

Come Experience The Outdoors At AZGFD's Outdoor Expo



Expo And 'Etc.' Ahead

By Carol L. Allen

As we move further into 2025, there are so many events to enjoy. Ahead are the always popular Arizona Game & Fish Expo, the wild and wonderful Renaissance Festival, and the thrilling and colorful Dragon Boat Races. And, there's so much more as the weather reaches "perfect" levels to get outdoors.

Although the Expo is next month, it's not too early to plan ahead to attend. When you are there, activities abound for all interests: from a kid's fishing pond to seminars on a plethora of wildlife species and outdoor sports to chances to test your skills in shooting sports. Prepare for a very active and informative visit.

Also in March dragon boats will race on Tempe Town Lake. These paddle craft have an interesting history, and it is fascinating to watch the competition between skilled, dedicated boaters. Each craft is also "eye candy" itself: colorful and unique.

Last, but by no means least, is the Ren Faire. This wild and wonderful event began early this month and remains a favorite crowd pleaser. As always, the jousting, artisans, and performers keep visitors enthralled February 1 through March 30. This year, if you have not yet attended this event, you might want to try The Pleasure Feast described on this page. It is truly something to be savored: delicious and full of raucous revelry.

Enjoy them all! ■

PORTS

2

DOWNSTREAM

Let's do February.

4

BOATING

A new year introduces new products.

7

TACKLE & TARGET

Waterfowl, quail seasons flying by.

12

WESTERN WILDLIFE

Learn about many at the AZGFD Expo.7

14

LAND CRUISING

Renaissance Festival returns.



PHOENIX — Your next fun-filled outdoor adventure begins at the Arizona Game and Fish Department's (AZGFD) annual Outdoor Expo on Saturday, March 29 and Sunday, March 30.

Located at the 1,650-acre Ben Avery Shooting Facility in north Phoenix, this popular event showcases Arizona's abundance of wildlife-related and outdoor recreation opportunities, including wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, shooting sports, camping, off-highway vehicle (OHV) and boating recreation, and more.

Expo hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. The Ben Avery Shooting Facility is located on Carefree Highway, one-half of a mile west of Interstate 17. Admission and parking are free.

"We're not aware of any other free event that combines conservation, recreation and industry into such a welcoming environment for the public," said Ty Gray, Game and Fish director. "This is where people can find plenty of hands-on activities, see educational exhibits, presentations, test and purchase the latest equipment and products, and connect with social organizations that can provide countless 'next step' experiences to support their outdoor passions."

So, what kind of outdoor fun and opportunities await Expo visitors? For starters, how about:

Throwing a line and getting hooked on fishing at the kids' fishing tank.

Meeting live wildlife ambassadors.

Engaging with experts about Arizona's wildlife, fishing, hunting, boating, off-highway vehicles, and more.

Experiencing a variety of shooting sports in a safe, supervised, controlled environment.

Visiting with more than 150 exhibitors, including outdoor recreation and conservation groups, government agencies, and commercial vendors of outdoor products and services.

Once again, the department's Presentations Tent in Area 3 (Outdoor Recreation) features an exciting lineup. This is where a different expert will share his or her outdoor "specialty" every hour, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Saturday and 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

EXPO, continued on page 17

Dragons Will ROAR In Tempe

Who would have thought that dragon boat racing, with its roots in southern China as an ancient folk ritual for the past 2,000 years, would find its way to a modern, man-made lake in the middle of the Arizona desert? Since emerging in modern times as an international sports event in Hong Kong in 1976, dragon boat racing has spread throughout the world.

Join the Arizona Dragon Boat Association on Saturday, March 29 and Sunday, March 30 for two days of exciting dragon boat competition with teams from all over the United States and beyond. (Practices are required for all paddlers on Saturday, March 15 and 22).

The excitement will be at Tempe Town Lake and Tempe Beach Park, 550 E. Tempe



Town Lake, Tempe, AZ 85281.

A dragon boat is a very long and narrow human powered boat used in the team paddling sport of dragon boat racing which originated in China. It may also be known as Dragon boating. While competition has taken place annually for more than 20 centuries as part of folk ritual, it emerged in modern

times as an international "sport" in Hong Kong in 1976. Like running, horse racing and marksmanship, the racing of dragon boats is among mankind's oldest organized competitions.

For more information on local clubs contact: **Arizona Dragon Boat Association** <http://azdba.org/> ■

There's A Pirate Brouhaha Happening At The Feast Hall!

Two feast events a day will be served on February 1 through March 30 (weekends and Presidents' Day).

There will be fearsome pirates with treasure chests of laughs to entertain you on this adventure along with upbeat music and sea-faring silliness for all at the loudest and most exclusive affair in the Festival Village of Fairhaven.

Food, frivolity, and five courses of delicious food and beverage are included for those at this limited attendance event held at the Festival's Feast Hall! It's all served with a side order of audacious pirate "Argh's." Pleasure Feast seating is limited with only two feast events a day: 12:00pm and 2:30pm

Would you like a seat at the most exclusive event within the Faire? Well, you are invited! The Royal Chef has charted a course for your taste buds! It's a Raucous Party!

Your Pleasure Feast ticket includes — Admission to the Renaissance Festival

(\$36 value)

A one and a half hour show featuring a five-course Pleasure Feast dinner

A limited edition souvenir toasting goblet to take home.

The Feast Hall has assigned seating. We would need to know in advance of your Feast date if you would like to sit next to your friends, co-workers, and/or group members.

Review the menu (before you make your purchase. (<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/64e662bf0d0816b7a195ef6/t/6679d-f9bf344691ff19b73e1/1719263131306/PF+MENU+25+FINAL.pdf>) (No other substitutions can be made aside from the vegetarian option.)

Please be aware that the **Pleasure Feast contains suggestive and risqué humor.**



The Fairhaven Feast Hall is also available for Private Events. ■

We Found These At 'Be Outdoors Arizona'!

Fall in Love with Fishing – Peoria Park Rangers

February 8 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Kids ages 0-17 are invited to enjoy a heartwarming day of fishing at Paloma park. Whether you are a budding angler or just looking to enjoy a new activity, this event is for you! Bring your love for adventure and make some sweet memories. Gear will be provided, do not let this opportunity float away. Register at Peoriaaz.gov/recreation or at (623)773-7137



Monthly Speaker Series (Desert Rivers Audubon Society)

February 11 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

We invite you and your family to join us for interesting, fun and educational topics from guest speakers each month! Join up in person or on Zoom! 775 N Greenfield Rd, Gilbert, AZ 85234, Phone 480-227-8332



Arizona Yacht Club Monthly Meeting

February 11 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Interested non-members and the general public are always welcome! Join us for dinner and conversation around sailing. Learn all about what our club has to offer. We schedule interesting speakers every meeting! 2000 E Rio Salado Pkwy Suite 1100 Tempe, AZ 85281, membership@arizonayachtclub.org

Desert FlyCasters Club

February 12 @ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Welcome to Desert Fly Casters 'Trout Bums Wanted', Our monthly meetings start with some social time to visit at 6:30 and at 7:00 we call to order and enjoy a speaker on different fishing related topics. Come join the fun, be come a member and enjoy our club outings! Chandler Elks Lodge #2429 B.P.O.E., 1775 W Chandler Blvd, Chandler.



