

The background of the poster is a photograph of the Atlantic City skyline, featuring the prominent Flamingo Las Vegas, New York. In the foreground, there is a sandy beach with some dune grass. The image is split diagonally from the top left to the bottom right, with the white text area on the left and the photograph on the right.

2025

Association for
Conservation Information

AWARDS RESULTS

Annual Conference hosted by the
New Jersey Department of Fish and Wildlife

Atlantic City, NJ
July 21-24, 2025



ASSOCIATION FOR
**CONSERVATION
INFORMATION**
WHERE OUTDOOR COMMUNICATORS CONNECT



2025 Awards Results

Annual Conference hosted by
New Jersey Department of Fish and Wildlife
July 21-24, 2025

Atlantic City, NJ

*Compiled by Awards Co-Chairs: Beth Quillian (beth.s.quillian@odfw.oregon.gov)
and Chris Martin (christopher.martin1@wyo.gov)*

Audio/Video Categories

Audio Program or Podcast

First Place

Score: 87.00

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Nature Boost Podcast: The Legend of Mo Mo the Missouri Monster

Second Place

Score: 78.67

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Panhandle Afield: Bluebirds

Third Place

Score: 78.00

NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

"DEC Does What?!" Sturgeon Thunder, Episode 13

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 64.33

Judges:

Jacon Tison

Jacob Tison is a Communication and Education Specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. He is the host and co-producer of ODWC's podcast Reel Talk Real Tips. Born with a passion for sharing the outdoors, he spends most of his time teaching others to hunt or fish.

Abe Moore

Emily McCabe

Emily MacCabe is the Director of Public Outreach and Education at Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. She brings more than 20 years of experience in conservation outreach, education, and communications. Throughout her career, Emily has focused on building stronger connections between people and the outdoors. She believes that informed, engaged communities are key to protecting Maine's wildlife and natural resources. Her work includes strategic communications, youth education, public engagement, and developing partnerships that support outdoor learning and access. Emily is passionate about making the outdoors welcoming, enjoyable, and accessible to everyone. Whether she's helping someone experience their first fishing trip or working behind the scenes on policy and outreach, she brings energy, creativity, and care to everything she does. Emily's commitment to responsible outdoor recreation and conservation is central to her work and continues to shape the way the Department connects with the public.

Recurring Video Program

First Place

Score: 196.33

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Texas Parks and Wildlife

Second Place

Score: 186.67

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES
Kentucky Afield TV

Third Place

Score: 184.00

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Nature's Calling

Maximum Score: 200

Low Score: 171.67

Judges:

Blake Podhajsky

Blake Podhajsky is the current president of the Association for Conservation Information. Prior to this role, he served as ACI secretary, ACI awards committee chairperson and served three years on the ACI board of directors. Podhajsky has worked for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for 20 years as an award-winning video producer and communication and education specialist, and a total of 24 years as a video producer, editor, videographer and photographer. In his young and more athletic years, Podhajsky had produced outdoor videos all over the world for national television programs, but now he often wakes up with a sore neck and weird creaks in his joints, but that doesn't keep him away from pursuing and telling the stories of the great outdoor opportunities across Oklahoma and the outdoors enthusiasts who enjoy hunting, fishing and all things outdoors, via the ODWC's television show, Outdoor Oklahoma. In his spare time, Podhajsky enjoys disc golf, hanging with his kids who all think they will be professional athletes, starting and not finishing landscaping projects and chasing bass and crappie.

JH "Scooter" Whatley

With 40 years in the broadcast industry, I have had the opportunity to shoot video around the world, including Eastern and Western Europe as well as Big Game Safaris in Africa. I am currently a producer and lead camera op for a hunting/fishing show, Mississippi Outdoors. I also freelance live sporting events, both college and professional for ESPN, The Cowboy Channel and other national networks.

Patricia Allen

Patricia Allen, Communications Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). Ms. Allen spearheads AFWA's strategic communications planning and implementation to help North America's fish and wildlife agencies speak with a collective voice on key conservation and management issues. She also manages the work of the award-winning North American Conservation Education Strategy to enhance public understanding of state fish and wildlife

management while shaping long-term enjoyment of natural resources through K-12 formal and community-based non-formal education initiatives. She staffs AFWA's Engagement and Education Committee and Annual Awards/Annual Meeting Committee. After an 11+ year tenure working at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), where she oversaw all Information and Education programs run by the Maryland DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service, Ms. Allen joined the AFWA family in 2016. She received her B.S. from LeMoyne College and M.S. from Frostburg State University.

Video Feature: Hunting and Fishing

First Place

Score: 186.00

NATIONAL DEER ASSOCIATION

WildTail: America's Wildest Conservation Success Story

Second Place

Score: 183.33

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

In The Purest Form - Oklahoma Primitive Bear Hunt

Third Place

Score: 183.00

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Bonding by Bow

Maximum Score: 200

Low Score: 141.00

Judges:

Mike Christensen

Mariah Mason

Mariah is an outreach specialist who specializes in video work for the Indiana Department of Fish & Wildlife, DNR. She has been to ACI for the past two years and enjoys seeing the videos produced and featured each year. She had a blast judging this year.

Matt Hencheck

Video Feature: How-to / Instructional

First Place

Score: 182.00

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

E-Cycle Battery Disposal

Second Place

Score: 179.00

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Venison Chili Colorado

Third Place

Score: 175.00

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Poison Ivy ID

Third Place

Score: 175.00

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Spicebush

Maximum Score: 200

Low Score: 119.33

Judges:

JH “Scooter” Whatley

With 40 years in the broadcast industry, I have had the opportunity to shoot video around the world, including Eastern and Western Europe as well as Big Game Safaris in Africa. I am currently a producer and lead camera op for a hunting/fishing show, Mississippi Outdoors. I also freelance live sporting events, both college and professional for ESPN, The Cowboy Channel and other national networks.

