



2026

Association for  
Conservation Information

# AWARDS RESULTS

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ASSOCIATION FOR  
**CONSERVATION  
INFORMATION**

WHERE OUTDOOR COMMUNICATORS CONNECT



Annual Conference hosted by:  
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation  
July 20-23, 2026

2026 Awards Results:  
[View the Winners Gallery Online](#)

*Compiled by Awards Co-Chairs: Beth Quillian (beth.s.quillian@odfw.oregon.gov)  
and Devin Lindley (dlindley@choctawnation.com)*

## **Audio/Video Categories**

### ***Audio Program or Podcast***

**First Place**

**Score: 86.67**

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Better Outside — When Sheep Fly*

**Second Place**

**Score: 85.67**

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY  
*Tennessee WildCast: Bats & Mussels to Caves & Rivers: Tennessee's Wildlife Action Plan Is A Game-Changer!*

**Third Place**

**Score: 82.33**

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS  
*Undercover Game Warden Stories with Kennie Prince*

**Third Place**

**Score: 82.33**

TENNESSEE CONSERVATIONIST MAGAZINE  
*Tennessee WildCast: Hunting Urban to Public, Featuring Seek One*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 75.00**

***Judges:***

**Tim Akimoff**

**Kelly Boyer**

Kelly Boyer is a Communications and Education Specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. He serves as the Archery Education Coordinator for the ODWC and 700 plus schools in Oklahoma. Kelly has a deep passion for the outdoors and sharing that passion with other from all walks of life. Kelly as a statewide appointment but works out of the ODWC office in Jenks, OK.

**Bobby Jones**

Bobby Jones has spent the last nine 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.

## ***Recurring Video Program***

### **First Place**

**Score: 192.67**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*Outdoor Oklahoma*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 183.67**

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Texas Parks & Wildlife: Season 40*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 183.33**

SOUTH CAROLINA DNR  
*SCDNR Field Notes*

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 164.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **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.

#### **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: 196.50**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*No Words Needed: An Unforgettable Hunt with a Deaf Coworker*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 193.50**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*Quality Waters: South Platte River at Eleven Mile Canyon*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 182.00**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*Open Fields and Waters: Expanding Hunter Opportunity*

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 122.50**

### ***Judges:***

#### **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.

#### **Joshua Sockey**

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 185.00**

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Wild Game Cooking: Black Drum on a Half Shell*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 183.67**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Winter Hiking for Beginners*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 176.00**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Elk Calling*

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 136.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Nicole Hill**

Nicole Hill is the Division Chief of Marketing for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, where she leads the agency's marketing and events while helping connect and educate people about wildlife conservation, hunting, trapping, and Pennsylvania's outdoor heritage. An Oklahoma native, Nicole began her career in wildlife biology and environmental education, encouraging people of all ages to connect with the natural world before joining the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Today, she uses strategic marketing and storytelling to inspire people to experience, appreciate, and conserve wildlife and the outdoors.

#### **Devin Lindley**

Devin Lindley is the Conservation Education & Outreach Coordinator for the Choctaw Nation Department of Wildlife Conservation, where he does public outreach to promote hunting, fishing, and trapping throughout the Choctaw Nation Reservation in southeastern Oklahoma. Devin has a BS in Fish & Wildlife Sciences and an AS in Visual Communications (Graphic Design). He is currently on the Board of Directors for the Association of Conservation Information (ACI). He actively instructs Hunter Education across the Choctaw Nation, has previously been an instructor of trapping matters workshops, and helped start and instruct the regional fur school in Oklahoma. Devin and his wife and children live in Durant, Oklahoma where they enjoy everything that has to do with the outdoors!

