

PREDATOR'S PRIDE



ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS

FEBRUARY 2003

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mike Burris, APC President

I would like to ask that we all take a moment of silence in honor of the crew of the *Space Shuttle Columbia*. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families in this time of grief.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform and enlighten everyone regarding the support we have received for the last several years and continue to receive from the *Arizona Game and Fish Department*. We have received guidance and support from Unit Managers, Game Specialists, Non-Game Specialists and the administrative side all the way to the Director. Our club benefits from the Game & Fish guest speakers and our hunts benefit from the Unit Managers that take part in our check ins and answer our questions. In the past it might have seemed like we were at odds with the Department when in reality they have been in our corner all along. With so many years and so many hunts I felt that it was time somebody stepped up and told the Department thank you for all that you do and the support you have continued to give us. Although, we may not always agree on every issue all of the time, overall I feel that we do have the best Game & Fish Department in the country. When our Game & Fish Department was originally conceived it was set up so that the Commission did not serve at the whim of the Governor, rather they serve the concerns of the public. Therefore, the public has input and can influence decisions in game management in Arizona. If you are a sportsman from a state that has a Department of Natural Resources or Game & Fish is under the Agriculture Department you understand how important it is for the public to be allowed input.

Currently AG&F is putting together a predator management draft to help educate the general public about predator management in Arizona. I feel this a step in a positive direction coming from the AG&F Department.

We are all looking forward to *Antelope*

Eaters this year. *Arizona Game & Fish* will be present to collect biological and scientific data, enforce Game & Fish laws and assist sportsmen with guidance and answers to their questions. My hunting partner once again will be my son Christopher. He has been looking forward to this hunt since last year and enjoys seeing all of the teams that show up for this hunt. As you all know this is a tough hunt for several reasons. If the weather keeps going in the direction it has it will be much warmer this year. It will probably be windy by 10:00 in the morning so I would recommend a center fire that is good in windy conditions like a .22-250 or a .243. *Mohave County Sportsmen Club* does a great job hosting this event and we look forward to taking part in their hunt, as quite a few of their club members took part in the World Championship event, as well as the Three Club Hunt. In the past we have always fielded numerous teams and I hope we are to have a good showing for the APC again this year.

Our Program Director was able to coordinate with the *Mesa Fire Department* in order to make arrangements for a First Aid Safety class as our general meeting topic this month. This class will be geared towards sportsmen and the problems that they could encounter in the field. I strongly recommend that all club members participate in this class and bring a friend. This subject strikes a personal note with me because this last November Chris and I were predator calling during elk season and had been invited to stay at camp with my father-in-law. Upon arriving in camp on Saturday we noticed that he was not feeling well and by Saturday night his condition had worsened to the point he was taken to the Flagstaff Hospital from 5B north. It was determined that he had suffered a mild heart attack three days earlier. This incident made all of us in camp stop and wonder, were we really prepared if faced with a critical health issue. We all have a first aid kit so we all need first aid knowledge.

As always I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting and remember to bring a friend. There will be refreshments and a lot of good company.

COMING EVENTS

FCW Memorial Hunt 8 & 9 Feb '03
 February General Meeting . . 13 Feb '03
Outdoor First Aid & CPR
 February Board Meeting 24 Feb '03
 AZ Outdoors Expo.....28 Feb - 2 Mar '03
 Antelope Eaters XIV 8 & 9 Mar '03
 March General Meeting. 13 Mar '03
Turkey Calling
 Adopt-A-Ranch 15 Mar '03??
 APC Club Shootout 29 Mar '03
 March Board Meeting 31 Mar '03
 April General Meeting 10 Apr '03
Long Range Shooting
 April Board Meeting. 28 Apr '03
 May General Meeting 8 May '03
GPS & Map Reading

Monthly APC meetings are held at the Mesa FOP Hall, 1450 E. Main Street, Mesa, from 7:00 p.m. till ????. Board meetings are held at the Arizona Wildlife Federation office at 7:00 p.m.