Tony Dolle

Tony Dolle has been a successful writer and photographer for more than 50 years. His work has appeared in newspapers in Missouri, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Nebraska and Tennessee. More than 1,000 of his articles have appeared in various magazines throughout the country. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his newspaper reporting and has won national writing and photography awards from the Associated Press, Reuters and several outdoor media organizations. He has worked as communications director for mail order giant Cabela’s and wetlands conservation leader Ducks Unlimited. Dolle is a past president and board chair of the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA), the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW) and The Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association (TOWA). He currently serves as executive director for TOWA and lives outside of Nashville, TN. His hobbies include upland bird hunting, photography (film and digital), flyfishing, cycling, soaring and sailing.

Don Cash

Video Feature: Natural Resource Conservation

First Place

Score: 184.00

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Restoring Pinto Abalone

Second Place

Score: 183.33

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Kentucky Black Bear Trapping & Collaring

Third Place

Score: 183.00

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Duck Dynamics

Maximum Score: 200

Low Score: 128.50

Judges:

JD Schuyler

Since 2006, JD Schuyler has been immersed in the world of commercial and documentary video production. Throughout this time, he has worked for advertising agencies and independently as a videographer. In 2019, he completed the feature-length documentary, Last Man Fishing, which delved into the struggles of the nation's few remaining small-scale commercial fishermen. Today, he produces video content for the Indiana DNR to share the natural world with online audiences.

Jim Curcuruto

Jim Curcuruto grew up in Putnam County, NY spending lots of time outdoors chasing large mouth bass, trout, squirrels and deer. Jim ran NSSF's research and market development department from 2009 - 2021. Since 2021 Curcuruto has led Outdoor Stewards of Conservation Foundation as their Executive Director and is focused on OSCF's mission to increase participation in, and improve cultural acceptance of, hunting, fishing, trapping, and target shooting.

Eva Frederick

Eva Frederick is the managing editor of Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine. She helps write, edit and produce 10 issues of the magazine each year, with the goal of inspiring people to learn about Texas nature and get outside and see it for themselves. A graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Eva spent the last few years trying her hand at different types of science writing at Science and the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research before joining the magazine team last year. She currently lives in Austin.

Video Feature: Outdoor Recreation

First Place

Score: 171.67

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Franklin Mountains State Park

Second Place

Score: 166.00

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Trail Runners

Third Place

Score: 164.00

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Floating the Red Bird River – Blue Water Trails

Maximum Score: 200

Low Score: 130.00

Judges:

Natalie Andes

Natalie Andes joined the Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division in 2024 as the Assistant Manager of Public Affairs, Communications and Marketing after more than 20 years in television news and promotions. Natalie spent the pandemic gathering news for CNN and deeply appreciates the greener fields of conservation communication. A master falconer with an opinionated 13-year-old Harris's Hawk for a hunting partner, Natalie brings unique passion to her role spreading the word about the natural world, hunting, and fishing. Natalie is a native Oklahoman and a Sooner at heart.

JH "Scooter" Whatley

With 40 years in the broadcast industry, I have had the opportunity to shoot video around the world, including Eastern and Western Europe as well as Big Game Safaris in Africa. I am currently a producer and lead camera op for a hunting/fishing show, Mississippi Outdoors. I also freelance live sporting events, both college and professional for ESPN, The Cowboy Channel and other national networks.

Adam Baylor

Baylor is a public affairs specialist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. He supports fish and wildlife biologists in storytelling and communicating with the public primarily on the east side of Oregon.

Video PSA and Marketing

First Place

Score: 178.00

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Opportunity: Closer Than You Think

Second Place

Score: 176.00

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Impact

Third Place

Score: 172.50

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

The Story Behind the Virginia Wildlife 2025 Calendar Cover

Maximum Score: 200

Low Score: 124.50

Judges:

Adam Baylor

Baylor is a public affairs specialist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. He supports fish and wildlife biologists in storytelling and communicating with the public primarily on the east side of Oregon.

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 visual communications supervisor for Wyoming Game and Fish, Martin manages the department's social media platforms, website 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.

Kyle Banowsky

Kyle Banowsky is the Series Producer for the Texas Parks and Wildlife PBS television series at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Since joining the agency's media production team in 2013—after getting his start as a volunteer in 2009—Kyle has helped shape the voice and vision of the long-running outdoors series. His storytelling and production work have earned multiple Lone Star Emmy Awards. A Texas native with a passion for wild places, Kyle spends much of his time crisscrossing the state filming everything from mountain biking in the Trans-Pecos and turkey hunts in East Texas to kayaking in the Hill Country and fishing along the Gulf Coast.

Communication/Education Categories

Best Use of Humor

First Place COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE <i>The Right Duff</i>	Score: 95.50
Second Place MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION <i>Success Comes Slowly</i>	Score: 92.00
Second Place COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE <i>B.E.A.R. To Keep Cubs Off Trash</i>	Score: 92.00
Third Place WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE <i>How to Pet a Goose</i>	Score: 91.00

Maximum Score: 100
Low Score: 77.50

Judges:

Sam DeWeese

Jessie Brown

Jessie Brown has led the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' social media efforts for more than a decade, working to inspire, engage, educate and build quality relationships between government and residents. She has served as the vice president and Midwest representative for Government Social Media's Member Council, served on the board of Social Media Club Des Moines and been named their Social Media Professional of the Year, and has been named a Top 100 Local Government Influencer twice by Engaging Local Government Leaders. She's an okay angler, a semi-retired camper and a good person to go hiking with if you like stopping a lot for photos she might need someday and hearing random facts about wildlife, pop culture and where they intersect.