Editor's Note: Please submit announcements for AZBW/WOT's calendar of events – "Downstream" – to editor@azbw.com. To guarantee placement, as room allows, items must be received by the tenth (10th) of the month prior to publication. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy, but we assume no responsibility for print errors or omissions. We also reserve the right to edit each item. Please include the name of the event, the date and time, the location, the organization, and contact information. You can also submit your event individually at westernoutdoortimes.com/classifieds.

Saturday Morning Guided Birding (Rio Salado Audubon)

February 15 @ 8:00 am - 9:00 am

First and third Saturday of the month at 8:00 am, January-April and September-December. Join our local bird enthusiasts for a guided bird walk through the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area! These walks are for everyone: experts, novices, and people who have never gone birding in their entire life. Phone: 602.468.6470 Email riosalado@audubon.org, [Nina Mason Pulliam](mailto:Nina.Mason.Pulliam@audubon.org) Rio Salado Audubon Center, 3131 S. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85040



Guided Bird Walks at Tonto Natural Bridge

February 17 @ 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Join a ranger on a ~1 mile, mostly paved, walk through some of the most biodiverse terrain in central Arizona. A combination of plant communities and habitats surrounding the world's largest travertine bridge supports a wide variety of bird species that call the park home and we will be searching for. Meets between the Waterfall Parking and Waterfall Trailhead. Bringing your own optics is encouraged! Event is free, day-use fee still applies. The day-use fee at Tonto Natural Bridge State Park is Adult (14+): \$7.00, Youth (7-13): \$4.00, Child (0-6): free, <https://azstateparks.com/tonto/events/bird-walk-at-tonto>

Recreational Area Cleanups

February 22 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Join us as we help keep our trails clean! Staging area is at the BLM Box Canyon trailhead, 1/4 mile past the 2nd river crossing on Rincon Road, unless otherwise noted. Garbage bags, pick sticks, latex gloves, buckets and reflective vests provided.



Bring work gloves and water. Organizations/businesses are needed to sponsor monthly cleanups. No funding is required, sponsors recruit 5 or more volunteers. Contact info@wickenburgtrails.org for more information. Phone 623-341-5977 [BLM Box Canyon trailhead](http://BLM.Box.Canyon.trailhead), Rincon Rd., Wickenburg



Lake Pleasant Monday Clean-Up Crew

February 24 @ 7:00 am - 9:00 am

Lake Pleasant is creating a Monday clean-up crew. If you are available on any Monday, please join us as we pick up litter along the shoreline. What should the volunteers bring? – Water, salty snacks and fruit (oranges are best for hot weather), hat, sunscreen, closed-toed shoes/boots made for uneven surfaces, sunglasses, and work gloves. What equipment will be provided? Some additional gloves are available, limited supply, litter pickers, and bags. Contact information of person-in-charge: Koy D. Mangan, Lake Pleasant Regional Park Supervisor, koy.mangan@maricopa.gov, 602-506-9555, <https://www.maricopacountyparks.net/events/lake-pleasant-monday-clean-up-crew11112024/>, To Register: <https://signup.com/go/wWCmsDW>,

Experience Outdoors At The Expo

March 29 AND 30

Your next fun-filled outdoor adventure begins at the Arizona Game and Fish Department's (AZGFD) annual Outdoor Expo on Saturday, March 29 and Sunday, March 30.

Located at the 1,650-acre Ben Avery Shooting Facility in north Phoenix, this popular event showcases Arizona's abundance of wildlife-related and outdoor recreation opportunities, including wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, shooting sports, camping, off-highway vehicle (OHV) and boating recreation, and more.

Expo hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. The Ben Avery Shooting Facility is located on Carefree Highway, one-half of a mile west of Interstate 17. Admission and parking are free. ■



THE CREW

Publisher Jim Allen
Editor Carol L. Allen
Production Angela Ogden
Outdoors Editor Margie Anderson
Shooting Sports Editor John Anderson
Special Features Writer Tom Cole
Distribution Steve Bazzar

Contributors

Arizona Game and Fish Department	John Kolezar
ASU Bass Team	Kelsee Haws
Arizona State Parks	Kip Pollay
AWA, AYC, BASS	Lisa Brookes-Haws
Becky Thompson	Lost Our Home
Bill Roecker	LPSC
BoatU.S.	Mary Syrett
Bureau of Reclamation	M.D.R. Proctor
Chelle Brookes	Margie Allen
Christi Brookes	Maxine Brookes
Daryl Horsman	Mike Brookes
Debbie Huntsman	National Park Service
DJ Proctor	NAU Athletics
Don McDowell	Patrick Horning
Ed Huntsman	Phoenix Power Squadron
Fur and Feather	Rory Aikin
Gloria Bryson	Rose and Ron Werner
Pyszka	SAPC
Henri Hurrier	Superstition Search & Rescue
Jack Innis	Tom Nunez
Jackson Bridges	Tonto National Forest
Jane Lemon Mott	USA Water Ski
Janet Bosley	Wayne Gustaveson
Jay Williams	
Jerry Tate	
John Campbell	

CONTACT US

7620 E. Mckellips Rd, Ste. 490
 Scottsdale, AZ 85257.
 Arizona: (480) 947-6219
azbw.com
westernoutdoortimes.com
floridaboatingandwatersports.com

MEMBERSHIPS



AWARDS



2008 & 2013 AZGFD Media of the Year
 2009 National Water Safety Congress Award of Merit
 2016 AZGFD Writer of the Year

THE FINE PRINT

The entire contents of "Arizona Boating & Watersports" and "Western Outdoor Times" are copyrighted ©2025 by Arizona Boating & Watersports, LLC. No part may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of the Publisher. All property rights to any advertisements produced for the advertiser by AZBW/WOT, using artwork and/or typography furnished or arranged by AZBW/WOT shall be the property of AZBW/WOT. No such ad or any part thereof may be reproduced or assigned without the consent of the publisher. Story ideas and photos are welcome. We do not assume responsibility for unsolicited material. The expressed views of our advertisers and contributors are presented for reader interest only. Publishing them neither constitutes endorsement by AZBW/WOT nor necessarily reflects the opinions of those involved with this publication.

