



## ARIZONA HERITAGE ALLIANCE

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### From the Desk of Russ Jones, President, Arizona Heritage Alliance

For many of us, our most treasured childhood memories are of a lovely community park, camping site, or trail. Almost every community in our state, regardless of size, has a place where parents gather while their children play and teach them to throw, kick, or dunk a ball. These special places provide wholesome outdoor recreation or just appreciate nature up close.



Across Arizona, historic theaters, churches, homes, and other significant buildings have been stabilized and restored to their original beauty and put back into use for generations to come. Arizona State Park (ASP) Heritage Fund grants, administered by the State Parks Board, helped create more of these wonderful places across the state from the Fund's inception in 1990 to 2009 when the Fund was eliminated from statute and the voter-approved funding was redirected to pay the debt on over-mortgaged state buildings.

Our efforts over the past ten years resulted in the ASP Heritage Fund being put back into statute in 2019, unfortunately without funding. Then, in 2020, our two Heritage Fund "money" bills stalled because of the pandemic. However, the Alliance has not given up. With our legislative allies, we made a few bill refinements and thanks to Representative Joanne Osborne of Buckeye and Senator T.J. Shope of Coolidge, we're almost to the finish line.

Thanks to our many members, friends, and supporters who believed for the last 12 years that we could restore the Heritage Fund. We could not do this without your support. Let us prepare for when the pandemic is behind us and we can resume working together in-person to stabilize our state and galvanize Arizona's economy.

If you are not a member of the Alliance, please consider joining with us and making a commitment to our mission. As I mentioned in my last message, let us also prepare for the day the COVID-19 outbreak will be behind us and we can begin working together to galvanize Arizona's economy thus providing the opportunity for every Arizonian to recover and flourish once again.

I want to sincerely thank each one of you for your continuing advocacy and financial support. I hope you will maintain your membership, or decide to become a member, and/or consider even a small contribution to our non-profit operation so we can continue our efforts to ensure that the ASP Heritage Fund is fully financed again. Thank you for your continuing support, advice, and assistance.



Russ Jones, President,  
Board of Directors  
Arizona Heritage Alliance

### Alliance News & Notes

Lani Lott, Director

**Arizona Heritage Alliance Annual Meeting Held on December 2, 2020.** Due to the ongoing challenges that the pandemic has imposed for in-person meetings, the Alliance's Annual Board Meeting was held virtually on December 2, 2020. We were honored to have Ty Gray, Director of the [Arizona Game and Fish Department](#), and Ryan Babel, Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Fund Administrator, as guest speakers. Janice Miano passed the gavel to Russ Jones who was elected to serve as the Alliance's 2021 President. We also welcomed four new Board members - Natalya Brown (Queen Creek), the Honorable Steve Farley (Tucson), the Honorable William "Bill" Mundell (Phoenix), and Woody Wilson (Tempe) rounding out our Board to 21 members.



In honor of the Heritage Fund's 30th Anniversary, the Alliance continues to gather projects for a new publication: "30 Projects - 30 Districts - 30th Year Anniversary of the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund." Our objective for this communication piece is to identify 30 historic preservation, parks, and trails projects - one each in Arizona's 30 state legislative districts. The projects must be (1) significant, (2) "shovel ready," and (3) in need of funding to launch or move to the next phase of construction/ rehabilitation to complete. If you have ideas of projects, send us an email at [mail@azheritage.org](mailto:mail@azheritage.org).



New polling commissioned by the [State Innovation Exchange](#) (SIX) shows Arizona voters are concerned about the impact of COVID-19 and want bold policy solutions including seven in ten Arizonans want funding restored for the Arizona State Heritage Fund and express agreement (84% agree) that access to parks is vital to health during this pandemic. Read the full report by [clicking here](#).

For more than 20 years the [Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Fund](#) has made a difference not just to wildlife conservation efforts, but also to the state's economy, public access, environmental education and outdoor recreation. The Game and Fish Heritage fund provides up to \$10 million each year from Arizona lottery proceeds to the Arizona Game and Fish Department for the conservation and protection of the state's wildlife and natural areas. Because the Game and Fish Department receives no state tax dollars to cover its operating budget, the Heritage Fund is critical to recovering or sustaining Arizona's unique native wildlife and to managing more than 800 species. Each year, the Department releases Heritage grants\*\* to projects that focus on wildlife, including wildlife education, schoolyard habitats and wildlife conservation efforts. In addition, there is a grant category geared towards helping schools fund field trips that take students outside to learn about wildlife and outdoor recreation. [Click here](#) to see the full list of the 2020 Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Fund Awards. \*\*The Game and Fish Heritage Fund Grant process is currently undergoing an internal review and improvement process, and as a result, there will not be a 2021 Heritage Fund Grant cycle.



If you hike, boat, ride, hunt, fish, watch wildlife, visit a park, or tour historic sites, then Arizona's Heritage Fund affects your life! The Arizona Heritage Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created in 1992 to protect Arizona's Heritage Fund and its objectives. The Alliance is guided by a Board of Directors drawn from a broad base of outdoor sports, environmental conservation, and historic preservation groups that helped pass the 1990 statewide voter initiative creating the Heritage Fund. We're always looking for new voices and talent to help us achieve our mission to preserve and enhance Arizona's historic, cultural, and natural heritage. If you are interested in joining our Board or serve on a Committee, [send a note to Lani Lott, Director](#).