Communication Campaign - Educational

First Place

Score: 88.67

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Boat Safe Nevada

Second Place

Score: 88.00

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Nevada CWD Campaign

Third Place

Score: 87.00

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
Rescuing Wildlife

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 67.67

Judges:

Tarryn Sanchez

Tarryn Sanchez is the Digital Marketing Director for Tennessee State Parks, leading strategies that connect people to the outdoors. Outside of work, you'll find her exploring parks, dancing, traveling, playing board games, and watering her houseplants.

Rachel Piacenza

Claudia Harden

As a native Floridian, I have always had an affinity for wildlife and a deep love for the natural world. For over 20 years, I have worked to promote wildlife and domestic animals to the masses. After 14 years of managing the marketing, development, customer experience, and special event divisions at the Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society (West Palm Beach, FL), I moved from the "big cat" realm to the smaller variety. In 2016, I joined Cat Depot (Sarasota, FL), one of the nation's largest feline-only rescue, adoption, and community resource centers, and am currently their Director of Communications & Development overseeing the marketing/PR, community education, fundraising, retail, and volunteer divisions.

Communication Campaign - Marketing

First Place

Score: 91.33

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Beneath Nebraska Skies – Fishing Awareness Campaign

First Place

Score: 89.67

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Explore the Wild Campaign

Third Place

Score: 83.33

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Underserved Communities Marketing Campaign

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 37.67

Judges:

Ashley Zeme

Ashley Zeme is a Public Information Officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Zeme 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. Up until recently, Zeme also managed and hosted the Department's weekly podcast, Nevada Wild for most of her years at NDOW. Now you may recognize her voice from ACI's very own, Outdoor Communicators Podcast, which she co-hosts with ACI's Tim Akimoff. Before beginning her position with NDOW almost seven years ago, Zeme 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. Zeme has been recognized by ACI for NDOW's podcast, various social media campaigns, and the agency's website.

Jenifer Wisniewski

Jenifer Wisniewski is the Chief Marketing Officer for the National Deer Association and the Grants Chair for the Association for Conservation Information and past president of the Association for Conservation Information and has worked actively over the last few years to bring marketing to the forefront of what agencies do to make a difference in recruiting, retaining, and reactivating hunters, shooters, and anglers as well as keeping our agencies and the work we do relevant to the public at large. She held roles prior to this as chief of communications and marketing for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Georgia Wildlife Resources Division and has served as chair of the AFWA Outreach and Marketing Working Group, Board Member for the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, and co-chair of the SEAFWA R3 Committee. Her success in Georgia and now Tennessee has garnered much attention nationwide and efforts have been featured by national organizations like the Association of Conservation Information, 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.

Joanne Martonik

Joanne Martonik started working at the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation in 2015 and is currently the Stakeholder Marketing & Communications Senior Manager. She oversees RBFF's communications, marketing, and outreach with industry and state agency partners. She manages the Annual State Marketing Workshop, a boat registration reactivation program, First Catch Centers and more. Joanne joined the ACI Board in 2021 and is currently serving as the Secretary. Prior to joining

RBFF, Joanne used her communications, marketing, and outreach skills to provide coalition creation, membership coordination and project management for non-profits in both the conservation and financial education fields.

Education

First Place

Score: 98.33

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Healthy Hunting Grounds Exhibition

Second Place

Score: 95.67

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Ohio's World of Wildlife K-2 Identification Guide

Third Place

Score: 95.00

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Discover Nature Schools First Grade: Exploring Missouri Teacher and Student Guides

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 66.67

Judges:

Nancy Kreuder

A South Dakota native but transplanted to Arizona over 20 years ago. Hunting and fishing with my dad was my first exposure to wildlife and luckily it became my career. I started with the Phoenix Zoo and moved into Wildlife Education with Arizona Game and Fish. My spare time is spent with horses and traveling.

Heather Del Moral

Heather Del Moral is a Communication & Education Technician with 18 years at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. She began her career in licensing and, driven by a passion for growth, returned to school at 36 to earn a degree in communication. Formerly the Communication & Education Administrative Assistant, Heather now spends her days writing outdoor journals and highlight staff stories through the monthly employee newsletter. A proud mom of three and devoted Chaweenie owner, she's also a passionate non-traditional pathway hunter and angler, dedicated to sharing the outdoors with others.

Kathy Church

Kathy Church is a Wildlife Interpretive Specialist for the Ga Department of Natural Resources. Her responsibility is to educate the public about the natural resources of the state. Prior to this position, Ms. Church was a high school teacher, in both the public & private sectors, for over a decade.

External Newsletter

First Place

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS
2025 Adventure Guide

Score: 86.00

Second Place

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
The Wild Side

Score: 83.33

Third Place

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Georgia Wild

Score: 83.00

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 67.00

Judges:

Robert Gagliardi

Robert is the associate editor of Wyoming Wildlife magazine, which has been published for nearly 90 years. He have been with the magazine for nearly six years, and prior to that was a sports journalist in Wyoming for 26 years. He is based in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and lives with his wife and their two golden retrievers -- Fisher and Hank.