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 197.00**

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

*Fifty Seasons*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 193.00**

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Tracking Texas Gators*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 192.33**

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

*Our Threatened & Endangered Species: Allegheny Woodrats*

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 101.67**

### ***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.

#### **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.

#### **Liz McIntire**

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 192.00**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Martin Dies, Jr. State Park*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 191.67**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Ranger Laney*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 163.00**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*Experience Nebraska's Outdoor Venture Parks*

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 110.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Amy Bulger**

Amy Bulger has wordsmithed her way around the West on the fuel of journalism and editing at a daily newspaper, an acclaimed national outdoor magazine, and state wildlife agency magazines in Colorado and Wyoming during an almost 30-year communications career. Her natural resources print articles and publications have won over 30 state, national and international awards. As an ever-evolving content creator, she is now putting her first love of storytelling to work as a videographer and drone pilot for the Colorado State Forest Service, where she recently won first place for Outstanding Forestry Journalism from the Society of American Foresters.

#### **Kristi Reinaker**

#### **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: 189.67**

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
*Carry Out What You Carry In*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 179.67**

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Watch Your Fire*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 176.00**

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE  
*Ohio Free Range Day*

**Maximum Score: 200**

**Low Score: 140.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Jake Herrle**

#### **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.

#### **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** **Score: 93.67**  
NEW MEXICO GAME AND FISH  
*Don't be a Poaching Grinch!*

**First Place** **Score: 93.67**  
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION  
*Whistle Pig in a Crockpot*

**Second Place** **Score: 88.33**  
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
*If Species of Greatest Conservation Need had Zodiac Signs*

**Third Place** **Score: 88.33**  
NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION  
*Bighorn Banter*

**Third Place** **Score: 83.33**  
COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
*Fat Bear Fall: The Chonker Classification Chart*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 51.67**

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

##### **Joanne Martonik**

Joanne serves as the National Field Archery Association's National Outreach Director, where she leads the effort to grow and strengthen outreach and development initiatives. She works to expand participation by building and enhancing partnerships and programs. She creates toolkits, outreach materials, and guides that support program implementation and growth.

Prior to NFAA, Joanne has worked for over 15 years to provide strategy, outreach, project management, marketing campaign assistance, and partnership building to advance the mission of nonprofits.

##### **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.

##### **Reva Gillman**

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 94.67**

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Protect Western Snowy Plovers: Coastal Stewardship Through Targeted Outreach

### **Second Place**

**Score: 92.33**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

*Nevada CWD Campaign*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 90.67**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

*Boat Safe Nevada*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 86.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Shaanette Frederickson**

After more than a decade working as a Recreation Director in hospitality, Shaanette has continued her passion in the outdoor service industry and is currently pursuing a role as a public affairs specialist in Communications. She supports every division in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, communicating each program in web updates and assisting with production of digital products such as e-newsletters. She's a new fly-fisher, enjoys camping under the stars and continues to expand her knowledge through books and experiences.

#### **Justin Minsker**

Justin Minsker is the Deputy Communications Director at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where he leads programs including the press office, social media, video production, TPW Magazine, and marketing. Justin holds a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School at UT Austin and a bachelor's degree in advertising from Marshall University.

## ***Communication Campaign - Marketing***

### **First Place**

**Score: 93.33**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*Beneath Nebraska Skies – Fishing Awareness Campaign*

### **First Place**

**Score: 91.00**

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Drive Conservation Fundraising WILD!*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 85.00**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*PointGuard Flash Sale*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 62.33**

### ***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.

#### **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.

#### **Hayley Riggs McGhee**

Hayley 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.

## ***Education***

### **First Place**

**Score: 97.67**

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Alabama State Parks Junior Ranger Program*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 97.50**

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY  
*Tennessee Biodiversity Summit*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 97.33**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
*DNS Second Grade: Life and Land in Missouri*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 51.50**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Tarryn Sanchez**

Tarryn Sanchez leads the Tennessee State Parks digital marketing team, overseeing digital platforms, content, campaigns, and strategy.

#### **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

*Explore with Confidence*

**Score: 86.67**

### **Second Place**

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*State Parks Getaways*

**Score: 88.00**

### **Third Place**

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Fish Texas*

**Score: 83.33**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 47.00**

### ***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.

#### **Joanne Martonik**

Joanne serves as the National Field Archery Association's National Outreach Director, where she leads the effort to grow and strengthen outreach and development initiatives. She works to expand participation by building and enhancing partnerships and programs. She creates toolkits, outreach materials, and guides that support program implementation and growth.