Our waterways are ready, but are you?

To learn more about boating safely in Arizona visit www.azgfd.gov/boating or call: 623-236-7258

**Wear a life jacket.
Every trip.
Every time.**

Under state law, life jackets are required to be worn by children 12 years old and younger, but it's strongly urged that everyone wear one while on the water. Life jackets save lives.

Before heading out on the water, it's important that boaters check to ensure that their life jackets are in good condition and that they are the right size and fit for passengers. Look for:

- Any rips or tears
- Missing straps
- Broken fasteners
- Ensure that the flotation hasn't shifted.

Life jackets should be inspected each boating season due to the environment's impact on their materials and replaced if necessary.

Register Your Watercraft

Make sure your vessel's registration is current before heading out on the water! Skip the line and renew your watercraft registration online at www.azgfd.gov/boating



Arizona Game & Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086
602-942-3000 | www.azgfd.gov



The Great Outdoors Is Waiting

WE CAN HELP YOU GET THERE!

Kokopelli is your home-town, custom-trailer manufacturer.



kokopellitrailers.com

32240 West Bud Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85138 | 602.705.2164



Colorful Life Jackets Designed Just For Kids

Kids love water. But they often balk at wearing a PFD, so Bombora designed the Kids Life Vest. Colorful and comfortable, the USCG-approved Type III life jacket provides children with the protection they need whenever they're around water, even if it's poolside.

The Bombora Kids Life Vest provides 11 lbs. of flotation and comes in two sizes. The child model is approved for 30–50 lbs. with chest sizes 20" to 25". The youth version is designed for those 50–90 lbs. with chests 26" to 30".

Both Kids Life Vests feature a heavy-duty zipper and two belts with Delrin buckles to ensure a secure fit. A recovery loop is sewn onto the back of each vest to assist kids out of the water. The child model adds an adjustable leg strap for enhanced safety.

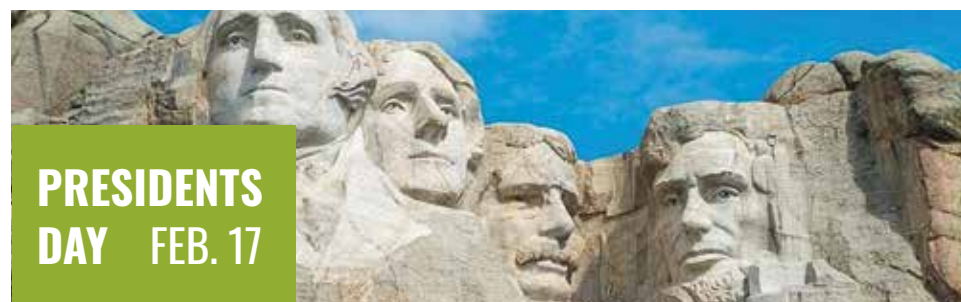
Unlike traditional blocky PFDs, Bombora Kids Life Vests have layers of soft, lightweight EPE foam that contour around the neck for maximum comfort. Roomy armholes provide freedom of movement for swimming and other activities.

Kids Life Vests are made with 200d and 300d polyester fabric that's soft to the



touch. Available in two color themes: blue and orange Sunrise and royal blue Tidal. They retail for \$58.

Contact local dealers or Bombora, 243 Oak St., Pembroke, MA 02359. 508-789-6522. sales@bomboragear.com; www.bomboragear.com; www.instagram.com/bomboragear; www.facebook.com/bomboragear; www.tiktok.com/@bomboragear.



PRESIDENTS DAY FEB. 17

James Jenista, DDS

Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Free Consultations

Plans for Non-Insured Patients

Skin Care Treatments
remove wrinkles, scars, and fine lines

Check out our Google Reviews

\$50 OFF

YOUR FIRST VISIT WHEN YOU MENTION ARIZONA BOATING & WATERSPORTS

Call today!

480.860.6000



10715 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Suite 102, Scottsdale
scottsdale-dentistry.com





Devon Carlock/Cottrell Contracting Corporation

Intracoastal Waterway dredge material is being used to create Bird Island at the Cumberland Dividings maintenance dredging project in Camden County, Georgia

AIWA Celebrates 25 Years; Faces New Waterway Challenges

Construction conflicts, beneficial spoil uses, dwindling repair access, pinched channel widths, dredging safety are on the agenda.

The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association (AIWA), the guardian and champion of the 1,100-mile historic and vital waterway from Norfolk, Virginia, to Key West, Florida, celebrated its quarter century anniversary at the organization's recent annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. Just 25 years ago, with shoaling threatening navigation, there was very little federal spending for dredging and harbor maintenance. Thanks to AIWA's efforts, in just the past three years, more than \$135 million has been allocated by Congress to maintain depths, improve navigation and support port infrastructure on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AICW).

However, new opportunities and challenges have arisen since the organization's founding.

"When we dredge today we just don't deepen a channel, but we also look to engineer and design a project with nature in mind, seeking beneficial uses for every grain of dredge material," said AIWA President Brad Pickel. "Dredged material used to go to beach and dune nourishment projects. That's still a consideration for nearby beaches, but we also now see material being utilized for wetland or tideland restoration behind barrier islands."

One newer challenge facing the AICW, also known as "America's Marine Highway 95," is the increasing pace of surface transportation projects, including necessary repairs to bridges over the waterway, which may not be well coordinated with the maritime community. A bridge repair or replacement project and the use of heavy equipment in the waterway can impede navigation.

"We want to hear from U.S. Coast Guard staffers when these surface transportation projects are being proposed so we can offer input to possibly minimize impacts to waterway users," said Pickel.

Another challenge may, ironically, have its origins in the waterway's own



Florida Inland Navigation District

Encroachment into the AICW's navigable channel by fixed or floating dock structures was one concern on the agenda at the recent AIWA annual meeting.

success story. As the AICW has gained footing as a desirable boating location, vacant residential waterfront lots are being developed – often to the edge of lot lines – hampering the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ability to reach the waterway to make repairs. "In many locations today there just aren't any more access points to allow dredge contractors or other commercial contractors through or to even set up a temporary work site," said Pickel.

Adding to the waterway's increasing popularity is channel encroachment by structures and boats, including residential piers, floating docks and berthed vessels. "In some locations, rafted-up boats are beginning to pinch the 90-foot-wide authorized width in land cut sections," said Pickel. "That's not a lot of room to maneuver in the first place, especially for commercial users and barge traffic." The channel's open-water authorized width is 150-feet.

Enhancing safety for all waterway users is also on the agenda. "We need to help educate recreational users about increasing safety near dredging operations for the well-being of boaters and dredge crews alike," said Pickel. "This includes pulling off plane and no-wake speeds when passing operations, and giving dredge pipes a wide berth."

Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) is a founding member of AIWA. For more information on AIWA, go to atlanticintracoastal.org. ■

Will Your Emergency PLB or EPIRB Work When You Need It?

Be sure to check the battery expiration date located on the case of your Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or EPIRB. Most sets have a 5 years replacement date.

WE CAN HELP!

Maritime Communications, Inc. is an authorized ACR Battery Replacement center.

Battery replacement and recertification can usually be done in 24 to 48 hours



CONTACT US TODAY

Maritime Communications, Inc.
766 Washington Blvd., Marina del Rey, CA. 90292
Tel: 310.821.4958 | maritimecomm.com
maritime@maritimecomm.com

BOXSCORE

covering sports from around the globe

WORLD SPORTSWIRE

boxscorenews.com



Boxscore News is a Division of Stryker Indigo New York

*Arizona
Color*

BOAT

WRAPS

ArizonaColorWraps.com

623.580.7386



*One Call
Wraps
it All*

VEHICLE WRAPS

ArizonaColorWraps.com

2040 West Deer Valley Road | Suite D | Phoenix | Arizona | 85027

NEW PRODUCTS

Hot Water, Even With Teens On Board

Most boats quickly run out of hot water, especially when teenagers are on board. With the Raritan 1700 Series Water Heater, there's more than enough for washing, bathing and post-swim rinse downs. Available in three sizes and with or without an engine power heat exchanger, its glass-lined tank and premium insulating layer provide impressive temperature retention.

The rust-proof 1700 Series Water Heater features a durable, rust-proof polymer jacket and replaceable magnesium anode for a long, trouble-free service life. High-density non-CFC foam provides a high R-value to keep water hot to 160° F. Mixed with boat-temperature pressurized water, the available 6, 12 and 20 gallon models offer an impressive delivery capacity. When empty, its recovery rate is a fast 13 GPH with the 115V heating element and 18 GPH with the 240V unit.

Every Raritan 1700 Series Marine Water Heater ships with an ignition-protected thermostat that's adjustable between 110° and 160° F, with a safety shutdown limit of 190°. The temperature and pressure valve is rated at 75 psi at 210° F, instead of the typical 150 psi, to protect the boat's plumbing.

The 1700 Series Water Heater is available with Raritan's innovative heat exchanger system. While the engine is running, its cooling system



heats the water with over seven feet of internal coils. Combined with the unit's heat retention, it makes building up hot water reserves fast and easy.

With plumbing fittings all on one side, installation of a Raritan 1700 Series Water Heater is easy, whether on new construction or retrofitting. Hot and cold water fittings are standard 3/4" male NPT, and the heat exchanger is 3/4" female NPT. Designed to fit into tight spaces, the 6-gallon model is 14.5" dia. x 16.25" H and weighs 36 lbs.; the 12 gal., 18.75" dia. x 16.25" H at 62 lbs.; and the 20 gal., 18.75" dia. x 24.25" H at 81 lbs. Hand-assembled and backed by Raritan's five-year warranty on the tank and two on the unit, MSRP starts at \$1,440.

Contact local dealers or Raritan, 530 Orange St., Millville, NJ 08332. 856-825-4900;

Fax: 856-825-4409. info@raritaneng.com; www.raritaneng.com. ■

STOW 'STUFF'
No matter what the style of boat, there's always miscellaneous gear around that needs to be secured. The new Hook Rack and Cascade Hooks from SeaSucker are an innovative way to add functionality to any vessel. Best of all, they mount temporarily, making them perfect for onboard items that need to be within reach, just not all the time. Contact local dealers or SeaSucker, LLC, 941-900-1850.

Cleats Preserve Deck's Sleek Appearance

Cleats are a necessary piece of hardware for any boat. That's why top boat builders choose Folding Cleats from Accon Marine. Innovatively designed to preserve a deck's sleek appearance, four sizes are offered to fit a wide range of vessels.

Accon Folding Cleats are manufactured from durable, cast 316 marine grade stainless steel and brightly polished to a high shine. They lock closed in their folded position to reduce line snags and stubbed toes. When needed, they spring open at the touch of a button.

Folding Cleats are available in 3.5", 4.5", 6" and 8" sizes, in either top- or



stud-mount styles. Ideal for DIY refit or OEM use, they're fast and easy to install with no cutouts needed. And because they don't require drain tubes or corresponding receptacles, there's no chance of water leaking into the boat. An installation video is at www.bit.ly/2k96aho. Accon Marine Folding Cleats start at \$66.15.

Contact local dealers or Accon Marine, 13665 Automobile Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33762. 727-572-9202; Fax: 727-572-7621. www.acconmarine.com. ■



(From top) Standard Mount, Reverse Mount, and 316 Adjustable End Mount Brackets.

Light Bar Enhanced With Alternate Mounting Styles

The Innovation Award-winning Eagle Ray Light Bar from Shadow-Caster set a new standard for marine lighting. For most vessels, the compact LED fixture is simple to mount. However, for installations that require clearance under the component or hanging it upside down, a Reverse Mounting option and 316 Adjustable End Mount Brackets make it even easier to add this state-of-the-art lighting solution to any boat.

The 20,000-lumen Eagle Ray Light Bar has the same beam-shaping technology used in high-end automotive lighting. This allows the fixture to shift its focus from a laser-driven long-distance 5° spot to a wide, diffused floodlight with a 50° angle. Connected to an NMEA 2000 backbone, the 20" x 5.4" x 3" light bar can be controlled via a networked multifunction display or from Shadow-Caster's Light Commander PLUS controller.

The standard mount is a 9" x 3" plate that allows the Eagle Ray Light Bar to be installed upright. With the new Reverse Mounting option, the fixture can be fitted to overhead locations, such as the underside of a T-top. When existing components or equipment prohibit either of these, or the mounting site has a pronounced curve or unevenness, the 316 stainless steel Adjustable End Mount Brackets are the ideal solution. All three solutions allow the light bar to be aimed at the optimal angle. Built in the USA, the Eagle Ray Light Bar has an MSRP of \$1,999; the Adjustable End Mount Brackets are \$89.99/pair.

Contact local dealers or Shadow-Caster, Inc., 2060 Calumet St., Clearwater, FL 33765. 727-474 2877. info@shadow-caster.com; www.shadow-caster.com. ■

What Can't This New Cooler Do?

With outdoor gear, versatility and longevity are key. When it comes to coolers, few offer the adaptability and lifetime warranty of the new multipurpose P60-MK Cooler from PacBak.

Built in Alaska, the P60-MK Cooler is the younger brother to the multiple award-winning P88-MK that redefined the cooler market. Like the larger version, the 60-quart model features a multi-chamber design that can simultaneously keep contents hot or cold and wet or dry. Both sides have gasketed sealing lids and beveled, self-draining bottoms.