Haylee Riggs McGhee

Haylee Riggs McGhee is the director of communications for the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, a statewide public education nonprofit. She previously served as creative manager for the Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department, where she wrote and oversaw production of the department's travel publications, and was an assistant sports editor at The Oklahoman newspaper.

Jenifer Wisniewski

Jenifer Wisniewski is the Chief Marketing Officer for the National Deer Association and the Grants Chair for the Association for Conservation Information and past president of the Association for Conservation Information and has worked actively over the last few years to bring marketing to the forefront of what agencies do to make a difference in recruiting, retaining, and reactivating hunters, shooters, and anglers as well as keeping our agencies and the work we do relevant to the public at large. She held roles prior to this as chief of communications and marketing for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Georgia Wildlife Resources Division and has served as chair of the AFWA Outreach and Marketing Working Group, Board Member for the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, and co-chair of the SEAFWA R3 Committee. Her success in Georgia and now Tennessee has garnered much attention nationwide and efforts have been featured by national organizations like the Association of Conservation Information, 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.

Internal Communication

First Place

Score: 94.00

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Nevada Wild Life

Second Place

Score: 93.50

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

TWRA Shoptalk

Third Place

Score: 93.00

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Wildlife-O-Gram

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 78.00

Judges:

Beth Quillian

Quillian is a public information officer with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. She is currently co-chairperson of the ACI awards committee and serves on the ACI board of directors. Prior to ODFW, she worked as a communication specialist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources where she focused on the Georgia Birding and Wildlife Trails program. A “Double Dawg,” Quillian attended the University of Georgia in Athens where she completed bachelors and masters degrees in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management. She is now enjoying life in the Pacific Northwest and visiting the Oregon coast any chance she gets.

Scott Davis

Davis is the Senior Webmaster for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He joined the agency in 2008 after two decades in the newspaper industry. Davis led Indiana DNR through adoption of social media, numerous website redesigns, and implementation of new technologies such as video and online calendars. He was there, Gandalf. Davis is passionate about usability, web writing, and information architecture. He is graduate of Ball State University with degrees in journalism education and digital storytelling. Davis lives in central Indiana with his wife, two stepsons and a very spoiled Cocker Spaniel.

Website

First Place

Score: 183.67

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Arkansas Game and Fish Department Website

Second Place

Score: 182.00

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

NDOW Website

Third Place

Score: 180.67

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Nebraskaland Magazine

Maximum Score: 190

Low Score: 170.00

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.

Scott Davis

Scott Davis is the Senior Webmaster for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He joined the agency in 2008 after two decades in the newspaper industry. Davis led Indiana DNR through adoption of social media, numerous website redesigns, and implementation of new technologies such as video and online calendars. He was there, Gandalf. Davis is passionate about usability, web writing, and information architecture. He is graduate of Ball State University with degrees in journalism education and digital storytelling. Davis lives in central Indiana with his wife, two stepsons and a very spoiled Cocker Spaniel.

Bob Swingle

Graphic Design/Photo Categories

Graphics: Advertising/Display

First Place

Score: 97.00

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Cypress Swamp Habitat Tale Exhibit

First Place

Score: 92.67

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Bat Force Ranger

Third Place

Score: 92.33

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Hasenyager Legacy Trail Interpretive Panels at the Eccles Wildlife Education Center

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 66.33

Judges:

Lindsay Brown

Lindsay Brown is a graphic designer for the Indiana DNR. She's been in her role for about 11 years and enjoys her work as a cartographer. Prior to the IDNR, Brown worked for Gannett, producing print and digital advertising for newspapers across the nation. She has a background in Journalism graphics and psychology from Ball State University. Brown and her husband spend their non-work time raising their two daughters, traveling, smoking meat, and gathering with family & friends as often as possible.

Patrick Owen

Patrick Owen has been working as the visual information specialist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for the past 5 years. He is also the creative director for Wyoming Wildlife magazine. In these roles, Patrick designs a wide array of print and digital items, takes photos of wildlife and G&F fieldwork and designs 12 magazine issues a year. Before working for the department, Patrick worked in higher education marketing, public relations and design for six years and ran his own freelance design company.

Kylie Lentz

Graphics: Layout

First Place

Score: 89.33

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

American Pronghorn

Second Place

Score: 88.67

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Power of Plants

Third Place

Score: 86.00

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Snakes in the Water

Third Place

Score: 86.00

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Mother Lagoon

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 60.67

Judges:

Adam Cox

Bobby Jones

Bobby Jones has spent the last eight years working for the Nevada Department of Wildlife and currently is their Outdoor Connection Coordinator. In that role he focuses on helping the Department better engage and serve broad audiences, craft conservation messaging campaigns, and connect the public to nature in a variety of ways.

Aaron Meier

Aaron Meier has been a public information officer/graphic designer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife for 20 years. Before taking over the state's boating education program in 2018, 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 releases and communications campaigns.

Graphics: Logo/Illustrations

First Place

Score: 96.33

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Land Management Team Shirt Design

Second Place

Score: 94.00

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Southern Flying Squirrel

Third Place

Score: 91.00

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Tiny Travelers

Third Place

Score: 91.00

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Chatfield State Park Illustration

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 75.00

Judges:

Blair Jones

Elizabeth Kligge

Elizabeth Kligge is the National Deer Association's Director of Hunter Recruitment and oversees the Field to Fork adult hunter recruitment program. As a gardener, forager, angler, and hunter, she enjoys sourcing a variety of foods from the land and water around her. Elizabeth earned a bachelor's degree in visual arts from Gettysburg College and has studied and taught primitive survival skills at numerous locations around the country. She sees hunting as a way to connect people to their food and the natural world.

