

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2006 – FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY



Charles and Sandy after receiving the George B. Fell Award at the Natural Areas Assoc. banquet

The year 2006 has been another active one for all members of our family. One highlight this year was a trip that Sandy and Charles took to a class reunion on the east coast. It had been over 40 years since he had been back in this part of the country and Sandy was seeing the area for the first time. It was good to see old friends and to get caught up on their many happenings. Throughout this past year, the three sisters have all lived together in Tempe, AZ, attending Arizona State University. Kale is living in Sacramento, CA teaching at Delta High School. He continues to mentor the FFA students and participates with them in county and state-wide fairs. He still enjoys hunting, and he and Charles pursued elk in Northern Arizona for a week this fall. Jacqueline returned from Washington and has plans for applying to



Carena, Kim, Jacque

the Nursing College at Arizona State University (ASU). She is currently studying for her nursing requisite exams and continues to make custom teddy bears through her internet-based business www.teddybearmemories.com. Kimberly is an art major in the Herberger School of Fine Arts at ASU, and has recently taken up jewelry making. Kim displays her work at art walks and/or music shows, and plans to further establish her art business throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area. You can see Kim's work at www.beyondthesidewalks.com/s/gallery.htm. Carena is in her final semester at ASU, studying outdoor recreation management and biology. Graduate school is right around the corner, and she is in the midst of applying to various programs, while preparing for her GRE's. This past year Carena worked as a caretaker at a chimpanzee behavioral research center, and currently works as a research assistant in the School of Community Resources and Development. She is conducting a research project with an ASU professor at Canyon de Chelly National Monument and intends to present her paper at the George Wright Society conference this coming April in Minnesota. For more, check out



Kale & Kula

www.carenavanriper.com. Sandy is still designing and hosting web sites around the world and is now working on several books. The white dove business also continues to grow with the start of the International White Dove Society (www.whitedovesociety.com) which she founded this year. Charles has spent this past year on a special USGS assignment in Washington DC, working on a Science Strategy Team that was charged with providing a document that outlined the future direction for research over the next 10 years in the USGS. He also continues at the Sonoran Desert Research station at the University of

Arizona, conducting research on neotropical migrant birds along river drainages in the Southwest. Charles and his graduate students are also working on bird parasites in the Verde Valley, bird response to invasive tamarisk in Arizona and New Mexico, the rapidly emerging avian influenza problem, and fire impacts on birds in National Parks on the Colorado Plateau. He fills his spare time with his gun collection and trading activities on www.homesteadfirearms.com. Charles was awarded the George B Fell Award this past year from the Natural Areas Association and was presented the award by his friend and colleague from Idaho, Mike Scott.



Halloween

It has been a wonderful year for us, and we are looking forward to seeing all the family back together in Tucson this Christmas. We do hope that this past year has been joyous and memorable for you and your loved ones. All of the van Rippers wish you a most joyful holiday season and a wonderful 2007. We also invite each of you, if you are in southern Arizona, to please stop by and visit us in Tucson.

Charles, Sandy, Kale (with Kula), Carena, Kim, and Jacque

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