Unique to PacBak, the P60-MK Cooler has a detachable tabletop with fold-out legs that double the cooler's worksurface area to over four square feet. An added compartment is integrated into the lid of the main chamber. Perfect for storing utensils or PacBak's innovative ROAM 18-V Portable Vacuum Sealer, it's covered by a slide-out and removable cutting board.

A true 60 quarts capacity, the 26" x 22.75" x 18.75" P60-MK Cooler is manufactured from rugged, extra-thick polyeth-



ylene. With unrivaled insulation, it boasts remarkable ice retention — up to seven days. Removable handles help make totting around the 50 lb. cooler much easier. All hardware is stainless steel, even the bottle openers on each front corner. Available in white, sand, army green, sky blue, seafoam, coral, green camo and Alaska spring camo, the PacBak P60-MK Cooler costs \$449; the ROAM Sealer is \$199; and as a combo for \$599.

Contact local dealers or PacBak, 901 Photo Ave., Anchorage, AK 99503. info@pacbak.com; www.pacbak.com; www.facebook.com/pacbakco; www.instagram.com/pacbakco. ■

It is our pleasure from time to time to present to our readers information about new products; however, the articles published in Arizona Boating & Watersports/Western Outdoor Times are for reader interest only and do not constitute endorsement. Further, we suggest that you check first with local marine, fishing, hunting, and RV dealers/suppliers to see if they have the products mentioned in our articles. Also, please remember that the prices given are those that were in effect at press time and may have changed.

Tutoring, Editing, Writing

As a college English teacher, editor, and writer of both fiction and non-fiction for many years, I am available online (or by U.S. mail) for tutoring, editing, proofreading, copyediting, and writing. I have skills in academic research at both high school and college levels and can also assist those working toward their GEDs, those who need help with resumes, and with both advertising and proposals.

\$50/hour
(2 hour minimum)
Carol Allen
editor@azbw.com

SUN VALLEY FIBER-GLAS, INC.
• Boat Repair •
925 S. Center • Mesa, AZ 85210 • www.sunvalleyfiber-glas.com

Since 1987

Gel-Coat Colors
Metal Flake
Custom Painting
Trailer Refinishing

DAN "The Boat Man" TURNER
Phone: 480-833-6561
Fax: 480-833-6508

**Just because you don't fit the mold
doesn't mean you can't join the party.**

KOKOPELLI TRAILERS

We are your home-town,
custom-trailer manufacturer.

PONTOON TRAILERS

CATAMARAN TRAILERS

BASS BOAT TRAILERS

V-HULL TRAILERS

CUSTOM SIZES

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

kokopellitrailers.com

32240 West Bud Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85138 | 602.705.2164

Proven Techniques For Prespawn Bass

By Margie Anderson

Prespawn bass have a notorious reputation for being hard to catch, but fortunately not all bass in a lake spawn at the same time. This means that in early spring you've got fish that are still deep, some that are moving up, and maybe even some already making beds and getting ready to rock and roll. All of these fish may be catchable, and some of the best fishermen I know choose baits that can be worked at a variety of depths at this time of year.

1. Dart Head + Floating Worm

Back in the day, the big bait out west was the Westy Worm. This was a super floater worm on a light jig with a very light straight-shank worm hook – the gold kind that straighten out easily. A second gold hook was rigged near the tail of the worm, attached to the first hook with mono. John Murray says he thinks that

even after all these years, he's still caught more fish on a Westy than any other lure.

The super floater worm is what made the Westy so good – that worm would stand up from the bottom even with that second hook, because the hook was so light. The Westy with the light (3/16) head was the most popular, and you'd fish it on spinning gear. The heavier ones, which were about 3/8-ounce, were good at first light and for aggressive fish. For those heavier ones you can use a bait-caster. You can fish a little jig head with a floating worm at just about any depth – you can even flip or pitch it, and it's perfect for working down a bluff, a bank, a long point, or riprap. You simply drop the rig, let the line go slack, then reel until the line is taut. Move the worm by either reeling a bit if you're on the bottom, or by giving it a little hop then letting it settle again if you're fishing down a bank or some riprap.



Small plastics are ideal for split-shotting or fishing on a dart head.

Easy To Make

A rig very like a Westy is easy to make – just put a floating worm on a dart head or pea head. There are some great little jig heads at litewirehooks.com. If you want to go to the trouble of adding that

BASS, continued on page 10



Eagle Eye Cemetery

AZGFD Issues Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking To Amend Article 2 Rules

See link below for rationale on proposed repeal of R12-4-216 (Crossbow Permit).

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission proposes to amend its Article 2 rules, addressing licenses, permits, stamps, and tags, to enact amendments developed during the preceding Five-year Review Report.

The proposed amendments are designed to increase the effectiveness of the rules to meet the department's mission, ensure consistency with state and federal statutes, and to increase the clarity of the existing rules.

AZGFD does not believe any of the proposed changes will increase the reg-

ulatory burden beyond that which is already required, and will instead serve the goal of simplifying processes, increasing the understandability of the rules, and increasing public accessibility for department services.

A copy of the proposed rulemaking is available now on the department's website and the online Arizona Administrative Register. To read a summary of the proposed rulemaking, use the QR code Here:



Please note that one of the proposed recommendations is to repeal R12-4-216 Crossbow Permit (both temporary and permanent permits), so crossbows would no longer be a legal method of take in archery-only seasons.

Be advised that, contrary to some mis-

information claiming the department is "moving" crossbows from archery hunts to general hunts, that is not the case. The department is not removing disabled archers from all hunts, but rather, crossbows are no longer a reasonable accommodation in archery-only hunts.

Crossbows have been and ARE STILL LEGAL METHODS OF TAKE in HAM, Muzzleloader, and General hunts for elk, pronghorn, and deer. After Jan. 1, 2026, persons who possess a valid CHAMP can still hunt with a crossbow during archery-only seasons.

To see a more detailed clarification and rationale regarding the proposal to repeal

R12-4-216 (Crossbow Permit), use the QR Code here:



The department will accept written comments for 90 days following the publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Arizona Administrative Register on Jan. 3, 2025 (i.e., the comment deadline for this proposed rulemaking is April 2, 2025). Comments may be submitted via email to rulemaking@azgfd.gov or via the online comment form. The Game and Fish Commission may accept oral comments regarding Article 2 during

ARTICLE 2, continued on page 10

Arizona's Waterfowl, Quail Seasons Flying By

Hunters need to make most of remaining opportunities.

There's still time for Arizona hunters to take aim at some of the best wing-shooting opportunities the state has to offer — but the clock is ticking.