Smokey Solis

Smokey Solis is the Graphics and Regulation Coordinator for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. For almost five years he has worked as the department's graphic designer and has played a key role in the ODWC's rebrand in 2022/23. Smokey has 10 years of experience as a freelance designer with a focus on small business branding. He enjoys being a lifelong student and considers every job a new learning experience. When he isn't in front of a computer screen you can find him in the woods, at the lake, traveling with his wife, or relaxing at home with his new daughter and two miniature dachshunds.

Photography: Flora and Fauna

First Place

Score: 92.00

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Male Ruby Throated Hummingbird

Second Place

Score: 91.50

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Elk Lock Antlers

Third Place

Score: 90.00

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Pronghorns in the Frost

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 64.00

Judges:

Brent Drinkut

Pete Baki

Pete Baki works for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and with the Oregon Department of Transportation to address fish passage needs on the Oregon state highway system. He has previously worked on sage grouse issues, fish screening, habitat conservation, ESA compliance and lots of various fieldwork. In his free time, he does underwater freshwater photography with a focus on native fish and freshwater mussels.

Michael Packer

Michael Packer has spent the last six years with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' outreach team and is currently a conservation outreach manager for the UDWR central region. His roles include media relations, videography, photography, AV operation, content creation and social media monitoring. He is passionate about content creativity and enjoys engaging and educating the public about Utah's wildlife. Packer has a background in biology and is an avid angler. When not working, he's often out fishing, hunting or spending time outdoors recharging some impressive Chaco tan lines.

Photography: People

First Place

Score: 89.33

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Fur, Fish and Game Rendezvous

Second Place

Score: 85.00

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Hunting with my Friends

Third Place

Score: 84.67

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Scope Reflection

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 70.67

Judges:

Don Kaczorowski

Elizabeth Kligge

Elizabeth Kligge is the National Deer Association's Director of Hunter Recruitment and oversees the Field to Fork adult hunter recruitment program. As a gardener, forager, angler, and hunter, she enjoys sourcing a variety of foods from the land and water around her. Elizabeth earned a bachelor's degree in visual arts from Gettysburg College and has studied and taught primitive survival skills at numerous locations around the country. She sees hunting as a way to connect people to their food and the natural world.

Brent Drinkut

Photography: Scenic

First Place

Score: 92.67

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Marais Temps Clair Aerial

Second Place

Score: 90.33

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Morning at Caddo

Third Place

Score: 88.00

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Smiley Canyon Sunrise

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 62.00

Judges:

Brent Drinkut

Mike Christensen

Tonya Keiffer-Selby

Shelby is a mother of two very rambunctious young boys and has an incredibly supportive husband that believes in her love and passion for working for our state's wildlife. She's obsessed with pollinators, especially monarchs and hummingbirds, and will never stop teaching people about the benefits of wildlife conservation in their own backyard.

Photography: Studio/Enhanced

First Place

Score: 86.33

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Outdoor Gear for Women

Second Place

Score: 86.00

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Milkweed Sunrise

Third Place

Score: 84.33

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Copper Breaks Drought

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 57.00

Judges:

Heather Lose

Heather Lose is the editor-in-chief of The Tennessee Conservationist magazine and the art director for Tennessee State Parks. She splits her time between producing six annual issues of the magazine and overseeing branded print materials and signage for the state's 60 state parks—with more coming soon! Heather's experiences include designing and producing a 456-page, award-winning, museum-quality photography book for Kenny Chesney entitled "Living in Fast Forward." She was a producer for the prominent Chicago-based photographer Sandro Miller, and helped found the Nashville Community Darkroom, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community arts center.

Amy Guyer

Tony Dolle

Tony Dolle has been a successful writer and photographer for more than 50 years. His work has appeared in newspapers in Missouri, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Nebraska and Tennessee. More than 1,000 of his articles have appeared in various magazines throughout the country. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his newspaper reporting and has won national writing and photography awards from the Associated Press, Reuters and several outdoor media organizations. He has worked as communications director for mail order giant Cabela's and wetlands conservation leader Ducks Unlimited. Dolle is a past president and board chair of the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA), the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW) and The Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association (TOWA). He currently serves as executive director for TOWA and lives outside of Nashville, TN. His hobbies include upland bird hunting, photography (film and digital), flyfishing, cycling, soaring and sailing.

Magazine Categories

Magazine

First Place

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Wild Ohio Magazine

Score: 189.67**Second Place**

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS
Mississippi Outdoors

Score: 187.67**Second Place**

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine

Score: 187.67**Third Place**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
Arizona Wildlife Views

Score: 187.33**Maximum Score: 200****Low Score: 130.00*****Judges:*****Sandy Benson**

Sandy Benson is a retired forester who has authored numerous natural resources-related articles for magazines and newspapers and has received awards from the Nebraska Press Women. She published her first book in 2021 and, in 2024, a collection of her dad's letters home from World War II. She is currently working on her memoir, *Girls Can't Do That: Stories from One of America's Early Female Foresters*. She lives in the North Carolina mountains.

Bob Swingle**Jamie Roice-Gomes**

Jamie Roice-Gomes is a public information officer/publications coordinator with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. She has a background in natural resources and interactive environmental journalism. With this diverse background she has utilized her natural resource knowledge coupled with communications, marketing and outreach skills to promote and lead statewide public educational programs at the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension for 11 years. She loves finding new, unique ways to communicate information to the public in efforts to promote learning and a change in the public's behavior.

