption of social media, and implementation of new technology such as video and online calendars. Davis is passionate about usability, web writing, and information architecture. He holds a MA in Digital Storytelling from Ball State University. A native Hoosier, Davis lives in East Central Indiana with his wife, two stepsons and dogs Ray and Sam. Outside of work, he rides his recumbent trike and watches the night sky.

## **Other Printed Products Categories**

### ***Calendar***

**First Place**

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Outdoor Indiana Calendar*

**Score: 96.00**

**Second Place**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
*Wyoming Wildlife*

**Score: 95.33**

**Third Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*2022 Natural Events Calendar*

**Score: 92.00**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 63.33**

***Judges:***

**Ashley Sanchez**

Ashley Sanchez is a Public Information Officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Sanchez is NDOW's media contact and spokeswoman on all wildlife-related topics, and oversees the agency's social media channels, website, and mass communications to hunters, anglers, and all other recreationists. Sanchez also manages and hosts the Department's weekly podcast, Nevada Wild. Before beginning her position with NDOW four years ago, Sanchez was a broadcast journalist in Montana and then in Kentucky. During her time as a reporter, she captured her own video, edited, wrote and presented her stories. Sanchez has been recognized by ACI for NDOW's podcast and social media campaigns.

**Gina Long**

N/A

**Kim Nix**

Kim G. Nix retired in 2019 from the State of Alabama after 31 years. During her tenure with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Alabama Forestry Commission, she edited publications, developed content for websites, created email marketing campaigns and supervised a myriad of communication efforts for the state agencies. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama and is a former board member, officer and awards chair of ACI.

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

<b>First Place</b> US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE <i>America's Bountiful Waters</i>	<b>Score: 94.67</b>
<b>Second Place</b> OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE <i>Millipedes of Ohio Field Guide</i>	<b>Score: 90.67</b>
<b>Second Place</b> GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE <i>Governors' Action Plan IV for Healthy and Resilient Coasts</i>	<b>Score: 90.67</b>
<b>Second Place</b> US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE <i>Carlsbad Fish &amp; Wildlife 2021 Highlights</i>	<b>Score: 90.67</b>
<b>Third Place</b> OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE <i>Freshwater Snails of Ohio Field Guide</i>	<b>Score: 90.00</b>
<b>Third Place</b> MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION <i>Discover Missouri Natural Areas: A Guide to 50 Great Places</i>	<b>Score: 90.00</b>

**Maximum Score: 100**  
**Low Score: 80.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Joey Frazier**

Joey Frazier enjoys hunting, fly fishing and photography in his home state of South Carolina. Currently, he works for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources as editor of *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine.

#### **Nancy Kreuder**

Nancy Kreuder is the Wildlife Education Outreach Coordinator for Arizona Game and Fish, moving into the role after nearly 20 years in the zoo industry. She enjoys the opportunity to focus on local wildlife while traveling the state. Outside of work she spends most of her time caring for her own critters and hanging out with friends and family.

#### **Rinee Merritt**

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.



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

### **First Place**

**Score: 102.00**

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

*Becoming a Wildlife Officer Brochure*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 98.00**

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

*3D Archery Range Brochure*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 97.00**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Big Time Texas Hunts 2021 - Brochure and Envelope*

**Maximum Score: 110**

**Low Score: 87.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Kimberly Taylor**

Kimberly Taylor is a Public Information Specialist (digital) for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's web team. Previously, she spent several years writing brochures and publications for the New York State Legislature. She served as a Richard J. Roth Journalism Fellow for the New York State Senate and has taught interviewing at the college level. Kimberly holds a bachelor's degree in Public Communication from the State University of New York College at Buffalo and a master's degree in Communication from the State University of New York College at Brockport.

#### **Nick Duhe**

Nick Duhe is the Boating Safety Education Coordinator for the Nevada Department of Wildlife in Southern Nevada. He graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University, Geaux Lions, with a bachelor's degree in marketing and a minor in graphic design. He has worked in public outreach or as a graphic designer for the past 26 years. During that time, he has designed everything from a hot sauce logo to large tradeshow exhibits promoting companies at international tradeshows.

#### **Whitney Heskett**

Whitney Heskett has been part of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for the last 10 years, eight of which have been in the Communication and Education Division. Whitney is passionate about conservation and the mission of ODWC. She utilizes many forms communication and outreach in her daily tasks at ODWC and enjoys sharing her knowledge with others.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 97.33**

WESTERVELT ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

*Colorado River Bat Watching Invitation*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 95.00**

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

*Save the Date*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 89.67**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

*Conservation License Plates*

**Maximum Score: 110**

### ***Judges:***

**Low Score: 69.67**

#### **Aaron Meier**

Aaron Meier has been a public information officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife for 15 years. Before becoming the boating education coordinator, 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.

#### **Ellen Marcus**

After graduating with a degree in fine arts, Marcus worked for advertising agencies for two years. Then she was a freelance graphic designer for twenty years, overlapping her current role as Regional Graphic Designer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### **Joey Frazier**

Joey Frazier enjoys hunting, fly fishing and photography in his home state of South Carolina. Currently, he works for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources as editor of *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine.

## ***Poster***

### **First Place**

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*CWD Poster*

**Score: 96.33**

### **Second Place**

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

*Wild Game Nutritional Guide Poster*

**Score: 94.67**

### **Third Place**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*Oklahoma Hunting Seasons Poster*

**Score: 87.00**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 81.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Gina Long**

N/A

#### **Mindy Wharton**

Mindy Wharton is the Public Relations Manager for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. She's been with the agency since November 2020 and brings over 20 years of experience in marketing, communications and public relations to her role. She works out of the Wildlife Commission's headquarters in Raleigh and enjoys traveling the state documenting and telling the stories of the agency.

#### **Samantha Thompson**

Samantha Thompson is the Public Information and Communications manager overseeing the public relations, communications, branding, and marketing programs for the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. She holds a B.A. in Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations from Sonoma State University, and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Illinois. Previously, she managed e-marketing, social media, and public relations for Carson Tahoe Regional Healthcare System. Additionally, she led marketing, advertising, and social media campaigns focused on rebranding the healthcare system in 2013. Previously, Ms. Thompson served as communications lead for the City of Rohnert Park - Department of Public Works, Community Services & Recreation in Northern California.

## ***Regulations Publications***

### **First Place**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
*Nevada Big Game Seasons and Applications*

**Score: 81.00**

### **Second Place**

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION  
*2021 Arkansas Turkey Hunting Guidebook*

**Score: 79.67**

### **Third Place**

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY  
*Tennessee Hunting Guide*

**Score: 78.33**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 63.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Mindy Wharton**

Mindy Wharton is the Public Relations Manager for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. She's been with the agency since November 2020 and brings over 20 years of experience in marketing, communications and public relations to her role. She works out of the Wildlife Commission's headquarters in Raleigh and enjoys traveling the state documenting and telling the stories of the agency.

#### **Nicole Stuttgen**

Nicole lives in Salem, Oregon where she has held various positions over the years at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, but just recently moved into a role as editor of the Big Game and Game Bird Regulations. In her free time, she enjoys hiking with her dogs, watching any sporting event, and traveling.

#### **Robert Gagliardi**

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