FROM THE V.P.

by Dan Solow, Vice President

Howdy All Members,

First off, I would like to say "thank you" to our January guest speaker Tice Supplee from the *Arizona Game & Fish Department*. Tice gave an excellent presentation on javelina. Tice provided all the information a person would need to find and hunt javelina, great job Tice.

Time for a little story; This is my second season chasing the wiley coyote, so far Wiley 2, Dan 0. Mid January I was hunting an area down by Maricopa. I had talked to a farmer, and he said that there are coyotes all over this place. Well I set up at the edge of his farm, and 5 dirt roads crossed in that area. I found a tree to set up against, with low lying shrubs around. well i started calling with a hand call, and around 4 or 5 minutes later, I caught a movement, to my left, and a little behind me. well you guessed it, Wiley coyote came down one of the roads behind me, and I could not turn around and shoot, because of the tree, well he seen me, and he was gone.

Also, last year, a few miles west of where I was hunting, I set up next to some bushes, with a small dry stream bed, figured with the tracks in the bed, wiley would come that way. Well I began calling, and 5 minutes later, here come 3 coyotes on the far side of the stream, with heavy brush between us. One came thru the brush, and when I shot, the shot sounded kind of weak. It was an old 12ga #2 lead shot that I've had for years. Well, before I could pump the 870, Wiley was long gone.

Well our season still has some time left, and hopefully I may get a chance to even the score. This warm weather does not help me, I like the cooler weather.

I hope everyone is trying to get out and hunt a little, and have some fun. Also, do not forget the merchants that support our club, till next month, be safe.

Dan

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Debbie Burris, Membership Chair

Please take a moment of your time to say a prayer for the families of the Space Shuttle Columbia. We could not have asked for a more courageous crew and they will be missed by this country very much.

I would like to welcome Steve Blum of Scottsdale and C C Pulvermacher of Wikieup as our newest club members! Terry Barone, Dan Broome and Leonard Colpitts have renewed their memberships and we thank them for that.

These Members Have Expired:

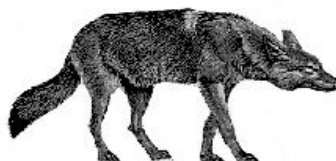
- Walt Gallaher 2/1/03
- Dave Hucklebridge 2/1/03
- John Macias 2/1/03
- Ed Volk 2/1/03

These Members Will Expire Soon:

- Mike Chapdelain . . 3/1/03
- John Cline 3/1/03
- Carl Dustin 3/1/03
- Carl Hildebrand . . . 3/1/03
- Guido Roberti. . . . 3/1/03
- Anthony Roginsky . 3/1/03
- Phil Smith. 3/1/03
- Eric Vidana. 3/1/03
- Michael Barker. . . . 4/1/03
- Royce Bradsher . . . 4/1/03
- Richard Cuppy 4/1/03
- Hank Gonzales. . . . 4/1/03
- David Kuhns 4/1/03
- Al Lind. 4/1/03
- Dennis Slade 4/1/03
- Herb Stipe 4/1/03
- Joe Talavera 4/1/03
- Brian Williams 4/1/03

If you have let your membership expire, please contact us we would love to have you back! If you have any questions regarding your existing membership, please give me a call at (480) 654-1411 or you can e-mail me at membership@azpredatorcallers.com anytime.

Debbie



TREASURERS REPORT

by Jerry Thorson, APC Treasurer

This Treasurers report details all transactions from January 1, 2003 through January 31, 2003.