Magazine: Destination, Historical or Cultural Article

First Place

Score: 89.50

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Indian Reservations

Second Place

Score: 89.00

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Mother Lagoon

Third Place

Score: 88.50

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Making Happy Hunters

Third Place

Score: 88.50

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Shotguns, Rifles, Hounds and Heart

Maximum Possible Score: 100

Low Score: 74.50

Judges:

Marty Benson

Marty Benson has served as managing editor of Outdoor Indiana magazine since 2007 and has also been assistant director of communications during that span. Previously, he worked in college athletics for 20 years. Benson was an assistant director of communications in the NCAA's publishing division for 13 years. Before that, he was associate sports information director at the College of William & Mary for 4 1/2 years, and before that was sports information director at Hobart and William Smith Colleges for 2 years. Benson is a 1984 graduate of St. Bonaventure University.

Justin Mack

Magazine: Fisheries Article

First Place

Score: 92.33

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Boys Cats Line Across All of Oklahoma

Second Place

Score: 92.00

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Snakes in the Water

Third Place

Score: 90.67

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

The Iceman Laugheth

Maximum Possible Score: 100

Low Score: 73.67

Judges:

John Maxwell

John Maxwell has illustrated the Indiana DNR's Outdoor Indiana magazine, as well as the department's annual Fishing Guide, Hunting and Trapping Guide, and Recreation Guide since 1988.

Bobby Jones

Bobby Jones has spent the last eight years working for the Nevada Department of Wildlife and currently is their Outdoor Connection Coordinator. In that role he focuses on helping the Department better engage and serve broad audiences, craft conservation messaging campaigns, and connect the public to nature in a variety of ways.

Amy Bulger

Magazine: General Interest Article

First Place

Score: 98.50

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Move Over, Mockingbird

Second Place

Score: 96.00

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Clinton Mooney Captures a Calendar-Worthy Moment

Third Place

Score: 94.50

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Hunting for the Right Fit

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 72.00

Judges:

Leia Althausen

Leia Althausen (she/her) is a dynamic storyteller and strategic thinker with a background in wildlife based community engagement, education, and journalism. She's won national awards for her work in newspaper design and long-form narrative stories and she's passionate about making fish and wildlife conservation relevant and meaningful to diverse audiences. Currently, Althausen serves as the Conservation Education Coordinator at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife where she leads the development and implementation of state-wide educational and community engagement initiatives.

Tom Dickson

Tom Dickson recently retired after 23 years as the editor of Montana Outdoors, the magazine of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Before that he was an information officer with the Minnesota DNR. During his time with the two agencies, his articles and publications won a total of 32 first place ACI awards. Tom is also the author of two books on fish natural history published by the University of Minnesota Press and has written for National Wildlife, Sporting Classics, Outdoor Life, and Fly Fisherman.

Magazine: Wildlife Article

First Place

Score: 98.00

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Form and Function: Ohio's Various Bird Nests

Second Place

Score: 97.67

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Life on a Thread

Third Place

Score: 92.33

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

A Species on the Edge Gets a Head Start

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 80.00

Judges:

Tom Dickson

Tom Dickson recently retired after 23 years as the editor of Montana Outdoors, the magazine of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Before that he was an information officer with the Minnesota DNR. During his time with the two agencies, his articles and publications won a total of 32 first place ACI awards. Tom is also the author of two books on fish natural history published by the University of Minnesota Press and has written for National Wildlife, Sporting Classics, Outdoor Life, and Fly Fisherman.

Richard Hines

Richard Hines has been writing since 1987 and has since published two books and hundreds of articles on hunting, fishing, habitat management, conservation, and natural history. Many of his award-winning photos and articles have appeared in over twenty publications. Spanning a nearly 40-year career, he worked for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources where he was a conservation education supervisor, WMA manager and district wildlife biologist. He also worked as a refuge biologist and national wildlife refuge manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He currently serves as the president for the Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association and in the past served on the board of directors for the Southeast Outdoor Press Association. He and his wife Pam live on a farm in southern Kentucky. He enjoys ultralight and flyfishing for smallmouth bass and hunting upland birds and waterfowl.

Scott Roberts

Scott has worked in journalism his entire career, first in newspapers and the past seven years for Outdoor Indiana. He's won awards from the Hoosier State Press Association, Associated Press, and ACI for writing and photography. When not working he enjoys square dancing, yes, that's still a thing.

Social Media Categories

Best Social Media Campaign

First Place

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

Accessibility Social Series

Score: 46.67

Second Place

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Bringing Back the Bighorns

Score: 41.33

Third Place

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Gar Week 2024

Score: 41.50

Maximum Score: 50.00

Low Score: 29.33

Judges:

Jessica Sparger

Jessica has worked for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for over 25 years and currently serves as the Assistant Director of Communications. Her team is responsible for the website, social media, e-communications and business matters including Outdoor Indiana magazine subscription fulfillment.

Darby Doyle

Ty Whitaker

Best Social Media Presence

First Place

Score: 108.00

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Iowa Department of Natural Resources Social Media

Second Place

Score: 106.67

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Social Media

Third Place

Score: 102.67

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
Pennsylvania Game Commission Social Media

Maximum Score: 120

Low Score: 85.33

Judges:

Dawn Krause

Natalie Andes

Natalie Andes joined the Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division in 2024 as the Assistant Manager of Public Affairs, Communications and Marketing after more than 20 years in television news and promotions. Natalie spent the pandemic gathering news for CNN and deeply appreciates the greener fields of conservation communication. A master falconer with an opinionated 13-year-old Harris's Hawk for a hunting partner, Natalie brings unique passion to her role spreading the word about the natural world, hunting, and fishing. Natalie is a native Oklahoman and a Sooner at heart.