Waterfowl

The general waterfowl season ended Jan. 31, 2025. In response to hunter requests, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) simplified the annual "Arizona Waterfowl and Snipe Regulations" and combined the previously designated "Mountain" and "Desert" zones into one statewide zone. That pushed the general waterfowl season back to a later start date for the 107-day season (Oct. 23, 2024).

Quail

Circle Feb 9, 2025, on the calendar. That's when the season closes for the state's three main species — Gambel's, scaled and Mearns'. The general bag limit is 15 quail per day in the aggregate, of which no more than eight may be Mearns' quail. The general possession limit is 45 quail in the aggregate, of which no more than 15 Gambel's, scaled, Mearns' or California quail in the aggregate may be taken in any one day. The 45-quail possession limit may include 24 Mearns' quail, of which no more than eight may be taken in any one day.

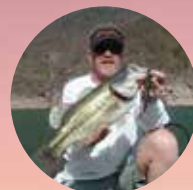
Chukar, Rabbits

In addition, hunters can harvest chukar through Feb. 9, 2025; and jackrabbits and cottontail rabbits through June 30, 2025.

As a reminder, all hunters 10 and older must possess a valid Arizona hunting or combination license. Those 18 and older also must possess an Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp (\$5) to hunt waterfowl. Also, hunters 16 and older must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp to hunt waterfowl.

All hunters play an important role in conservation. Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program funds are excise taxes collected on the sale of hunting and fishing equipment (including 11 percent on ammunition), the benefit of which comes back to Arizona for habitat improvements, shooting ranges, boating access and more.

For more information about hunting in Arizona, visit <https://azgfdportal.az.gov/Hunting>. ■



FISHING



HUNTING



CONSERVATION



NEWS

Don McDowell HUNTINGFISHING.COM

huntingfishing.com

Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, TikTok icons

BASS

Continued from page 9

back hook, you can certainly do so. The hookset is the key to successfully fishing with thin hooks. The hooks practically set themselves, but since they also straighten out very easily, it's crucial to use a reel set instead of swinging on the fish. When fluorocarbon line came out, it was unanimously declared to be the best thing that ever happened to Westy fishing because you could feel the bait and set the hook easily, even very deep.

If you start to drag or hop the rig and it feels heavy, or like you hooked a rubber band, just reel while pulling back on the rod at the same time - without jerking it or pulling too hard. The gold hook will slide in so easily it's like magic. Don't try to horse a fish on this rig - play him out and let him run if he wants to. Most Arizona-born pros have caught their biggest fish on a Westy, and it takes a while to boat those bad boys. Use a net when you get him to the boat or get down there and lip him. You'll never swing him over the side with that hook.

Can Get Caught Up

Because of the open hook, the rig can get hung up now and then. Shake it on a slack line and it will usually come free. If it doesn't come out, a steady pull will straighten the hook out and you can get your rig back and not have to re-tie. Just use your pliers to bend the hook back into shape, touch up the point, and you're ready to roll.

2. Shaky Worm

Shaking a worm is a good technique whenever fish are deep - summer to fall, and into prespawn. After a cold front, the deep fish are more predictable because they aren't as affected by weather changes at depth. If the fish are relating to structure, they are usually catchable no matter what the weather is. Just take a small, straight-tail worm and Texas rig it on a 3/16-ounce weight if the fish are over 30 feet deep. If they are shallower than that, you can use a 1/8-ounce weight. Black weights are best - we paint brass weights black with model paint.

A Clear-Water Technique

This is a clear-water technique so use clear line like fluorocarbon or clear mono. You can add a bead if you want it to be more of a doodling technique. Use a medium action spinning rod and a reel that will take up line fast. This shaky worm technique works best fished vertically - if there is a bow in the line it can be hard to get a good hookset. Use a 1/0 fine wire straight worm hook - straight ones set faster, but you can use an offset hook if you're fishing a fatter worm. Rig the worm so it hangs perfectly straight.

Fish this when you're sitting over creek channels or roadbeds or over underwater structure. If you want a shaky rig that you can use more horizontally, try the same rig with a lead weight, a clear bead, and a curly-tail worm. Make long casts with this rig, then fish it like a Senko - two twitches, then two more, etc. Keep reeling the whole time. The bite is just



Matt Shura caught a nice prespawn bass.

weight, and you can't stop moving it: just sweep and keep reeling.

Keep Sweeping Motion

As you fish, cast way to the front or back and keep sweeping. Never let the rod go past the middle of your body or you'd have to stop to set the hook. You want to keep the sweeping motion going, and you should be just barely shaking the rod as you go. You'll be able to feel the weight and the bead hitting, and then suddenly you won't. Those are usually the bigger fish. Little tap-taps are generally smaller fish. With this technique you can fish down the bank and catch fish the guy ahead of you missed.

3. Glide Baits

We went to Arizona's Saguaro Lake with Nitro Pro Matt Shura one February, which is pre-spawn here in the desert. He was catching fish everywhere from five to fifty-five feet deep. "This time of year they can be anywhere," Matt told us. He loves flats with a good drop-off this time of year, and he found a good one that ran out into the lake before dropping off to thirty feet in the channel. There's a tree on the break line - Matt calls it the "magic tree". He visits it several times a day this time of year and stays a cast away.

Go Slowly

You could sit there all day and not get a bite for an hour, then all the sudden you and your partner will both get a bite, he says. The key for this time of year is to go slow. He'll often use a drop shot or deadstick a Carolina Rig, but one of his secret weapons is a tiny glide bait - the Rapala Jigging Rap. This tiny bait swims in little circles when you lower it down, and with hooks fore and aft, you hook them no matter which end they grab.

We've also had very good luck with glide baits on steep structure like bluffs and cliffs, pilings, etc. Glide baits like the Storm Arashi sink slowly at a bit of an angle, headfirst. We fish them on spinning gear and the least little movement of rod or line gives them action. If you snap the line, they'll turn around - we throw the shad-colored Arashi's on the cliffs and catch fish at just about any depth. The key is to be patient and let the lure fall. If it gets onto a ledge, just pull it off and let it keep falling. These things are killer on pre-spawn bass.

4. Tubes

Gary Dobyms says that tubes are his go-to technique when conditions are tough. He got away from them for a while, even though he fished a LOT of tubes early on, but then during a big tournament he noticed a guy fishing behind him who was catching a ton of fish he was missing. That guy was fishing a tube bait.

Are The Fish Aggressive?

There are several ways to fish a tube. Dobyms likes green pumpkin, watermelon, and shad colors and fishes them anywhere up to 55 to 60 feet deep. He also swims them a lot for suspended fish. Ninety-nine percent of the time he fishes a tube on a dart head with the head exposed. Depending on how aggressive the fish are, he'll use 1/8-, 3/16-, or 1/4-ounce dart heads. The more aggressive the fish

are, the heavier the head and the faster the movement.