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance	\$3,982.82
Check #1243 Cindy Seff (fur donation)(94.85)	
Check #1244 Mike Burris (supplies)(143.43)	
Check #1246 WCC Dues.....	(100.00)
Check #1247 Common Ground.....	(122.00)
Check #1249 Eric Vidana (raffle).....	(26.00)
Check #1250 Scott Breseman (raffle)(63.84)	
Check #1251 Tally Ho - calls	(78.85)
Deposit 1/8 (Dues).....	403.00
Ending Balance 12/31/97	\$3,741.70

PETTY CASH

Petty Cash Beginning Balance	\$53.53
Call Sales & Raffles	107.51
Deposit to Checking	(75.00)
Petty Cash Ending Balance	\$86.04
Total Cash 12/31/97	\$3,827.74

INVENTORY

Crit'r Call Magnum	3 ..@.....	\$10.00
Crit'r Call Song Dog	8 ..@.....	\$18.00
Crit'r Call Standard	2 ..@.....	\$9.00
Crit'r Call PeeWee.....	6 ..@.....	\$9.00
Crit'r Call Reeds.....	20 ..@.....	\$1.50
Tally-Ho.....	26 ..@.....	\$8.00
Tally-Ho Reeds	115 ..@.....	\$1.50
Tally-Ho Inserts.....	261 ..@.....	\$0.25
Lanyards.....	0 ..@.....	\$3.00
Knife Sheath.....	2	
T-Shirts.....	41 ..@.....	\$12.00
Caps	13 ..@.....	\$15.00
WCCC Caps	49 ..@.....	\$20.00
Decals	1,967 ..@.....	\$1.00
Total Inventory		\$4,355.75
Total Assets		\$8,183.49
Total Liabilities		(\$0.00)
Net Worth		\$8,183.49

APC VIDEO LIBRARY

The following individuals have videos checked out:

- 3/8/01.....Robert Coker..... Black Bear
- 11/14/02.Alex Schepers..... Callin' Bears
- 1/9/03.....Jose Valencia..... Calling All Coyotes
- 1/9/03.....Jose Valencia..... Callers of the Wild
- 9/12/02...Alex Schepers..... Giants of the Forest
- 12/9/02...Fred Johnson.. Hounds, Bows and Boars
- 1/9/03.....Jose Valencia....Power Howling Coyotes
- 1/9/03.....Jose Valencia..... Tree Lounge Trophies
- 1/9/03.....Jose Valencia ..Truth #1 Predator Hunter



PROGRAM DIRECTOR

by Scott Breseman, Program Director

I hope everyone enjoyed January's general meeting with guest speaker Tice Supplee of the *Arizona Game & Fish Department* and her presentation on javelina. Her seminar has become an annual event. Each time she speaks to our club she has some new insight or information on javelina or hunting javelina. Thanks again Tice. The Power Point presentation was outstanding.

February's general meeting will focus on first aid and an introduction to CPR. Our guest speaker is from the *Mesa Fire Department*. The presentation will center on outdoors first aid, cuts, falls, and gunshots. The CPR portion will be a refresher and introduction, with emphasis on outdoor scenarios. After a couple close calls, and one fatality, APC felt it was time to bring this education to our members. I hope to see you there.

In March of this year we will make our trip out to Griffin Ranch just north of Globe, AZ for the *Arizona Game & Fish Adopt-A-Ranch Program*. The *Arizona Predator Callers* have participated in this program for five years now. We will continue to show our support for this program by going out to the ranch and cleaning the main access road that goes through the ranch. The purpose of this program is two parts. First we maintain the sometimes strained relationship between the ranching and sporting communities by demonstrating not all sportsmen are slobbs & we pick up after ourselves. Second we give back to the environment.

So many people say sportsmen are the main conservationists and think that by making a cash donation they are conservationists. The truth is, money is easy. Writing a check is simple and doesn't take any significant effort. The *Adopt-A-Ranch Program* is a simple and effective way to have a significant impact on the environment by removing trash from a high use area. But, it requires taking time.

Now for the good news, this is only a 1/2 day activity. Your afternoon is totally free. Now for the best part, we have forty four young students from *Arizona Project Challenge* who will be coming out to help us with our conservation project. There will be small staff from *Arizona Project Challenge* to supervise and transport the students. We will have an opportunity to meet these young people and discuss with them the importance of conservation, why hunting and fishing are important, and how sportsmen play a huge role in the ecosystem. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in a young person's life. Who knows, you might meet your next hunting partner.

We will need twenty club members to come out and meet these young people and participate in the ranch clean up along side with them. The APC will furnish all the trash bags, equipment, drinks, and a hot

lunch. Please contact me to let me know you are interested. The *Arizona Game & Fish, Arizona Project Challenge* and I are coordinating the dates right now so, stand by for the date announcement.

See you all at the next meeting,

Breeze

AWARDS CHAIR REPORT

by Willard Bourquein

Sure would be nice to get a few reports on what people are doing.

January for me has been another December. Had a tooth cut out, got the flu *again*, and haven't been huntin' since November!!

One day last year I was calling in the mountains, my partner and I are setup along a wash that wanders way up in some high country. I'm kind of up on a knob, my partner was down the wash 60 yards. Been callin' 2 to 3 minutes when this loud *growl-all-all* sound comes echoing down the canyon. *What in the world was that?* We just waited a few minutes before calling again. A minute or two goes by, then *growl-all-all!* Now the hair on the back of my neck is standing straight up! *WOW! What a sound!, and it's getting closer!* I'm thinking its got to be a bear or lion to be making that much noise and that loud. This ol' Snowbird hasn't ever heard anything like that before! Calling some more, and *growl-all-all...* Unbelievable how that echos back and forth across the valley! Sure hope I get to see what it is... it's getting closer! I turned to face the direction the sound is coming from, and take the safety off the shotgun... *I'm ready!*

Call some more, *growl-all-all...* Man, is he mad or what? What'll I do if it's a lion? What if it's a bear?

Just then I get a glimpse of some movement in the bushes across the wash up on the bank about 80 yards away. Suddenly something jumps up on to a big rock out in the open, *growl-all-all!* You could have knocked me over with a feather, this big bellowing growling sound was coming out of a little ol' grey fox! If I hadn't seen it for myself, I'd have never believed it. How something that small could make so much noise seems impossible.

The crack of my partners rifle shook me back to my senses and the fox rolled off of the rock.

Call 'em in close!

Willard



BIGHORN

by Dennis Slade, Member

July is a special month, it has the dubious distinction of being the time of year when we find out whether we've been good or bad the previous year; if the big game Santa brought us any tags. I have learned not to get my hopes up, as my getting any good tags is just not meant to be. This past July I learned that I must not have behaved very well as I went 0 for 6! At work or church I would run into a few friends that had Kaibab tags, antelope tags and even a few with bull tags. One neighbor down the street told me that he drew a sheep tag in the Kofas. I didn't really believe him at first but then as fall came, I noticed that he was gone every weekend- he even bought a jeep. His F-250 would be in his driveway, loaded with camping gear on Thursday night and would then reappear Sunday night covered with dust and dirt. I guess I finally believed him.

The second week of December came and Ted (the lucky neighbor) asked me if I would go back to the Kofas with him the next weekend. Of course, who could pass up a sheep hunt? Thursday evening found us bouncing along a dirt road in the Kofa Game Range south of Vicksburg Junction. It was hard to tell what the country was really like in the dark. Brown moonscape was how it appeared that first night. The only visible vegetation was in the washes we crossed. A few ironwood trees and a Jojoba bushes seemed to be the mainstay of fauna. I was worried if anything more than gila monsters or scorpions lived out here. As we rounded a bend I saw the glow from a lantern. It was one of the other 'luckies' that were sheep hunting. We stopped and caught up on the latest going-ons in the unit- two sheep had been killed and there were 3 to go. It was about 9:00 PM before we climbed out of a wash and pulled into Ted's camp. It was just as he had left it; the big white wall tent a stark contrast to the drab desert landscape. The jeep was still parked under the lone ironwood tree. This was certainly a welcome sight after 2 hours of rough roads.

We straightened out camp and turned in for the night. It was so quiet that I had to pinch myself to see if I was really there! Even though it was mid December, it was quite pleasant and I had to unzip my sleeping bag that had endured so many late season hunts- in quite different weather. Dawn found us on top of a long black ridge that seemed to stretch forever. I set up my 16x70 binocular and Ted his 15x56's. Small optics need not apply for this job- this was vast country. We never found a sheep closer than a mile away and made the 10x40 Zeiss binocular around my neck almost unneeded! By 9:00am we had located 3 rams. The closest looked good- but then the hardest part of sheep hunting is judging horns. This is where a real sheep guide can earn his wages. I can tell an average coues buck from a nice one and 'guesstimate' the score within a few points. I can do the same on a bull elk or a muley buck. Sheep are another matter all together. All I could tell was that it was a "nice ram."

Cody (Ted's 15-year-old son) and I watched as Ted took off on a stalk. He made it to the sheep and was separated by 200 yards of solid rock when the ram bolted to his feet and began looking around. Within a few moments he took of, zigzagging across the rugged arroyos and coming right at Cody and I. Ted never had a chance! Dang these things were spooky and seemed to have a 6th sense. The ram was right below us now, coming up a wash. I figured it would be an easy shot for Cody or I (again dreaming about tags of our own). I got the range finder out and picked him up behind a Palo Verde. 650 yards-so much for an "easy shot" and we were just dreaming anyway as Ted was a mile away with no idea what had just happened.

Eventually he saw the game was up and trudged back to the ridge. He sat down and got back to work behind the big 15's. It was nearly dark before we found another ram-or sheep period. Again it was at least a mile away. We put this ram to bed and slipped off the ridge. I walked back to camp in the dark as Ted went and found the jeep. I beat him back. We decided to stalk this new ram first thing in the morning.

Cody and I went back to the ridge to watch the show. Ted headed straight for the sheep's rock fortress. We found the ram immediately, not 20 feet from where we saw him the night before. Cody and I watched him until our eyes were going to bug out. I finally saw the flash of a reflection from behind a palo verde tree. It had to be Ted. Cody and I had noticed how easy it was to spot him during the stalk the day before. Nothing in sheep country reflects sun- the shiny bluing on his rifle and scope did! We didn't dare take our eyes off the ram as if Ted shot and missed- we wanted to see where the sheep ram off to hide.

I knew his rifle was sighted in as I had done it myself on Thursday morning. Ted mentioned that he had dropped the rifle during the previous week and wasn't sure it was still sighted in. I found that it was off 3 feet at 200 yards! Sheep hunting is hard on equipment. I corrected this and sighted it be dead on at 300 yards- just what Ted wanted. At least two hours had gone by when I noticed a puff of dust kick up by the sheep. I told Cody that his dad had just taken a shot. We just figured that he was too far away to here the report from his rifle. About 8-9 seconds after I saw the dust we heard the shot. We were obviously a long ways off!

After several shots it was obvious that the ram had been hit. It finally bedded and we started over to find Ted. Cody and I crossed a large wash and looked for a way up onto the rock this ram called home. Once up on the rock, I was amazed at the sheep sign. It literally reeked of sheep! We followed a trail across the face of the mountain and finally scrambled up to the top. We peeked over the top and found the sheep was down. After a photo session we dressed it and carried it to the wash we had crossed. Ted had killed a nice ram within 300 yards of a road, now that's not often done while sheep hunting. I can't ever even get a deer that close to a road! The walk back to camp was anticlimactic.

You can't really appreciate the beauty of

a desert bighorn until you have spent some time with them. I had but two days. Ted had ten. It was somewhat emotional to bring this hunt to an end. Months of scouting, hundreds of hours of staring through binoculars and hundreds of miles of dusty hot roads and trails- it was finally over. I can't wait to do it again. I'm sure Ted is glad he doesn't have to.

Sheep hunting is unlike any other hunting. We never saw any game animals other than sheep. They can walk effortlessly in country that we flatlanders need a rope and a pile of carabiners just to stay alive. They will wear out your boots and tear out your eyes, but will make a memory you will never forget. Come to think of it, the only bad thing about this sheep hunt is that I never saw a single coyote the whole time!



MY ELK HUNT DREAM

by Fred Johnson, Member

I have been fortunate enough to pull four big game tags over the last ten years. As a result, I thought I had a pretty good idea of what is necessary to prepare for these hunts particularly since with each hunt and its preparation you learn something new that adds to your routine. You know what I mean, you figure how many extra water jugs, ice, the amount of food (cans of stew that is) and types of clothing required to handle a variety of weather changes it takes to survive in the woods for 5 or 6 days. All of this is in consideration of having to do your cooking, bathing, dressing etc. either in the elements, the back of a pickup truck or tent. I have even discovered that one of those solar shower bags actually does a decent job of cleaning you up after hiking in the woods for three or four days.

This year when I received notification of my draw of an early cow elk tag, I was very pleased, especially since my wife Kathie said we were on the last few packages of elk meat in our freezer. This would be a moonless hunt. I was more excited when a hunting partner was also drawn for the exact same hunt. Tom had provided valuable assistance to me on an archery bull elk hunt three years prior. On that hunt we had to hand carry the elk pieces over the mountainside after dark. That day of hunting began at 5:30am and ended about 11:30 P.M. I owed him a favor for his assistance.

The Sunday before this years hunt we met at his house to discuss all the necessary details. When we got to the subject of

food he says "What kind of ice cream do you want?" I said "what"? I was accustomed to heating my morning coffee on the tailgate of the truck I had just slept in and this guy is talking ice cream! He says "Yup, got a freezer in the motorhome." And that's the way it went. We had soft beds, a heater, a stove, a refrigerator and yes, of course, ice cream.

The weather was unsettled the day before the hunt being windy, cold, some snow accumulation on the ground and overcast skies. The clouds dissipated by evening, the wind died down and the evening was crisp with a nice frost by morning.

We awoke Friday morning early, turned on the heater, had breakfast and coffee and were off hunting before daylight. Since I owed Tom a favor from my prior bull elk hunt I put him in the lead so he would have first opportunity. We hunted non-stop from early morning thru the woods, up and down ridges, over mountainous terrain. We tracked a couple of bugling bulls for several hours, encountered a few cows but no opportunity for a harvest, until 4:00pm. We topped a ridge and there was a herd of 10 cows. Tom quickly harvested a nice mature cow.

As many of you well know, this is the point where the real hard work begins. Field dressing, skinning and properly quartering the elk took us right to dark. Several packs of coyotes starting yelping no more than a quarter of a mile away and we figured our best plan is to haul the meat down into a small valley nearby and hang the quarters in a pine tree until we could return. After this we hiked back up the mountain, over the ridge and into camp a mile and a half away in total darkness.

We drove around to the east end of that small valley where Tom was able to run his ATV a mile up it to retrieve his elk. Needless to say we were plenty tired and both commented that we were happy that I didn't get an elk out of that herd also or we would have had to spend the night preparing and guarding our elk.

But the next day we spent boning Tom's entire elk and of course cooked fresh elk tenderloins over the camp fire and had ice cream for dessert (Butter Pecan).

Sunday morning we again were awake early and started to our destination before daylight. I took the lead for this hunt and Tom was carrying a video camera. We had not been out 45 minutes, just at sunrise I spot a nice mature cow and then a five point bull. In a few minutes I had worked my way to a better position and waited for the cow to move into position. Good fortune was with me, she quartered left and I harvested a nice mature cow. Then the hard work began on my hunt. The nice thing of my hunt was that I was able to drive thru the woods where we could load the elk into the back of my truck (a first for me). Taking the elk back to camp only a short distance away we field dressed, skinning and quartered it for further processing.

Of course, it was another night of elk tenderloin over the camp fire and you guessed it Butter Pecan for dessert.

The only trouble is this hunt has spoiled me. Kathie now believes me that a ATV is necessary for the next elk hunt and although I won't be buying a motorhome a small travel trailer may also be a necessity (got to have that Butter Pecan!)

GOLIGHTLY REAPPOINTMENT by Pete Cimellaro

My views on the Golightly reappointment to the AG&F Commission:

Many of you have asked my personal opinion on the Golightly nomination process. I have great misgivings about Mr. Golightly's reappointment to a third term. Most of that concern comes from the fact that I do not believe any Commissioner should ever serve three terms. Only rarely should any Commissioner serve a second term.

Over the years, all of us have witnessed the evolution of Game & Fish Commissioners. New members come to the Commission and learn through on the job experience, which often is an indoctrination under fire from the G & F, Sportsmen, Politics, Finances, Anti's etc. It's a very tough job. You really wonder why any of them would want to stay around for another term. Some of those who do stay for a second term are to be commended for their devotion.

Perhaps Commissioners stay for a second term because they feel like they've just got started and still have a lot of things to fix. Armed with an additional five years they can do what they need to and finish the job. Reality tells us, the very nature of this job dictates that it will never be done. The issues will change but the problems will never go away, they will just change like the issues themselves.

I believe an appointment to a second term is actually where many problems can begin. Commissioners often become entrenched, indoctrinated and immovable in their thinking. Some have been there, done that and know what's best. Some come back because they have an agenda, a mission, it becomes their quest to leave a legacy. What hurts most is that they can lose their objectivity and creativity in solving the important problems of Arizona's wildlife.

These are my observations only. They come from my experience of serving on Boards of Directors of state and national organizations. I also have started several organizations, and then left them to others to continue to build. Get in, get it started, then get the hell out of the way and let it grow. Make your contributions while you ideas are fresh, your vigor is high and your reasons are true.

On to the process itself!

You have to wonder about the entire pro-

cess we just went through. We have a person nominated to a third term. A person who said he had no interest in serving a third term? And yet this same individual from the very beginning worked in earnest, behind the scenes, to get that third nomination. He was successful in utilizing very influential friends close to the Napolitano administration to make it happen. I have no problem with that, except for the part of saying one thing and privately doing another.

I believe Mr. Golightly should have stated to all of us that he wanted to serve a third term. I can only wonder why he chose to take the tact he used. Did he believe he wouldn't have support? One certainly can't argue with the success of his plan, only question if it was necessary and also wonder what other issues he might choose to address in this manner.

The Napolitano administration made things considerably worse! If I were politically correct, I guess I could say that it was the transition (Hull to Napolitano) that should be blamed for the poor communication as to who was even in the running for the Commission seat. The reality is, when contacted, Mario Diaz's office faxed me three names. Those names were Blaine Bickford, Virginia Reidel, and Clair Harris. According to his office these were the only nominees who had sent their letters and resumes into the Governor!

Later investigations and conversations led me to Margaret Pyle, Don Martin, W. Linn Montgomery and Jim Babbitt, but never did I hear or see the name of Mike Golightly. If the Governor's office was concerned about an interested public being involved in this process they most certainly would have made available an accurate list of possible nominees. This leads me to only one conclusion, the Governor had already made her choice and any effort to publicly expose the full list of nominees might just make her nomination of Mr. Golightly more difficult.

This Governor is certainly not any different than past Governors when it comes to appointing people to Boards and Commissions. To use an over used cliché, It is not what you know, it's who you know! In this case the Governor's office has done all of us a great disservice. I believe it would have been in the best interest of the state's wildlife to have comments and support for all of the candidates considered for nomination to the Game & Fish Commission. I also believe it would have been fair to all of the candidates if the Governor's office had provided a complete list, so that organizations and individuals could have made informed comments and recommendations.

If you have concerns about what has happened, or concerns about the nominee, you have options. You can let the Governor know we should have had a complete list of nominees. You can participate in the confirmation process and either support or oppose the nominee. You can also sit and

do nothing and let good government continue just the way it is.

Pete Cimellaro

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