Michael Packer

Michael Packer has spent the last six years with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' outreach team and is currently a conservation outreach manager for the UDWR central region. His roles include media relations, videography, photography, AV operation, content creation and social media monitoring. He is passionate about content creativity and enjoys engaging and educating the public about Utah's wildlife. Packer has a background in biology and is an avid angler. When not working, he's often out fishing, hunting or spending time outdoors recharging some impressive Chaco tan lines.

Conservation Post of the Year

First Place

Score: 88.33

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Oklahoma Panhandle Clapback

Second Place

Score: 82.33

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
Third Most Famous Groundhog in Pennsylvania

Third Place

Score: 79.00

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Yes, That's a Bear.

Maximum Score: 90

Low Score: 59.00

Judges:

Adam Baylor

Baylor is a public affairs specialist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. He supports fish and wildlife biologists in storytelling and communicating with the public primarily on the east side of Oregon.

Whitney Bishop

Whitney Bishop is a former video producer turned Social Media Manager for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Under her tenure, the agency has developed over 300 social channels with 3 million fans. Bishop produces both video and graphic content for the main agency accounts. The agency's social media posts have resulted in news coverage by multiple media outlets including The New York Times, MSN, Smithsonian Magazine, The Weather Channel and several state and local sites.

Joanne Martonik

Joanne Martonik started working at the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation in 2015 and is currently the Stakeholder Marketing & Communications Senior Manager. She oversees RBFF's communications, marketing, and outreach with industry and state agency partners. She manages the Annual State Marketing Workshop, a boat registration reactivation program, First Catch Centers and more. Joanne joined the ACI Board in 2021 and is currently serving as the Secretary. Prior to joining RBFF, Joanne used her communications, marketing, and outreach skills to provide coalition creation, membership coordination and project management for non-profits in both the conservation and financial education fields.

Other Printed Products Categories

Calendar

First Place**Score: 95.33**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Arizona Wildlife Views 2025 Calendar***Second Place****Score: 92.67**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Wyoming Wildlife 2025 Calendar***Third Place****Score: 88.00**

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

*Wild Ohio 2025 Calendar***Maximum Score: 100****Low Score: 52.00*****Judges:*****Erin Hiatt**

Erin Hiatt has 25 years of experience as a graphic designer and has been with Outdoor Indiana for nearly two decades. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from Herron School of Art and Design and has won numerous awards for her work. In her spare time she enjoys Wordle, gardening, and hiking with her husband and dogs.

Ashley Zeme

Ashley Zeme is a Public Information Officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Zeme 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. Up until recently, Zeme also managed and hosted the Department's weekly podcast, Nevada Wild for most of her years at NDOW. Now you may recognize her voice from ACI's very own, Outdoor Communicators Podcast, which she co-hosts with ACI's Tim Akimoff. Before beginning her position with NDOW almost seven years ago, Zeme 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. Zeme has been recognized by ACI for NDOW's podcast, various social media campaigns, and the agency's website.

Jonathan Carlucci

Jon Carlucci is a communications and media specialist with the New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife's Office of Information and Education. With a strong background in visual storytelling and public engagement, Jon plays a key role in promoting the agency's mission to conserve and protect the state's natural resources. He contributes photography, videography, art, and educational content that highlights New Jersey's diverse wildlife, habitats, and conservation efforts. Passionate about environmental education, Jon supports outreach campaigns, assists with public information initiatives, and helps foster connections between the public and the natural world. His work is frequently featured in NJDEP publications, websites, and digital media, helping bring visibility to critical programs such as species restoration, habitat protection, and outdoor recreation. Jon's creative and collaborative approach

supports the Office of Information and Education's goal of inspiring stewardship and awareness across all communities in New Jersey.

One-time Publication: Book/Report

First Place

Score: 95.33

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES
2024 Annual Report

Second Place

Score: 93.33

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
At Home in Nature: The History of Colorado's State Parks

Third Place

Score: 91.33

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Warblers of Ohio Field Guide

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 80.00

Judges:

Claudia Harden

As a native Floridian, I have always had an affinity for wildlife and a deep love for the natural world. For over 20 years, I have worked to promote wildlife and domestic animals to the masses. After 14 years of managing the marketing, development, customer experience, and special event divisions at the Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society (West Palm Beach, FL), I moved from the "big cat" realm to the smaller variety. In 2016, I joined Cat Depot (Sarasota, FL), one of the nation's largest feline-only rescue, adoption, and community resource centers, and am currently their Director of Communications & Development overseeing the marketing/PR, community education, fundraising, retail, and volunteer divisions.

Kim Nix

Kim Nix retired from the State of Alabama in 2019 after 31 years of service. 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. Since retirement she enjoys traveling, spending time with two grandsons and volunteering with organizations that promote literacy and provide books to the incarcerated. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama and is a former board member, officer and awards chair of ACI.

Joanne Martonik

Joanne Martonik started working at the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation in 2015 and is currently the Stakeholder Marketing & Communications Senior Manager. She oversees RBFF's communications, marketing, and outreach with industry and state agency partners. She manages the Annual State Marketing Workshop, a boat registration reactivation program, First Catch Centers and more. Joanne joined the ACI Board in 2021 and is currently serving as the Secretary. Prior to joining RBFF, Joanne used her communications, marketing, and outreach skills to provide coalition creation, membership coordination and project management for non-profits in both the conservation and financial education fields.