The tube on a dart head is also his number one "fun fish" bait because you can catch a ton of fish less than five feet deep with a 1/4-ounce weight. If he's fishing grass or weeds he'll switch to an internal Fat Gitzit lead jig. Another thing Gary likes about tubes is the variety of sizes you can get: from 2-1/2 to 4 inches, and even up to giant 10-inch Canyon Lures Tora Tubes. If you want to add scent you can put it inside the tube, which also makes it easier to slide a weight inside.

Great For Suspended Fish

These are great lures for suspended fish. After spotting suspended fish on his graph, Dobyms casts out past the fish, counts the bait down, then swims it back while bouncing the rod tip. "They eat it really good," he says, "so you get great hooksets." He uses spinning or casting gear, depending on the weight and size of the tubes he's using. He says tubes are also the perfect craw imitation - think of it as a down-sized jig. Just drag it, shake a little, and try to make it look like a craw. This was a winning strategy for him whenever he was fishing a tournament where the weather was cold and miserable. Even with a serious north wind and a cold front, tubes let him lead the first day at an Oroville tourney and won him a boat. "The only reason I won that boat was a tube," he says.

5. Rip Baits

You can't really mention the name Gary Dobyms without talking about rip baits. Gary is known for being a power fisherman, even in the worst of conditions. He says his first recollection of throwing a jerkbait was when he was a little kid, using floating Rebels and Rapalas for bass and trout. He fished them with a 1-2-pause, 1-2-pause cadence and fished ponds and sloughs.

Dobyms says that the first time he knew of anyone else fishing them was when he learned about Jimmy Crisp fishing them on desert lakes. He called it "Crispin" and used a long spinning rod and big, long sweeps in a sweep-pause-reel cadence. In 1983 when Dobyms himself started fishing tournaments they were established baits. The bigger baits were fished with long sweeps and that was called ripping. Twitching was done with the smaller top-water and shallow jerkbaits.

Shorter, Harder Pops

Jerkin' is what Dobyms likes to do now, fishing with shorter, harder pops. Twitching, he says, is very effective in pre- and post-spawn. If he's not getting bit, he varies his pause before he changes techniques.

Gary learned the same we do today - reading articles. He started ripping with big spinning stuff, which eventually evolved into jerking with baitcasting gear which he found easier and more comfortable. Back in the day he'd use the flashiest baits he could find, like a Bomber Long A in solid chrome or a Smithwick Clown Rogue. The Rogue was his favorite and he'd order them straight from the factory because he couldn't find them in stores.

Go To Dobymsrods.Com

Nowadays he uses more natural colors or even transparent colors. The rod you use is an important part of the technique. It should load up but not react too quickly. It needs to be forgiving when you set the hook, which is why fiberglass used to be his favorite - but those are incredibly heavy and tiring. Now if you want to find the perfect rippin' rod, just go to Dobymsrods.com, click on catalog, and search for jerkbait.

BASS, continued on page 11

Get Fit for the Outdoors

Get fit with KJ Boots, they're fun for the whole family.

PROVEN TO:

- Diminish Body Fat
- Improve Muscle Tone
- Provide Cardiovascular Activity to your heart
- Stimulate your lymphatic system, increasing your metabolism
- 80% reduced impact to your feet, knees, hips & lower back



Excellent for joggers, runners & marathon trainers wanting to eliminate unnecessary stress to joints!



www.AllinOneFitness.net

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY! CALL 480-946-7511

In partnership with www.SaveYourJointsAmerica.com

ARTICLE 2

Continued from page 9

regularly scheduled commission meetings in January, February, March and April. The department will be briefing the commission during the May 9, 2025, commission meeting in Kingman, Arizona. ■

Business Cards & Logos Will Get Your Point Across



Jim Allen
Publisher

480.947.6219 | jim@azbw.com
azbw.com
floridaboatingandwatersports.com
westernoutdoortimes.com

Come visit us today!
With Over An Acre of Exhibit Space & Over 100 Examples Of Historic Fire Apparatus, The Hall Of Flame Museum Is The Largest Museum Of Fire History In The World



Home To The National Hall of Heroes
602-275-3473 | hallofflame.org



HOURS: 10am-6pm, Tue-Sat | Air Conditioned



Carol Lemon Allen
Editor

480.947.6219 | editor@azbw.com
azbw.com
floridaboatingandwatersports.com
westernoutdoortimes.com


SCOTTSDALE AMERICAN LEGION
SIPE-PETERSON POST 44




SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Website: www.post44.com
Email: georgebogonovich@gmail.com

Office: 480-941-0130 7145 E. 2nd St.
Cell: 617-633-8128 Scottsdale, AZ 85251



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

POST 720

4853 E Thomas Rd, Phoenix, AZ • (602) 620-6418



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

POST 3513 Stanley A. Crews

7220 E Wilshire Dr Scottsdale AZ 85257
408-941-9849



ARIZONA HIGH SCHOOL NATION

Mike Hoffarth
623-229-4650
mikehoffarth@yahoo.com
azbassnation.com

LOGISTICAL & PRODUCT SUPPORT FOR RANCHERS, FARMERS & AGRICULTURE




Don McDowell
623-221-7655
donsrt@gmail.com
P.O. Box 5791
Glendale, AZ 85312

Partners in Conservation

Poly Pipe, Aluminum Troughs, Storage Tanks, Bentpnlite, Salt & Mineral Blocks, Solar Panels, Pumps, Well Conversions and Fencing Components



Chalyce McQueen
CM AGENCY SERVICES

Personal - Commercial - Life - Financial Services

Scottsdale
480.478.0030

Lake Havasu
923.257.1556

cmmcqueen@farmersagent.com



ONEWHEELS ~ PADDLEBOARDS ~ KAYAKS



SALES ~ RENTALS ~ LESSONS
TOURS ~ EXPERIENCES

480-463-6686

INFO@RIVERBOUNDSPORTS.COM

1425 E. UNIVERSITY DRIVE
SUITE B102
TEMPE, AZ 85281

WWW.RIVERBOUNDSPORTS.COM




Custom Awnings & Wrought Iron

1522 E. Victory St. Suite 1, Phoenix, AZ 85040 | 602-276-8101
Tim@EagleWingsIronCraft.com | EagleWingsIronCraft.com



BRYAN CHURCH
HTTP://WWW.BARTLETLAKE.COM

OFFICE: (602) 316-3378
CELL: (480) 221-0503

P.O. BOX 3817
CAREFREE, AZ 85377

EMAIL: BRYAN@BARTLETLAKE.COM



Brand Your Business With *Western Outdoor Times* Advertising

Western Outdoor Times advertising is easy and affordable. You can select the pages you want to place your ad on, and in the category you want it to be seen.

