



# AzAA *Matter of Fact*

Summer 2022 Edition

## Spring Conference Recap

### 2022 ANNUAL "DUTCH BERTHOLF" SPRING CONFERENCE

Contributed by Jenny Watts, C.M., Sr. Aviation Planner, Dibble

After a two-year postponement due to COVID, the AzAA "Dutch Bertholf" Spring Conference took place May 1 – 3, 2022, at the lovely Omni National Golf Resort in Marana. The conference was co-hosted by Pinal County, home to San Manuel Airport and Pinal Airpark, and the Town of Marana, home to the Marana Regional Airport. This was the first in-person Spring conference since the 2019 event held in Laughlin, NV.

As one can imagine, the atmosphere was jovial and optimistic, as our members once again had the opportunity to catch up and network with old and new friends and associates alike.

AzAA would like to thank the Board of Directors, the Spring Conference Planning Committee, and all the other volunteers and sponsors who made this year's conference a huge success! Please visit the AzAA website for additional photos. We look forward to seeing you all again next year in Flagstaff! *(continued on next page)*



## Calendar of Events



**JUL 21**  
2022

AzAA Board Meeting

**JUL 21**  
2022

Summer Mixer  
(Location: Falcon Field)

**OCT 5-6**  
2022

AzAA Fall Conference  
(Location: Desert Willow)

## In this Issue

PAGE 1-2

2022 Annual "Dutch Bertholf" Spring Conference Recap

PAGE 4

Stinknet: A noxious weed species and safety hazard

PAGE 5

2022 AzAA Scholarship Winners

PAGE 3

2022 AzAA Awards of Excellence

PAGE 5

ADOT Update

PAGES 6

President's Corner

# Spring Conference Recap (continued)

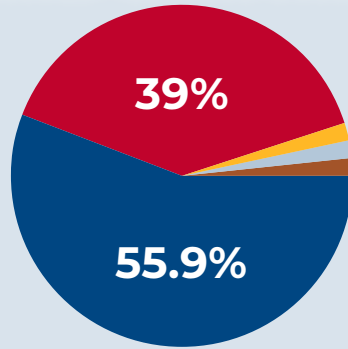
## 2022 ANNUAL "DUTCH BERTHOLF" SPRING CONFERENCE

Here are some highlights from the event:

### 1 Attendance

**167** TOTAL ATTENDEES

**15** EXHIBITORS



#### ATTENDEE TYPE

- Airport Professional
- Corporate Professional
- Government Administrator
- Pilot and Arizona Pilots Association Member (Airport Passport Program)
- ADOT

### 2 Sessions

**11** TOTAL SESSIONS

#### CONFERENCE WELCOME SPEAKERS:

Ed Honea, Mayor – Town of Marana  
Jeffrey McClure, Pinal County Supervisor – District 4

#### Top 4 Sessions Most Enjoyed by Attendees:

##### SESSION 5

In Plain Sight:  
Uncovering the  
Secret History of  
Pinal Airpark

##### SESSION 6

Fraud Investigations  
of Construction  
Projects

##### SESSION 7

FAA UPDATE

##### SESSION 8

Blue Lightning  
Initiative

### 3 AzAA Board of Directors Election Results

President – *Matt Smith*  
Grand Canyon National Park Airport

First Vice President – *Jeff Webbe*  
Buckeye Municipal Airport

Second Vice President – *Sarah Demory*  
City of Phoenix Aviation Department

Past President – *Scott Brownlee*  
Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority

Executive Director – *Chris Andres*  
Chandler Municipal Airport

Executive Director – *Alice Bimrose*  
City of Phoenix Aviation Department

Executive Director – *Dave Reffner*  
City of Casa Grande

Executive Director – *Ed Rose*  
Sedona-Oak Creek Airport

Associate Director – *Joel Ericson*  
RS&H

Associate Director – *Brandon Robinson*  
Kimley Horn and Associates

Corporate Director – *Jeffrey Flemming*  
ADM Group, Inc.

### 4 Special Awards Winners and Events

#### "LOEV BRUCE" BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT



1st Place Winner – Brian Howard, CEI

Pool Guppy Award – Crystal Garcia, C&S Companies

#### INAUGURAL JIM MCCUE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

1st Place Team  
**Score of 52**  
Greg Mead  
Michael Hunter  
Victor Palma  
Byron Chavez



2nd Place Team  
**Score of 56**  
John Nameth  
Randall Sondreal  
Jared Bass  
Jeffrey Tripp

Ladies Long Drive – Gladys Brown

Mens Long Drive – Keegan Abele

Closest to the Pin – Erich Kloetzer

Longest Putt – Mike Smejkal

50/50 Raffle – Colin Wheeler



#### AIRPORT TOUR

Pinal Airpark, led by Jim Petty,  
Pinal County Airports Director

# **Excellence Award** Winners

## **AIRPORT EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR**



**Brian O'Neill, A.A.E.**, who currently serves as Executive Director and CEO at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority (PMGAA), was awarded Airport Executive of the Year. He joined PMGAA in 2015 and prior to that worked at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport for twenty years. He serves on the Board for the Mesa Chamber of Commerce, Visit Mesa, East Valley Partnership, and Tempe Tourism Board. Under Mr. O'Neill's leadership Gateway Airport has experienced unprecedented recovery from the pandemic, setting records for five of the last seven months. 2021 was Gateway Airport's second-best year on record with 15 new destinations added. PMGAA also announced that Gulfstream Aerospace would be making the largest private investment in airport history by building a \$70, million 250,000 square-foot MRO facility. In addition, he led the announcement and recruitment of a master developer for Gateway East, a 400-acre non-aeronautical, mixed-use development that will begin in 2022. Brian is an active member of AzAA, testifying in the Arizona legislature in support of AzAA issues, and encourages staff membership. Finally, Brian supports an internship with ASU Polytechnic and the Mesa Leadership Program as well as a just-announced partnership with ASU on an airport student volunteer program.



## **CORPORATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

**Charlie McDermott, LEED AP**, was named 2022 Corporate Member of the Year. Mr. McDermott is the Aviation Planning Manager at Dibble. In his 35 years working in the aviation consulting industry, Charlie has worked at over 100 airports, from general aviation to large hub commercial service, in 17 different states. Since moving to Arizona over 10 years ago he has been active with AzAA twice serving as Corporate Director. Charlie specializes in airport planning and environmental issues at airports, especially as it relates to FAA requirements and grant funding. Of note he created a vision for sustainable airport master planning and worked with his client at Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport (New York) to develop a master plan fully incorporating sustainability into the planning process. This master plan project was nationally recognized. In Arizona he has led Master Plan projects at both Prescott Regional Airport and Buckeye Municipal Airport as well as serving as the President of the Scottsdale Airport Advisory Commission.



## **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**



**Alice Bimrose, A.A.E., ACE**, received the President's Award and is Special Projects Administrator in the Facilities & Services Division at City of Phoenix Aviation Department. Ms. Bimrose has worked for the City for over 24 years in Public Relations, Capital Management, Design & Construction, Business Office, Directors Office, and HR. Before joining the City she worked in private and non-profit organizations. Alice has been a member with AzAA since 2003 and has served on the Board since 2019. She's also consistently active with both SWAAAE and WTS. She has served on multiple conference committees and chaired the 2022 AzAA Spring Conference Committee. Alice is an Accredited Airport Executive and Airport Certified Employee. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Marquette University and a Master's Degree in Human Resources Development from Ottawa University-Phoenix. She continues her work on the AzAA board now consistent with her tireless commitment to our industry.



# Stinknet:

## A NOXIOUS WEED SPECIES AND SAFETY HAZARD

Article contribution: Eleanor Gladding, SWCA Environmental Consultants

When most people think about the problem with noxious weeds, the first thing that comes to mind is the ecological impacts that they cause, such as outcompeting native species; however, a recent invader also presents human safety hazards. Stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*), also known as globe chamomile, is an annual plant with globe-like, yellow flowers and finely dissected leaves. Flowering usually occurs from November through April. It is native to South Africa and was first detected in California. In the past several years, it has invaded most of the Phoenix metro area, and it has started to invade the Tucson area. Currently, detections have been verified in most of the state. In 2020, the Arizona Department of Agriculture listed stinknet as a noxious weed species under Arizona Administrative Code R3-4-245.



The human safety concerns associated with this species include skin rashes and burns resulting from contact with the plant and, when the plant is flowering, eye irritation and breathing difficulties. It also burns readily and releases smoke that can cause eye irritation and breathing problems.

Treatment and control options include hand pulling the plant while wearing gloves, bagging it, and disposing of it at a landfill, or treating the plant with herbicides before it flowers. Current herbicide recommendations include:

- Pre-emergent Recommendations: Simazine 4L is recommended as a pre-emergent control of stinknet in residential areas. All label rates and restrictions must be followed and Simazine 4L must be applied by a commercial applicator.
- Pre-flowering Recommendations: Glyphosate with seed oil adjuvant is recommended as a post-emergent control of stinknet up to the flowering stage in wildlands, roadsides, and industrial and residential areas. Label rates and restrictions must be followed.

### Additional information on stinknet:

- [http://www.sdcwma.org/docs/Desert\\_Invaders.pdf](http://www.sdcwma.org/docs/Desert_Invaders.pdf)
- <https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=739974>
- <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/desert-defenders>
- <https://tucsonaudubon.org/stinknet/>
- <https://agriculture.az.gov/pestspest-control/agriculture-pests/noxious-weeds>

## MORE FROM THE 2022 ANNUAL “DUTCH BERTHOLF” SPRING CONFERENCE

AzAA would like to extend special thanks to Kristi Miller for making herself, and her camera, available throughout the conference. The high-quality photos throughout this newsletter are courtesy of her.



# Updates from ADOT



**Matthew Munden,**  
*Aeronautics Group  
Manager*

- Aeronautics is expecting Board approval on its FY23 5-year ACIP by the end of June
- The FY23 SL program includes 20 grants at \$11.1M
- The FY 23 APMS program includes 28 grants at \$5.0M.
- The State Airports System Plan is set at \$1M in FY23
- We received the Aero Charts and will have them sent out to each airport by the end of June
- The heavy monsoon season has affected the construction timing of a few APMS '21 projects. The remaining APMS '21 construction projects will be completed in the spring and summer of 2022.
- The Triennial Study has been awarded is underway, with completion estimated at December 2022.
- We have funding to match FSL grants from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

## AzAA Scholarship Winners

### MARTY ROSNESS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

*We are pleased to announce to recipients of the AzAA sponsored Marty Rosness Scholarship.*



**Olivia Sparks** is graduating from ASU with a Bachelors degree in Airport Management. She has been actively involved in aviation over the past few years as a volunteer at Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport. She has also worked for Mesa Airlines and has been involved in AzAA and SWAAAE.

*Both Olivia and Johnathan have bright futures ahead of them and will each receive a \$1,250 scholarship award. Congratulations!!!*



**Johnathan Wang** will be graduating from Embry Riddle with a degree in Aviation Management. He has also been actively involved in the aviation field by working for JetSuite X and Monterey Jet Center. He also served as an intern at the LAX Airport Police Division. He has also been actively involved in AAAE.

# President's Corner

## AzAA PRESIDENT:



**Matt Smith,**  
Arizona  
Airports  
Association  
President  
2022-2023

## AzAA Contacts

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My mentor at Arizona State University was a grand old gentleman named Larry Gessell. Larry shared a story about how when he was the manager of an airport, no one in his community saw much value in the airport. No one believed that the airport was an economic engine. No one believed that the airport served anyone in the town other than the slim demographic of flyers. He wanted to prove them wrong. So one day Larry bought a bottle of Hai Karate, cheap cologne so bad that even I wouldn't wear it. Larry gave every bill in the cash register a little spritz and when new bills came in, he spritzed those, too. A month or so later, the town council had a meeting and numerous citizens complained about the money in town smelling like a disco. The stinky money was in the bookstore, all the restaurants and coffee shops, the grocery stores, you name it and every place of business in town had these Hai Karate dollars. Larry stood up and admitted that he was a culprit. Every malodorous dollar in that town was a dollar that came through the airport and was taken by a regular consumer into the greater marketplace. The townsfolk still weren't happy about the fragrant money, but the message was loud and clear: this airport is important to this community. Larry proved with this anecdote what we all know in our gut: Airports, despite being owned and operated by governments, are important *businesses*.

I just finished a book called *How to Navigate the Boom/Bust Cycle* by Murray Sabrin, a retired business professor at Ramapo College. Two things stood out. First, he had a graph that showed that every time the bond yield curve inverts (when the two-year bond pays more interest than the 10-year bond) a depression or recession follows within 12-18 months. The yield curve inverted in April 2022, so we may have the opportunity to seek alternative sources of revenue soon. The second thing that caught my attention was the word *intrapreneur*. An intrapreneur is a person or team inside of a staid organization that has the freedom and wherewithal to take risks and innovate. As soon as I saw that, I knew that airport managers fall into that category—or at least we should.

We intrapreneurs can take our knowledge that a recession is imminent and seek opportunities to create and innovate at our airports. Perhaps now is the time for you to have the airport take over the FBO. Instead of earning a small fuel flowage fee, you could earn an amount well over wholesale. The same goes for hangars. Now might be the time to convince your governing body that you must build hangars and t-shades. The waiting list is a mile long. That's an opportunity to profit by giving customers what they desperately want: covered aircraft parking. An airport can increase revenue much more by building and leasing hangars than you can by leasing raw land and having a private party build and lease hangars. Control your own fate regardless of what is happening at the macroeconomic level.

It can be hard to become an intrapreneur. You will face resistance from people who like the status quo. It can be also be hard to lose money year after year. Choose your hard. People in your organization may resist your efforts to find alternative streams of revenue. They may resent your creativity, drive, and innovation. However, there will also be people who deeply appreciate that in the face of challenges that are out of your control, you are moving forward with ideas and actions that will make your airport the economic engine that your sponsor needs it to be.



Matt Smith and Scott Brownlee

Matt Smith

Arizona Airports Association President 2022-2023