



ARIZONA HERITAGE ALLIANCE

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President's Message

Beth Woodin, AHA President

2016 was marked by major changes with the Arizona Heritage Alliance as Janice Miano migrated from our long-serving director to a board member

and advocacy committee chair. Our new director, Lani Lott, joined the team early in the year and has been a quick study, keeping us on track towards some new endeavors, including a strategic planning process and roundtable of key stakeholders for parks, open space, wildlife, and preservation.



We hope to broaden the Alliance's outreach and effectiveness to accomplish the many important tasks we have been working on since the Great Recession – restoring the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund and strengthening Arizona State Parks publicly and financially. The latter is especially important as the agency needs to take care of the many capital improvement projects that have built up over the years. Under Director Sue Black's leadership, the agency has moved to impressive new offices in north Phoenix, many of the agency's grant programs are going forward, and a new, highly-qualified State Historic Preservation Officer, Kathryn Leonard, was appointed.

We began the year worried that the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Heritage Acquisition Fund would be partially utilized for operations and maintenance (O&M) without a robust public process. As the year progressed, the concerns of numerous stakeholders, including the Alliance, were mitigated as the O&M monies were used to enhance the wildlife and habitat values that the properties were purchased for.



Through our website and other means of communication, we continue to support Heritage Fund programs, the Game & Fish Commission's recent overhaul of rules to make them much more user-friendly, and other related conservation and preservation news statewide.

I think we can all agree that the year ended with political upheaval with the possibility of Arizonans moving to D.C. and others returning to their home state. Some surprises will certainly be ahead of us, but how we rise to meet them will make the difference between significant gains or losses. It certainly won't be dull. We will look for every opportunity to examine the new issues and turn them to the best advantage of the Arizona Heritage Fund and the values it represents for the benefit of all Arizonans.

25 Years of Change

25 years ago Bill Clinton would defeat George H. W. Bush for President of the United States. Fife Symington was Governor of Arizona. The population of Arizona was around 4 million and by 2010 it would grow to over 6 million. Apple would not produce the first color Mac for another year.

Arizona land was being gobbled up for development. Historic sites were being bulldozed and many endangered species issues were not being addressed. In short there was never enough money left over for governmental agencies to address all of these and other Heritage related issues.

It took a group of individuals and non-profit organizations from around the State to band together and bring forth an Initiative that would provide funding for trails, endangered species, historic preservation grants, parks, educational projects and more. The money would come from the [Arizona Lottery](#) proceeds and to \$20 million dollars per year would be split between the [Arizona State Parks](#) and [Arizona Game and Fish](#) departments. The Legislature did not approve of this idea but the public did and the Initiative passed overwhelmingly.



In 1992 individuals and groups who had been instrumental in getting the original Initiative on the ballot and passed, reorganized to protect and monitor the Heritage Funds and thus the Arizona Heritage Alliance was formed. The Alliance is a 501-C-3 and continues today to work with the Arizona State Parks and the Arizona Game and Fish Department to promote their programs, protect the Game and Fish Heritage Funds, and monitor both agencies to make sure that the funds are spent in accord with the original Initiative.

Since the Heritage Fund's inception — over \$348.5 million has been reinvested in Arizona's resources. The economic impact to the community from these grants has totaled over \$235 million with \$140 million of this money coming from matching grants. If you hike, ride, hunt, boat, fish, visit a park or historical site or watch wildlife, then the Arizona Heritage Fund has probably affected your life.

A win-win situation for the citizens of Arizona it might seem. The Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS 41-502 and ARS 17-297) state that "In no event shall any monies in the fund revert to the state general fund..." However, in March 2010 in an effort to balance the budget, the Legislature not only swept the State Parks Heritage Fund, but it eliminated it from statute.

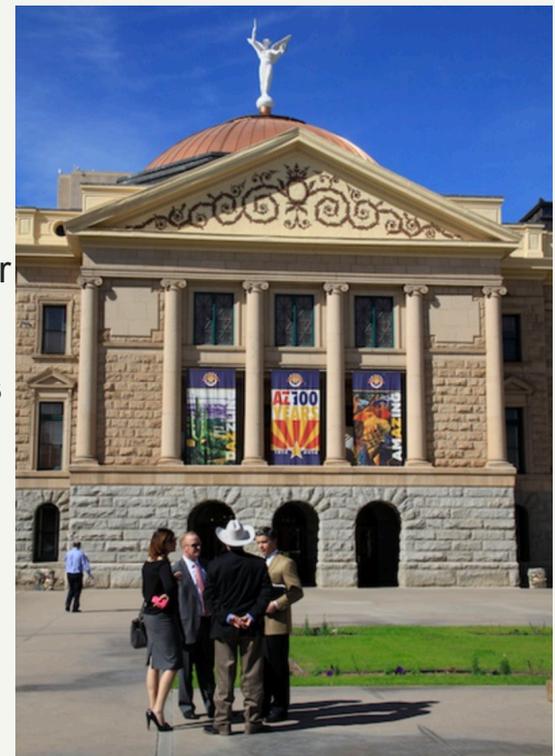
The 50% of the original Heritage Funds continues to support Game and Fish programs with a portion of the Fund being set aside each year for schoolyard environmental projects, as well as community and research grants. Funding for on-the-ground research and action to protect native sensitive species as well as conservation of their natural habitats continues to come from the Heritage Fund.

After 25 years, the Arizona Heritage Alliance is still going strong and is grateful for the with many dedicated members who year after year continue to support the organization. We are excited to be celebrating our 25th year Anniversary in 2017 and have a year planned full of festivities while still setting our sights for the future and pursuing sustainable and dedicated funding sources for Arizona's historic, cultural, and natural initiatives, programs, and activities.

Alliance News & Notes

Lani Lott, Director

Arizona Heritage Alliance will once again participate in Environmental Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The 2017 Arizona Legislative Session kicks off on Monday, January 9 with the State of the State address by Governor Doug Ducey. The Legislature will then be on its way until at least late April, if not longer, with plenty of opportunities for Arizonans to observe, learn, and advocate. For Environmental Day, advocates from throughout the state, new and experienced, will gather at the State Capitol to meet with legislators to express support for parks, open space, the environment, and preservation. This year's theme is ***Protecting the Arizona We all Share***. If you want to join the Alliance on February 15, please email [Janice Miano](mailto:Janice.Miano@azheritage.org), Alliance's Advocacy Chair. Everyone is welcome to participate.



On December 13, 2016, the Arizona Heritage Alliance hosted over 30 parks and cultural heritage advocates from across the state for a roundtable

discussion to share both their priorities for the coming year as well as express any concerns for the future of conservation, wildlife, preservation, open space, parks, and our state's heritage. Hosted by the Arizona Heritage Alliance's Advocacy Committee, the event was held at the [Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center](#) in south Phoenix. The Alliance hopes this is the beginning of bringing together our collective voices and issues.



I Support Wildlife™ bridges the widening gap between wildlife facing new threats and a sharp increase in the cost of conservation. Arizona is home to more than 800 wildlife species, from Gambel's quail to bighorn sheep. But their natural habitats – which stretch across 50 million acres of public land – are increasingly at risk. It is the job of the [Arizona Game and Fish Department](#) to protect, restore, and preserve these species and the places where they live. But no Arizona tax dollars go to support this mission. Instead, the sales of hunting and fishing licenses are the primary source of funding as well as the Arizona Heritage Fund. However, these funds are not keeping pace with the cost of wildlife management, leaving our native animals vulnerable at a critical time. A \$25 one-year membership lets you explore Arizona's unique natural heritage while taking action to preserve our wildlife legacy for the future.



Board Member Spotlight

Janice Miano, AHA Board Member

Arizona Heritage Alliance Board member and Advocacy Committee Chair, Janice Miano, is a former New Englander transplanted to the southwest now

for over 20 years. “When I received my first pair of binoculars at seven years old, I became a junior Audubon member and have been a wildlife watcher ever since.” says Miano. She has been a volunteer/activist in environmental issues for over 35 years.

From 1991–1995, she worked as the Grassroots Coordinator for National Audubon’s International and Population Programs in Washington D.C. She was chosen to represent the members of National Audubon at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Conference in Perth, Australia where she testified to the importance of the Global Forest Protocol.



Miano is a graduate of National Audubon’s Leadership Training and worked closely with Vermont’s Senator Pat Leahy and the late Senator James Jeffords and their staff on many critical issues including foreign assistance and population issues; old growth forest destruction and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

After moving to Arizona, she continued to be active with environmental issues. She is Past-President of the Arizona Audubon Council and worked as Volunteer Coordinator for five years at the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center in south Phoenix. Miano was invited to join the Board of the Arizona Heritage Alliance in 1999. In 2004, she became the Alliance’s Director of Administration. After retiring in 2015, she again joined the Alliance's Board/

“I know I can make a difference. I’ve learned from the very best. I utilize the proverb of Brock Evans, leader among conservation activists: ***Endless pressure, endlessly applied.***”

Her additional honors and awards are:

- 2014 *President's Award*, Arizona Parks & Recreation Association
- 2013 Arizona Forward *Environmental Excellence Award of Merit for Environmental Stewardship (SRP Award) Central Arizona*
- 2010 Audubon Arizona's *Chairman's Award*
- 1994 *The Roy Pilcher Environmental Achievement Award*, Rutland County Audubon Society
- 1992 *Vermont Women Making A Difference*, Castleton State College

Partner Spotlight

ARIZONA PARKS & RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Our partner spotlight for this quarter is the [Arizona Parks and Recreation Association](#). Founded in 1950, APRA is a 501-C-3 non-profit organization with a mission to provide professional development, advocacy, and resources to all who enhance quality of life through parks, recreation, and environmental conservation. APRA has seven professional branches and four regions dedicated to providing opportunities for a broad range of parks and recreation professionals. In addition to workshops, advocacy events, and networking opportunities throughout the year, APRA hosts a statewide annual conference and trade show in August. This event features programs and parks unique to Arizona, insightful educational sessions, national certifications, innovative exhibitors, and statewide awards.



Upcoming Events!

- [FREE Webinar: Generating Solutions for Rural Development: A "Refresh" of the National Main Street Framework](#), Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 10 am to 11:30 am. Hosted by Arizona Rural Development Council and Local First Arizona Foundation
- [Environmental Day at the Capitol](#), February 15, 2017, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Coordinated by Sierra Club (Grand Canyon Chapter)
- [Arizona Historic Preservation Conference](#), June 14-16, 2017, Hilton El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort, Oro Valley

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The Arizona Heritage Alliance is a 501-C-3 non-profit with the mission to preserve and enhance Arizona's historic, cultural, and natural heritage. To accomplish our mission we actively:

- Protect the integrity and voter intent of the Arizona Game & Fish Heritage Fund

- Pursue sustainable and dedicated funding sources for Arizona's historic, cultural, and natural initiatives, programs, and activities
- Educate Arizonans on the benefits of our state's wildlife, open space, parks, and historic and cultural resources
- Monitor state legislative and agency activity



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Preserve and Enhance Arizona's Historic, Cultural, and Natural Heritage.*

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