### Alliance's Legislative Task Force Update

With the opening of the 55th Legislature Session, the Alliance supported two "money" ASP Heritage Fund bills: HB2127 (appropriation; state parks; heritage fund) sponsored by Rep. Joanne Osborne (LD13) and SB1384 (state parks; lottery; heritage fund) sponsored by Senate T.J. Shope (LD8). With the support from our partner organizations, the Alliance's Legislative Task Force, and friends of the Alliance sent letters, testified in Committee, and wrote into the State's RTS system. The result: HB2127 passed the House Land, Agricultural, and Rural Affairs (LARA) Committee (11-0-0-0), House Appropriations Committee (12-1-0-0-0), and Senate Appropriations Committee (9-0-1-0-0). SB1384 went straight to the Senate Appropriations Committee and passed amended (10-0-0-0-0), passed the House LARA Committee (10-1-0-0-0), and passed the House Appropriations as amended (12-1-0-0-0). Both bills have strong bipartisan support and are waiting to be heard in Rules and then will be off to the Governor as part of the budget process. SB1384 was amended in the House Appropriations Committee (\$3 million FY2022/23; \$4 million FY2023/24, and \$5 million FY2024/25 and thereafter) while HB2127 passed the House and Senate with the full \$10 million one-time ask.



### Board Member Spotlight

**Woody Wilson (Tempe, AZ).** For more than 25 years, Woody Wilson was the writer and art director of the classic King Features syndicated newspaper comics, Rex Morgan, MD and Judge Parker. Daily estimated readership for both features was 30 million in North America and 14 foreign countries. His stories on important health care issues won numerous awards, including the American Academy of Nursing's The Creative Media Award, The University of Tennessee's Lena Warner Prize for Contributions to the Health of The Nation, The Golden Achievement Award from American Allergy and Asthma Network/Mothers of Asthmatics and The Dr. Quentin Young Health Activist Award from Physicians for a National Health Program. Woody retired from his comic strip work in 2016 to pursue his second avocation of producing jazz concerts at the Tempe Center for the Arts.



Woody is also active in Tempe community affairs. In 2020 he was given Tempe's most prestigious award, the Don Carlos Humanitarian of the Year for his decades of community service. He is a past president of the Tempe Community Council, and is a member of the advisory board for the Tempe Community Foundation. He is a co-founder of Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and served on the board of the Colonia del Sur #4 Homeowner's Association for 15 years.

Additionally, Woody is past President of the Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation, a former director of the Rio Salado Foundation and project director for the rehabilitation of the Rose Eisendrath House. He is a former board member of the Tempe History Society, the Arizona Preservation Foundation, a graduate of Tempe Leadership Class XXI, and served on Tempe's 2040 General Plan Working Group. And, the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, at its annual 2019 luncheon, presented Woody with the prized Spirit of Tempe Award.

As the founder and president of non-profit Lakeshore Music, Inc., Woody created the Lakeshore Music Concert Series at the Tempe Center for the Arts, which was in its twelfth season before the COVID pandemic. [www.lakeshoremusic.org](http://www.lakeshoremusic.org). The mission of LMI is to present world-class music in a world-class building. Woody is also the co-founder of Cuba Rhythm and Views, LLC, a cultural exchange program that takes American musicians to Cuba and brings Cuban musicians back to the United States to perform. [www.cubarhythmmandviews.com](http://www.cubarhythmmandviews.com)

Woody's hobbies include fly fishing, competitive shotgun sports, collecting fly fishing gear and traveling with same. "Writing newspaper comics was fun, but never funny," says Woody. "After decades of relentless and stressful deadlines I want to spend the rest of my time on earth enjoying what I treasure the most...fly fishing, the musical arts and everything Cuban."

### Partner Spotlight - Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited

The [Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited \(AZTU\)](#) is a non-profit, non-political and non-sectarian organization whose mission is to conserve, protect and restore Arizona's coldwater fisheries and watersheds to enhance the native and wild fish populations of our state. The Arizona Council has four chapters - Gila Trout Chapter #530 (Payson and surrounding area), Grand Canyon Chapter #190 (Northern Arizona), Old Pueblo Chapter #531 (Tucson and southern Arizona) and Zane Grey Chapter #463 (Phoenix and metro area). AZTU believes that in order to sustain the work they are doing today, they need whole communities, including the next generation, involved in this work. To do this, AZTU promotes opportunities that advance inclusion for any marginalized group including women, youth, people of color and diverse socioeconomic, cultural backgrounds and abilities. The programs AZTU has in place are our collective effort to introduce everyone to the joy of coldwater fishing and conservation. [Click here](#) to read about AZTU's 2019 Activities and Accomplishments.



### Historic Preservation, Parks, and Trails in the News

[Arizona Parks Find a Way to Survive Through the Pandemic](#) - CourthouseNews.com, March 26, 2021

[How the American Rescue Plan Will Help Parks and Recreation](#) - National Parks and Recreation Association, March 12, 2021

[Sedentary and Stressed? Get Outside to Improve Health during COVID, Experts Advise](#) - Cronkite News/azpbs, February 19, 2021.

[More Spending on Outdoor Recreation, Delivery Services Help Trim Arizona Jobless Rate](#) - Tucson.com, December 17, 2020

[Tourism During COVID-19, Part One: National and State Parks](#) - KNAU, October 28, 2020

### Upcoming Events

[2021 Arizona Preservation Conference](#) - October 27-29, 2021 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Tempe.

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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 Heritage Fund
- Pursue, sustain and initiate funding 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