Prior to NFAA, Joanne has worked for over 15 years to provide strategy, outreach, project management, marketing campaign assistance, and partnership building to advance the mission of nonprofits.

#### **Kristi Reinaker**

## ***Internal Communication***

### **First Place**

**Score: 94.00**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
*Nevada WildLife*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 82.00**

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY  
*TWRA Shoptalk*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 81.67**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*Wildlife-O-Gram*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 71.67**

### ***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.

#### **Don Cash**

Don Cash is a former video producer for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. In his 23 years at TPWD he served as producer and series producer for the TPWD television show. Prior to that he was a photographer/producer for the Mississippi Outdoors television show for 6 years. He spent about a dozen years as a news photographer in Jackson, Mississippi and Salt Lake City, Utah. He has been retired for 5 years and highly recommends it.

#### **Kristi Reinaker**

## ***Website***

### **First Place**

**Score: 185.00**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

*NDOW Website*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 176.33**

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Utah Mule Deer Dashboard

### **Third Place**

**Score: 176.00**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*Waterfowl Reports*

**Maximum Score: 190**

**Low Score: 159.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Erin Aker**

As a passionate conservation enthusiast, I believe technology can play a powerful role in creating a more sustainable future. Professionally, I work with DAS Technology, an AI-native customer data and experience platform that helps automotive retailers, OEMs, and enterprise partners attract, engage, and retain customers through intelligent, data-driven solutions. My passion for protecting natural resources complements my commitment to innovation, and I enjoy exploring how technology, collaboration, and forward-thinking strategies can create positive impacts for both businesses and the environment.

#### **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**

Bob Swingle has over 30 years of experience in print and web design. He joined ODFW in 2009 after working in advertising and book publishing. He is currently a web developer working with the team charged with overhauling the public and internal websites for the agency. Bob enjoys hiking, paddleboarding and outdoor photography and is fortunate enough to have a career that helps people engage with the incredible natural resources in Oregon. He grew up on the family farm in southern Oregon, where his family has been since 1854.

## **Graphic Design/Photo Categories**

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

**First Place**

**Score: 88.33**

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

*"Take flight with Utah's wild birds" – A Utah State Fair exhibit*

**First Place**

**Score: 86.66**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Xplor More Interactive Exhibit*

**Third Place**

**Score: 85.67**

NEW MEXICO GAME AND FISH

*Conserving New Mexico's wildlife for future generations*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 62.00**

***Judges:***

**Sonja Summerfeld**

**Justin Minsker**

Justin Minsker is the Deputy Communications Director at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where he leads programs including the press office, social media, video production, TPW Magazine, and marketing. Justin holds a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School at UT Austin and a bachelor's degree in advertising from Marshall University.

**Aaron Meier**

Aaron Meier has been a public information officer/graphic designer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife for 21 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: Layout***

### **First Place**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Interconnected*

**Score: 97.33**

### **Second Place**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Arizona Outdoors Dictionary*

**Score: 96.00**

### **Third Place**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*The Slams*

**Score: 92.67**

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 68.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Blair Jones**

For the past 18 years, Blair has combined creativity and dedication as a graphic designer for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. A graduate of IU Herron School of Art, Visual Communications, Blair has been responsible for design and layout for numerous agency materials, including the annual Indiana Recreation Guide. Outside the office, Blair enjoys family time and keeps the creativity flowing with sketching and doodles, never far from a pencil and sketchpad.

#### **Nathan Adams**

Nathan Adams works as the Content Marketing Manager for TPWD. He is a former magazine art director and publisher with more than 25 years of experience across multiple industries, including almost 10 years with TPW magazine.

#### **Josh Leventhal**

Josh Leventhal has been the editor of Wildlife in North Carolina magazine for the past 10 years. He previously worked as a sportswriter, serving as a reporter and editor for Baseball America magazine and The Washington Post.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 90.67**

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Outdoor Alabama Stickers

### **Second Place**

**Score: 88.50**

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS  
*SEAFWA Conference 2025*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 84.67**

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
*Watchable Wildlife Sticker (Land Species)*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 60.00**

### ***Judges:***

**Sonja Summerfeld**

**Kaitlyn Guise**

### **Aaron Meier**

Aaron Meier has been a public information officer/graphic designer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife for 21 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.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 95.00**

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Where Bison Roam*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 87.50**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Eastern Hellbender*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 85.50**

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

*Devon Stivers*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 56.50**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Brent Drinkut**

Brent Drinkut is Photo Editor of Outdoor Indiana magazine and a photographer with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Before stepping into the role of photo editor, he worked as the agency videographer. Prior to working at the DNR he was a staff photojournalist at the Statesman Journal (Salem, Ore.), The Indianapolis Star, and the Journal & Courier (Lafayette, Ind.).

#### **Lisa Mease**

Lisa Mease is the Watchable Wildlife Technician at the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, where she works to improve the Virginia Bird & Wildlife Trail (VBWT). After receiving her B.A. in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia, she enjoyed a successful career as a critical care paramedic before becoming a full-time mother. While trying to pass on her love of science and nature to her daughter, Lisa's lifelong passion for birds and birding was rekindled. Because visiting all 600+ VBWT sites is part of her "Birding Virginia" quest, she is uniquely knowledgeable about the Trail. When she's not doing something VBWT-related, Lisa enjoys relaxing at home with her dogs, husband, and daughter, and planning her next site visit trip (only 100 or so left!).

#### **Laura Tesler**

Laura Tesler has worked for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for over 25 years and currently serves as the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP) Coordinator. Laura is responsible for the website, social media, e-communications and business matters concerning the WWMP. Laura has a side business (Laura Tesler Photography) where she freelances for several local media sources in photojournalism. She also has been shooting underwater professionally for 15 years and is a divemaster.

## ***Photography: People***

### **First Place**

**Score: 87.00**

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

*Monitoring Bats Underground*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 86.00**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*Female Duck Hunter*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 85.33**

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Bringing Back the Bighorn*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 52.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Amanda Pitman**

Amanda Pitman serves as the Operations and Resource Development Manager for the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports, developing resources that support national R3 initiatives. She holds a bachelor's degree in art history from Texas State University, where she minored in photography with an emphasis on alternative photographic processes, and a master's degree in art history from the University of Oklahoma. Her photographic work has encompassed gallery exhibitions across Texas, wedding photography, and catalog photography for fine art auctions. Previously, Amanda served as senior editor at Bella Media Group in Santa Fe, New Mexico, working across arts, culture, and lifestyle publications including Santa Fean, Native Arts, Canyon Road, and Su Casa. Her work integrated editorial content, photography, and design to create compelling, visually cohesive publications.

#### **Kelly Boyer**

Kelly Boyer is a Communications and Education Specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. He serves as the Archery Education Coordinator for the ODWC and 700 plus schools in Oklahoma. Kelly has a deep passion for the outdoors and sharing that passion with other from all walks of life. Kelly as a statewide appointment but works out of the ODWC office in Jenks, OK.

#### **Heather Lose**

Heather Lose is the Creative Director for Tennessee State Parks and the Editor-in-chief for The Tennessee Conservationist magazine. When she's not hard at work telling stories about Tennessee's amazing state parks, you'll find her hiking, doing yoga, catching a live band, gardening, or tinkering with something in her backyard art studio.

## ***Photography: Scenic***

### **First Place**

**Score: 86.00**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*Electricity at the Nature Preserve*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 84.33**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Night falls over a wetland at Duck Creek Conservation Area*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 84.00**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*Burst of Spring at Soldier Creek*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 67.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Brent Drinkut**

Brent Drinkut is Photo Editor of Outdoor Indiana magazine and a photographer with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Before stepping into the role of photo editor, he worked as the agency videographer. Prior to working at the DNR he was a staff photojournalist at the Statesman Journal (Salem, Ore.), The Indianapolis Star, and the Journal & Courier (Lafayette, Ind.).

#### **Amanda Pitman**

Amanda Pitman serves as the Operations and Resource Development Manager for the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports, developing resources that support national R3 initiatives. She holds a bachelor's degree in art history from Texas State University, where she minored in photography with an emphasis on alternative photographic processes, and a master's degree in art history from the University of Oklahoma. Her photographic work has encompassed gallery exhibitions across Texas, wedding photography, and catalog photography for fine art auctions. Previously, Amanda served as senior editor at Bella Media Group in Santa Fe, New Mexico, working across arts, culture, and lifestyle publications including Santa Fean, Native Arts, Canyon Road, and Su Casa. Her work integrated editorial content, photography, and design to create compelling, visually cohesive publications.

#### **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.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 94.00**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Stars Over South Llano*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 86.00**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*Surf's Up Kid*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 86.00**

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

*Helping Turtles*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 85.00**

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

*Fly Tying*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 74.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Heather Lose**

Heather Lose is the Creative Director for Tennessee State Parks and the Editor-in-chief for The Tennessee Conservationist magazine. When she's not hard at work telling stories about Tennessee's amazing state parks, you'll find her hiking, doing yoga, catching a live band, gardening, or tinkering with something in her backyard art studio.

#### **Brent Drinkut**

Brent Drinkut is Photo Editor of Outdoor Indiana magazine and a photographer with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Before stepping into the role of photo editor, he worked as the agency videographer. Prior to working at the DNR he was a staff photojournalist at the Statesman Journal (Salem, Ore.), The Indianapolis Star, and the Journal & Courier (Lafayette, Ind.).

#### **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****Score: 198.50**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Montana Outdoors***Second Place****Score: 192.33**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Xplor***Third Place****Score: 191.00**

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

*Conservationist for Kids***Maximum Score: 200****Low Score: 142.67*****Judges:*****Vic Panichkul****Bob Swingle**

Bob Swingle has over 30 years of experience in print and web design. He joined ODFW in 2009 after working in advertising and book publishing. He is currently a web developer working with the team charged with overhauling the public and internal websites for the agency. Bob enjoys hiking, paddleboarding and outdoor photography and is fortunate enough to have a career that helps people engage with the incredible natural resources in Oregon. He grew up on the family farm in southern Oregon, where his family has been since 1854.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 89.33**

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*Saving The 'Food That Grows On Water' | DNR Partners With Tribes To Support Wild Rice*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 86.00**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*The Cowboy Trail*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 85.67**

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Dancing with the Devils*

**Maximum Possible Score: 100**

**Low Score: 67.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Amanda Pitman**

Amanda Pitman serves as the Operations and Resource Development Manager for the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports, developing resources that support national R3 initiatives. She holds a bachelor's degree in art history from Texas State University, where she minored in photography with an emphasis on alternative photographic processes, and a master's degree in art history from the University of Oklahoma. Her photographic work has encompassed gallery exhibitions across Texas, wedding photography, and catalog photography for fine art auctions. Previously, Amanda served as senior editor at Bella Media Group in Santa Fe, New Mexico, working across arts, culture, and lifestyle publications including Santa Fean, Native Arts, Canyon Road, and Su Casa. Her work integrated editorial content, photography, and design to create compelling, visually cohesive publications.

#### **Anna Johnson**

Anna is the associate editor of Arizona Wildlife Views magazine in Phoenix, AZ. As an Arizona native, it is a dream come true for her to write and edit stories that support wildlife conservation in the state. To represent the talented and passionate team members of the department every day through stories about their hard work is a true honor. Her prior experience includes writing for broadcast news, print and public information, media and public relations, and critical incident response. This fall, Anna and her husband happily celebrate their 37th wedding anniversary. She finds great joy in telling other types of stories on stage through community theatre, crafting and spending time in the couple's tiny cabin in Show Low, AZ. An absolute dog freak, Anna loves spoiling her two-senior shih-tzus and her cattle-dog puppy.

#### **Robert Gagliardi**

Robert is the associate editor of Wyoming Wildlife magazine, which has been published for 90 years in association with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. He has been with the magazine for nearly seven 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.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 87.50**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*Flyathlons - Running Rivers*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 85.50**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*The Lure of Lures*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 85.00**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

*Cutthroat Rescue from Stoner Mesa Fire*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 85.00**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Stream Savers*

**Maximum Possible Score: 100**

**Low Score: 63.50**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Chris Kern**

Chris is currently the administrator of Oregon's statewide hatchery program at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. He has spent 33+ years in fish and wildlife management with positions in fish research, fisheries management, interjurisdictional fisheries, agency operations, and hatchery programs. He is an avid angler and lackadaisical hunter and when not building or repairing boats can often be found pursuing various marine fish species off the Oregon coast.

#### **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 ½ 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.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 98.00**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Absorbing the Blows at Flathead Lake*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 94.33**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Marvelous Mosses*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 92.67**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Dogs on the Job*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 92.67**

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES

*"Mother Nature's Prescription for Mental Wellness"*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 73.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **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.

#### **Amy Bulger**

Amy Bulger has wordsmithed her way around the West on the fuel of journalism and editing at a daily newspaper, an acclaimed national outdoor magazine, and state wildlife agency magazines in Colorado and Wyoming during an almost 30-year communications career. Her natural resources print articles and publications have won over 30 state, national and international awards. As an ever-evolving content creator, she is now putting her first love of storytelling to work as a videographer and drone pilot for the Colorado State Forest Service, where she recently won first place for Outstanding Forestry Journalism from the Society of American Foresters.

#### **Ethan Rice**

Ethan Rice is an Outreach Specialist for the Indiana DNR Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves. A graduate of Taylor University and Ball State University (MA), he enjoys putting his writing skills to work for Hoosier conservation and spending as much time outdoors as he can when not in his cubicle.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 96.67**

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

*Get Smart*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 93.33**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Leader of the Pack*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 93.00**

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Wrinkled, Rare, and Remarkable*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 83.33**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Phil Bloom**

Phil is a mostly retired career professional writer and editor whose credentials include 33 years as an award-winning journalist and another 10 as director of communications for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

#### **Doug Nielsen**

#### **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.

## **Social Media Categories**

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

**First Place**

**Score: 45.67**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Cody Mule Deer*

**Second Place**

**Score: 45.00**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*Meet Nebraska's Threatened and Endangered Species*

**Second Place**

**Score: 45.00**

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

*Keep Your Weekends Wild*

**Third Place**

**Score: 44.33**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*Gar Week 2025*

**Maximum Score: 50.00**

**Low Score: 37.33**

***Judges:***

**Justin Minsker**

Justin Minsker is the Deputy Communications Director at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where he leads programs including the press office, social media, video production, TPW Magazine, and marketing. Justin holds a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School at UT Austin and a bachelor's degree in advertising from Marshall University.

**Caitlyn Jacobus**

Caitlyn Jacobus is the Digital Marketing Manager for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, where she leads digital communications, manages marketing campaigns, and oversees the social media program. Prior to joining the agency in 2023, she worked for over a decade in marketing for startups, ad agencies, and small businesses along the East Coast. Caitlyn earned her B.A. in Media Arts & Design from James Madison University in 2012. She served as the 2024 ACI Conference Chair and is passionate about building professional networks and fostering community. Outside of work, Caitlyn enjoys hunting and fishing with her husband and keeping up with their feral toddler, who ensures there's never a dull moment.

**Bobby Jones**

Bobby Jones has spent the last nine 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.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 114.00**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

*Texas Parks and Wildlife Social Media*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 113.00**

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

*Pennsylvania Game Commission Social Media*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 109.67**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Social Media*

**Maximum Score: 120**

**Low Score: 64.67**

### ***Judges:***

**Dawn Krause**

**Liz McIntire**

### **Lisa Mease**

Lisa Mease is the Watchable Wildlife Technician at the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, where she works to improve the Virginia Bird & Wildlife Trail (VBWT). After receiving her B.A. in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia, she enjoyed a successful career as a critical care paramedic before becoming a full-time mother. While trying to pass on her love of science and nature to her daughter, Lisa's lifelong passion for birds and birding was rekindled. Because visiting all 600+ VBWT sites is part of her "Birding Virginia" quest, she is uniquely knowledgeable about the Trail. When she's not doing something VBWT-related, Lisa enjoys relaxing at home with her dogs, husband, and daughter, and planning her next site visit trip (only 100 or so left!).

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

### **First Place**

SOUTH CAROLINA DNR  
*Santa Spotted in South Carolina*

**Score: 87.00**

### **First Place**

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Where's Bronto?*

**Score: 87.00**

### **Second Place**

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
*2025 American Birding Association - Bird Of The Year*

**Score: 85.33**

### **Second Place**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*Father-Son Fishing*

**Score: 85.33**

### **Third Place**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
*Making Conservation Click: How a Simple Post Sparked Desert Tortoise Adoptions*

**Score: 85.00**

**Maximum Score: 90**

**Low Score: 75.33**

### ***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.

#### **Justin Minsker**

Justin Minsker is the Deputy Communications Director at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where he leads programs including the press office, social media, video production, TPW Magazine, and marketing. Justin holds a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School at UT Austin and a bachelor's degree in advertising from Marshall University.

#### **Bobby Jones**

Bobby Jones has spent the last nine 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.

## **Other Printed Products Categories**

### ***Calendar***

**First Place****Score: 93.33**

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE  
*Wild Ohio Calendar*

**Second Place****Score: 92.67**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
*Wyoming Wildlife 2026 Calendar*

**Third Place****Score: 86.00**

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY  
*Tennessee Wildlife Calendar*

**Maximum Score: 100****Low Score: 78.00*****Judges:*****Hayley Riggs McGhee**

Hayley 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.

**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.

**Ashley Zeme**

Ashley Zeme is the Boating Education Coordinator and Law Enforcement Public Information Officer for the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), where she leads the agency's boating education program and oversees law enforcement outreach and communications. Before stepping into her current role, Zeme served as NDOW's general Public Information Officer and Digital Coordinator for more than eight years. As the agency's primary media spokesperson on wildlife-related topics, she managed media relations while overseeing NDOW's social media channels, website, and mass communications to hunters, anglers, boaters, and other outdoor recreationists. For most of her time at NDOW, Zeme also

hosted the Department's weekly *Nevada Wild* podcast. Additionally, she co-hosted ACI's very own, *Outdoor Communicators Podcast* alongside Tim Akimoff. Prior to joining NDOW, Zeme worked as a broadcast journalist in Montana and Kentucky, where she reported, shot and edited video, wrote stories, and anchored newscasts. Zeme has been recognized by ACI for NDOW's podcast, various social media campaigns, and the agency's website.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 92.00**

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
*Texas State Parks Official Guide 2025*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 90.67**

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Alabama State Parks Junior Ranger Adventure Guide*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 90.67**

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
*Bats of Colorado: Shadows in the Night*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 89.33**

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE  
*Small Trees and Shrubs of Ohio Field Guide*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 70.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Molly Kirk**

After a long career in equestrian journalism that included covering the Olympic Games, Molly explored the world of public relations for a bit before landing at Virginia DWR as editor of Virginia Wildlife magazine, the agency's weekly email newsletters, and the Virginia Wildlife calendar.

#### **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.

#### **Nicola Whitley**

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 94.67**

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

*Introduction to Bird Watching Brochure*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 93.00**

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS

*Closer Than You Think - State Parks*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 92.67**

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

*Protect Western Snowy Plovers Rack Card*

**Maximum Score: 110**

**Low Score: 76.67**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Amanda Pitman**

Amanda Pitman serves as the Operations and Resource Development Manager for the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports, developing resources that support national R3 initiatives. She holds a bachelor's degree in art history from Texas State University, where she minored in photography with an emphasis on alternative photographic processes, and a master's degree in art history from the University of Oklahoma. Her photographic work has encompassed gallery exhibitions across Texas, wedding photography, and catalog photography for fine art auctions. Previously, Amanda served as senior editor at Bella Media Group in Santa Fe, New Mexico, working across arts, culture, and lifestyle publications including Santa Fean, Native Arts, Canyon Road, and Su Casa. Her work integrated editorial content, photography, and design to create compelling, visually cohesive publications.

#### **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.

#### **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.

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

### **First Place**

**Score: 96.67**

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

*Little Salty Cider*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 92.67**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

*Nevada Department of Wildlife Legislature Factsheet*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 90.33**

OHIO DNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

*Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp*

**Maximum Score: 110**

### ***Judges:***

**Low Score: 72.33**

#### **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.

#### **Meghan Dugan**

Meghan Dugan is a Public Affairs Specialist with over 30 years of experience. She began her career on the Payette National Forest in McCall, Idaho and migrated to Oregon for work with the Department of Transportation before coming to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in 1999. She's covered outreach for fish, wildlife, and hatcheries in Southwest Oregon along with marine and conservation issues over the last decade.

#### **Devin Lindley**

Devin Lindley is the Conservation Education & Outreach Coordinator for the Choctaw Nation Department of Wildlife Conservation, where he does public outreach to promote hunting, fishing, and trapping throughout the Choctaw Nation Reservation in southeastern Oklahoma. Devin has a BS in Fish & Wildlife Sciences and an AS in Visual Communications (Graphic Design). He is currently on the Board of Directors for the Association of Conservation Information (ACI). He actively instructs Hunter Education across the Choctaw Nation, has previously been an instructor of trapping matters workshops, and helped start and instruct the regional fur school in Oklahoma. Devin and his wife and children live in Durant, Oklahoma where they enjoy everything that has to do with the outdoors.

## ***Poster***

### **First Place**

**Score: 95.33**

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*Wisconsin State Park System Poster*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 95.00**

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

*Wyoming's riparian corridors*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 94.00**

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

*Biodiverse Washington Poster: A Visual Language for Conservation*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 56.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Sonja Summerfeld**

#### **Adam Cox**

Adam has spent the last seven years as a graphic designer for the Division of Communications at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He enjoys communicating and supporting the mission of the department through clear, professional design, and especially loves a good logo project. Prior to joining the IDNR team, he did freelance work in graphic design, web design, video, audio post production, and music production.

#### **Nathan Adams**

Nathan Adams works as the Content Marketing Manager for TPWD. He is a former magazine art director and publisher with more than 25 years of experience across multiple industries, including almost 10 years with TPW magazine.

## ***Regulations Publications***

### **First Place**

**Score: 88.33**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
*2026 Nevada Fishing Regulations*

### **Second Place**

**Score: 87.67**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
*Nevada Small Game Hunting Guide*

### **Third Place**

**Score: 86.00**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
*2025-2026 Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations*

**Maximum Score: 100**

**Low Score: 86.00**

### ***Judges:***

#### **Liz Dreith**

Liz Dreith has been the Wildlife Operations Manager for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) since 2009. As part of this role, she directs the preparation of the Oregon Big Game Hunting Regulations and the Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations booklets for public distribution from a blank template through the final proof approval to get ready for press. Prior to that, she was the Assistant Operations Manager where she had more of a hands-on role with the design and editing of the booklets. Liz has been with ODFW for over 29 years.

#### **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.

#### **Devin Lindley**

Devin Lindley is the Conservation Education & Outreach Coordinator for the Choctaw Nation Department of Wildlife Conservation, where he does public outreach to promote hunting, fishing, and trapping throughout the Choctaw Nation Reservation in southeastern Oklahoma. Devin has a BS in Fish & Wildlife Sciences and an AS in Visual Communications (Graphic Design). He is currently on the Board of Directors for the Association of Conservation Information (ACI). He actively instructs Hunter Education across the Choctaw Nation, has previously been an instructor of trapping matters workshops, and helped start and instruct the regional fur school in Oklahoma. Devin and his wife and children live in Durant, Oklahoma where they enjoy everything that has to do with the outdoors!