One-time Publication: Brochure

First Place

Score: 99.67

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Grizzly Bears in Wyoming: Species Snapshot

Second Place

Score: 97.33

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Be Whale Wise Brochure

Third Place

Score: 93.33

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

Hunter Education Information Card

Maximum Score: 110

Low Score: 87.67

Judges:

Haylee Riggs McGhee

Haylee Riggs McGhee is the director of communications for the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, a statewide public education nonprofit. She previously served as creative manager for the Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department, where she wrote and oversaw production of the department's travel publications, and was an assistant sports editor at The Oklahoman newspaper.

Natasha Dickrell

Natasha Dickrell is a Senior Environmental Specialist and Federal Grant Manager with the Pinellas County Environmental Management Division in Florida where her role enables her to communicate on local, regional, state, and federal levels about regulatory and open science topics. She is recognized for her communication skills related to social media administration, public data access and education, and water resource monitoring. Previously, she gained expertise employed with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Three Rivers Park District in Minnesota, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources along with volunteer opportunities with wildlife, habitat, and public health non-profit organizations.

Rachel Piacenza

One-time Publication: Other

First Place

Score: 109.00

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp

Second Place

Score: 107.00

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Slowpoke Cider

Third Place

Score: 98.33

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

A Pocket Guide to Nebraska Reptiles

Maximum Score: 110

Judges:

Low Score: 61.33

Daisy Creager

Yvonne Shaw

Yvonne Shaw coordinates the Protect Oregon's Wildlife- Turn in Poachers campaign for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division, and Oregon Department of Justice. Yvonne, who has managed issues campaigns in Oregon and New Zealand, pulls together like minds to create social change and measurable action. She works alongside a robust community partnership team comprised of state and federal agencies, non-profits and NGOs. An Oregon native, Yvonne enjoys writing, beekeeping, and the outdoors. She's eager to discover what's around the next bend, whether it's a waterfall, a plot twist, or a honeybee swarm.

Maggie Berger

Poster

First Place

Score: 85.33

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Habitat at Home Community Sign

Second Place

Score: 83.00

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Insects of Nebraska

Third Place

Score: 81.67

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Oklahoma Fishing & Hunting Digital Regulations

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 68.33

Judges:

Amanda Stroud

Amanda attended the University of South Carolina where she graduated with a B.S. in Marine Science and a M.A. of Public Administration. She began her career with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) in the Flood Mitigation Program in 2005, as a public information coordinator, later joining the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division as a public information director. After working as the Assistant Director of the Office of Media and Outreach for several years, Amanda was named the Director of the Office of Media and Outreach in October 2020 where she was charged with overall coordination of outreach and marketing efforts for the SCDNR. Today, Amanda serves as the Director of Education and Outreach.

Patrick Owen

Patrick Owen has been working as the visual information specialist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for the past 5 years. He is also the creative director for Wyoming Wildlife magazine. In these roles, Patrick designs a wide array of print and digital items, takes photos of wildlife and G&F fieldwork and designs 12 magazine issues a year. Before working for the department, Patrick worked in higher education marketing, public relations and design for six years and ran his own freelance design company.

Patricia Allen

Patricia Allen, Communications Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). Ms. Allen spearheads AFWA's strategic communications planning and implementation to help North America's fish and wildlife agencies speak with a collective voice on key conservation and management issues. She also manages the work of the award-winning North American Conservation Education Strategy to enhance public understanding of state fish and wildlife management while shaping long-term enjoyment of natural resources through K-12 formal and community-based non-formal education initiatives. She staffs AFWA's Engagement and Education Committee and Annual Awards/Annual Meeting Committee. After an 11+ year tenure working at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), where she oversaw all Information and Education programs run by the Maryland DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service, Ms. Allen joined the

AFWA family in 2016. She received her B.S. from LeMoyne College and M.S. from Frostburg State University.

Regulations Publications

First Place

Score: 82.33

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Nevada Small Game Hunting Guide

Second Place

Score: 81.33

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

2024/2025 Oklahoma Fishing & Hunting Regulations Guide

Third Place

Score: 78.67

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

2023-2024 Nevada Big Game Seasons & Regulations

Maximum Score: 100

Low Score: 65.33

Judges:

Robert Gagliardi

Robert is the associate editor of Wyoming Wildlife magazine, which has been published for nearly 90 years. He has been with the magazine for nearly six years, and prior to that was a sports journalist in Wyoming for 26 years. He is based in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and lives with his wife and their two golden retrievers -- Fisher and Hank.

Emalee Smith

With a background in mass communications and a specialization in graphic design from Black Hills State University, I have built a career that unites my passion for design with communication and storytelling — I strive to convey that narrative through engaging visuals and thoughtful design. At the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, I focus on graphic design, marketing, and website management. This role has sharpened my ability to translate complex messages into compelling visuals that resonate with diverse audiences. My journey in this field has not only expanded my skill set but has also deepened my passion for using graphic design as a powerful communication tool.

Lerrin Johnson

Lerrin Johnson began her career with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a summer intern with the coastal fisheries division in 2008. Shortly after the internship ended, she entered the Texas Game Warden Training Academy and graduated in the summer of 2009. She spent more than 13 years as a Texas Game Warden serving communities in Central Texas and on the Gulf Coast. After 13 years in the field, she made a career change and transitioned into the Communications Division for the agency where she currently serves as the Public Information Officer for the Wildlife Division. In this position, she has dealt with a plethora of topics including chronic wasting disease, season forecasts and regulations changes. In her current role, she writes press releases, drafts media statements, talking points, informational sheets and articles for the Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine.