



ARIZONA HERITAGE ALLIANCE

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President's Year-End Message

As 2017 draws to a close, once again it has been a very busy year for the Alliance and our dedicated volunteer Board and Executive Director. We continue to uphold the Alliance's goal to actively protect the integrity and voter intent of the Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Fund, while still pursuing sustainable and dedicated funding sources for Arizona's local, regional, and state parks as well as our historic and cultural initiatives, programs, and activities.



2017 Year-to Date Highlights

- The Alliance board, members, friends, and several partner organizations opposed House Bill 2369 that would repeal the Arizona State Parks Board organized 60 years ago to "select, acquire, preserve, establish, and maintain areas of natural features, scenic beauty, historical and scientific interest, and zoos and botanical gardens for the education, pleasure, recreation, and health of the people..." HB2369 passed out of the House of Representatives, but the Alliance launched a letter signing campaign and the 1,500-plus advocate letters as well as numerous phone calls were noticed by State Senators. At the Government Senate Committee, an amendment removed the State Parks Board from the bill. The effort to keep the State Parks Board was spearheaded by Senator Kate Brophy McGee. It then became a bipartisan effort to keep citizen involvement as part of our State Parks system. As amended, HB2369 keeps the State Parks Board in place. Senate leadership pushed this and Governor Ducey was not opposed to this amendment ultimately signing the amended bill in May of 2017 sine die.
- Alliance members joined 100-plus other individuals who are active in protecting, preserving, and enhancing Arizona's cultural and natural resources at the February 2017 Environmental Day at the Capitol. We met with numerous State Senators and Representatives to highlight our collective accomplishments and inform them of our positions on various legislative measures.
- We continued to celebrated the Alliance's 25th Anniversary at the Arizona Historic Preservation Conference in Oro Valley held June 14-16. The Alliance was an official sponsor of the conference, participated in the expo showcase, and hosted a session highlighting past accomplishments and future aspirations of the Alliance's mission.
- This year we welcomed five new individuals to our Board of Directors that included Kent Taylor, Pinal County's Director of Open Space and Trails; Bill Meek, past president of the Arizona State Parks Foundation; Dale Wiebusch, the Intergovernmental Affairs director for the City of Maricopa (and past Senior Legislative Associate at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns); Cheyenne Walsh, Partner at Isaacson & Walsh, PC (specializing in representing clients before the Arizona State Legislature, and state and local agencies; and Bryan Martyn, owner of a consulting company focusing on veterans, military, environmental, and government policy issues.
- As an organization we continue to make it our priority to maintain,

strengthen, and expand our partnerships with Arizona Preservation Foundation, local preservation groups, Arizona League of Cities and Towns, Arizona Parks & Recreation Association, Arizona State Parks, Arizona Forward, Central Arizona Conservation Alliance, and other related organizations.

- We maintained a robust communication and outreach plan keeping our members, friends, and partners engaged and informed through our web presence, Facebook page, e-alerts, and quarterly newsletter.

To support the Alliance's mission, we ask that you become a member, renew your membership for another year and/or consider making an additional tax-deductible gift by December 31. All gifts, large or small, will make a significant difference in supporting our mission and goals. Your membership or gifts can be mailed directly to the by downloading our [membership form](#) and mailing it directly to the Arizona Heritage Alliance, P.O. Box 16282, Phoenix, AZ 85011. If you prefer you can also make your donation online at azheritage.org.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, thank you in advance for your continuing support and generous gift.

Elizabeth T. Woodin
President, Board of Directors
Arizona Heritage Alliance

Advocacy Update

Janice Miano, Board Member / Advocacy Chair

The Arizona Heritage Alliance is preparing to participate in the 20th Anniversary of Environmental Day at the Capitol, scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2018. We will meet with legislators in teams to discuss important environmental issues, bills, and more. We will gather outside in the Rose Garden because we have outgrown all of the meeting rooms located on the Capitol grounds. Several of our Arizona Heritage Alliance board members are volunteer Team Leaders. Please plan to join us to advocate for parks, open space, wildlife, and historic preservation. Click here to [RSVP](#). No experience is necessary and training is provided. It is a fun, interesting, and meaningful day! For more information contact Janice Miano, Advocacy Chair at 480-946-1327 or via [email](#).

Alliance News & Notes

Lani Lott, Director

Mark your calendars and please join the Arizona Heritage Alliance Board of Directors at their Annual Meeting, Tuesday, December 12 at 10 a.m. at the [Flinn Foundation Conference Room](#) in Phoenix. Keynote speaker will be Kathryn Leonard, State Preservation Officer with [Arizona State Parks & Trails/State Historic Preservation Office](#). The Board will elect 2017/2018 Officers and discuss upcoming plans for Environmental Day at the Capitol scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

[Volunteer Lobby/Advocacy Workshop](#), Friday, December 15, 2017 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Arizona Capitol Museum Historic Senate Chambers 1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix. Are you ready to make a difference? Interested in helping to protect Arizona's air, land, and water? Promote clean energy? Arizona needs more advocates who are willing to meet with legislators, city council people, county supervisors, and other officials who have enormous impact on our future and on what kind of legacy we leave for the next generation. The workshop runs two hours and covers the basics on the Arizona Legislature and the executive branch of government, and Dos and Don'ts of Advocacy at the Legislature.



[Arizona Parks Foundation](#) launches 60th anniversary citizens fundraising challenge "\$60,000 from 60,000 people." Funds raised during the year long celebration are dedicated for supporting much needed maintenance in our 35 parks and hundreds of trails.

In a recent environmental study, Arizona ranked second-lowest among eight Western states in a scorecard measuring the use and management of public lands. The scorecard, produced and released by the non-profit [Center for Western Priorities](#), examined how Western states regulated public lands, recreation, wildlife conservation and energy development. In "access to public lands," Arizona received the lowest possible score, "needs improvement," because of a 2010 piece of legislation that eliminated funding for the State Parks Heritage Fund, which drew from state lottery funds, according to the report. [Click here](#) to read the entire Western States Conservation Scorecard.



The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has appointed Ty Gray as director of the [Arizona Game and Fish Department](#). Gray, who has been with agency for 24 years, replaced Larry Voyles who retired after a 43-year career with Game and Fish. Gray began his career with the department as a research biologist in 1993 and worked his way up through the ranks. He has a unique familiarity and perspective on department issues and operations, having also served as an urban fishing program specialist, a regional fish program specialist, human dimensions coordinator, field operations coordinator, fisheries branch chief, education branch chief, assistant director, and deputy director, a position he held since March 2013.



[The Sonoran Institute](#) has published their [2017 Annual Report](#) which highlights the organization's accomplishments this past year with special emphasis on their work on water.

Skip Varney is the new Deputy Director at [Arizona State Parks & Trails](#), chosen to oversee Operations and Development. Varney previously served as the Chief of Natural Resources & Special Projects, after being promoted from his role as the State OHV Coordinator. During his work as the State OHV Coordinator, Varney rebuilt federal & state agency relationships and worked extensively with OHV Ambassadors and volunteers to grow and strengthen the OHV community in Arizona. His work with their grants program provided more than \$3 million annually for OHV trail development. He was also instrumental in the development of the [Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park](#) in Yarnell, getting the project under budget and ahead of schedule.



The [Arizona Forward](#) Board of Directors recently announced that Lori Singleton will serve as the Interim CEO/President for the organization. Singleton has served on the Board for more than two decades and chaired the Environmental Excellence Awards program for the past 16 years. SRP graciously agreed to allow Singleton, an executive at SRP, to be at the helm while the Board continues to recruit and select the CEO position. Lori's long time experience with the organization and her knowledge of important environmental issues affecting



the state uniquely qualify her to serve in this role.

Congratulations to [Arizona State Parks and Trails](#) for recently winning the [Gold Medal Award](#) for best managed state park system in the nation from the [National Recreation and Park Association](#) (NRPA).



The award was announced during the national NRPA conference in New Orleans. "This is a tremendous achievement that benefits everyone in our state – from residents to tourists," said Governor Doug Ducey. Arizona State Parks and Trails was selected as a Final Four candidate in May, along with Tennessee State Parks; Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission; and Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails. The [Gold Medal Award](#) honors state park systems throughout the U.S. that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices.

Partner Spotlight: Yavapai Trails Association

Our spotlighted partner is [Yavapai Trails Association](#). The Association, an all-volunteer group that represents the interests of hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians, is dedicated to protecting, preserving, and developing recreational, non-motorized trails. They are supported by many other organizations and recognized by the City of Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley, as well as Yavapai County, the Prescott National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management, and the state of Arizona.



Upcoming Events

- [Arizona Heritage Alliance](#) 2017 Annual Meeting, December 12, 2017, Flinn Foundation, Phoenix
- [Volunteer Lobby/Advocacy Workshop](#), Friday, December 15, 2017, Arizona Capitol Museum, Historic Senate Chambers, 1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix
- [Environmental Day at the Capitol](#), Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix
- [Arizona Historic Preservation Conference](#), June 6-8, 2018, Valley Ho

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The Arizona Heritage Alliance is a 501-C-3 non-profit organization 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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