- 1 GO TO THE WESTERN OUTDOOR TIMES ADVERTISE PAGE**
- 2 SELECT THE CATEGORY OR SPECIALTY PAGE WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR AD.**
- 3 PRESS THE PAYPAL "BUY NOW" BUTTON**

FISHING UPDATES, CAUTIONS FROM AZGFD

Summary Of Fishing Regulations Changes For 2025-26

Below is a list of changes published in the 2025 and 2026 Fishing Regulations:

- The special regulations and seasons section is now organized by Arizona Game and Fish Department regions to make it easier for anglers to know which office to contact for additional information.

- New regulation to create unlimited daily and possession limits for illegally introduced warmwater fish species at Becker Lake. Catch-and-release only for trout. Trout must be immediately released unharmed; no trout may be kept; artificial fly and lure only; single-pointed barbless hooks only. Unlimited smallmouth and largemouth bass; unlimited channel and flathead catfish. General statewide regulations apply to all other fish species.

- New regulation to close KP Creek (Greenlee County) to angling to protect Gila trout.

- New regulation to open Bear Wal-low Creek, Hayground Creek and Stinky

Creek to angling. Regulation is closed to fishing from Jan. 1 to April 30. Catch-and-release only for trout; trout must be immediately released unharmed; no trout may be kept; artificial fly and lure only; single-pointed barbless hooks only from May 1 to Dec. 31.

- New regulation for Lake Pleasant and Apache, Canyon, Saguaro lakes of a 15 crappie per day bag limit.

- Continue revised regulations for Cluff Ranch Pond 3 of catch and release only for all fish species (excluding rainbow trout) from Jan. 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026. Thereafter, statewide daily bag and possession limits would apply (except a four catfish in any combination daily bag limit special regulation).

The new 2025-26 Fishing Regulations are anticipated to be posted online and hard copies available at department offices and license dealers by the end of this month.

Discovery Of Golden Mussels In Cal-

ifornia: A Reminder To Protect Arizona's Waters

Invasive golden mussels (*Limnoperna fortunei*) were discovered in the California Delta region, including the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and surrounding water projects, in October 2024. This is the first discovery of this invasive mussel species in North America.

To prevent golden mussels from reaching Arizona, boaters and anglers are encouraged to clean, drain, and dry their watercraft before launching in ANY Arizona waterbody. Golden mussels have similar impacts as quagga mussels, but can survive in locations that typically quagga mussels cannot.

Please contact the AZGFD Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program at 623-236-7608 if you have any questions or would like to schedule an inspection. For information on the golden mussel detec-

REGULATION, continued on page 15

BASS

Continued from page 10

Gary says he loves the Pointer jerk-baits and fishes them on 10- or 12-pound-test P-Line. Any heavier and you don't get the depth, and any lighter gives you too much stretch. A fast reel is a must, otherwise you spend too much time catching up on the pause – you just want to crank a couple of times to be caught up. During prespawn, he starts out with a deeper running bait and catches lots of fish deeper than ten feet. As things warm up, he gradually shifts to the shallower-running baits. Post spawn the fish are more active and they'll react to smaller, more erratic baits.

The Bass Are Hungry

Don't let yourself get psyched out by the idea of pre-spawn bass. Those bass are on the move and hungry as the water starts to warm up after a long winter. You never know where you'll find them this time of year, so try one of these techniques that will let you cover a range of depths with one rod. ■

AZGFD, Partners Secure More Than \$24 Million Dollars For Conservation

Restoration project will benefit critical wildlife movement corridors, winter habitat for state's wildlife.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), in partnership with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever (PFQF), the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM), and the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), is excited to announce a recent award of \$24.5 million through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

This landscape-level restoration project, spanning approximately 35,000 acres of range and forest within the Colorado River Basin, focuses on working closely with producers to restore native plant communities by implementing climate-smart practices, including the re-



moval of invasive woody species.

"The funding secured through this partnership will support the treatment of grasslands and overstocked woodlands to restore natural conditions within critical wildlife movement corridors and winter habitat for Arizona's wildlife," said Dan Sturla, AZGFD's Landowner Relations and Habitat Enhancement Program Manager. "Delivery of conservation at this scale is rarely possible — and it would not have been, if not for the dedication

and hard work of the partners involved in this project."

"The scale of this grant and the strength of the partnership will provide an immediate and lasting benefit for producers, wildlife, and sportsmen and women throughout the state," said Scott Poppenberger, PF Southwest State Coordinator. "Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, the Habitat Organization, are thrilled to be a partner in the delivery of this incredible funding award."

Practices will help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, increase resilience to extreme weather events, protect soils, and improve water quality and hydrology.

"It is essential that we look at Arizona's working lands at a landscape level," says AACD Executive Director Deborah Smith. "Land managers across the state face the same daily concerns around soil health and water conservation. This exciting project promotes practices that benefit both agriculture and wildlife,

underscoring Arizona's Conservation Districts' commitment to climate-smart solutions."

John Richardson, Assistant State Forester (Forestry Program), Arizona DFFM, agrees that this RCPP project will support conservation of Arizona's forest lands. "This RCPP project directly aligns with our vision of an Arizona in which the people are protected from the threat of fire and whose diverse landscapes are healthy. This project will significantly enhance our ongoing efforts to improve forest and watershed health and reduce wildfire risk in the Colorado River Basin."

This project demonstrates the power of partnerships in advancing sustainable land management across Arizona. Collaboration between a diverse group of land managers will help support healthier ecosystems, conserve vital natural resources, and provide lasting benefits for wildlife, agriculture, and communities throughout the state. ■

Keep Wildlife Wild: Enjoy From A Distance, Eliminate Food Attractants

AZGFD offers tips to help avoid human-wildlife conflicts.

Wildlife has been active in the mild winter climate of Arizona's lower and mid elevations, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department has been receiving increased reports of human-wildlife conflicts in many parts of the state.

Here's some recent activity:



- The Tucson area has received more than 20 wildlife feeding complaints since August - made all the more concerning in light of the fact that Pima County has seen an uptick in wildlife rabies cases this year.

- Pima County is also seeing issues involving unsecured backyard chickens and livestock, which bobcats and other predators see as an easy meal.

- The communities of Peeples Valley and Yarnell southwest of Prescott are dealing with a growing number of nuisance deer and javelina conflicts due to people feeding wildlife.

- There have been reports of conflicts with coyotes and javelina due to wildlife feeding in the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas, as well as in Sedona and Lake Havasu City. Most callers are seeing these animals in their backyards and are concerned about the safety of their pets.

- Payson, Pine and Strawberry continue to have nuisance elk and deer issues

due to wildlife feeding. These instances are leading to property damage and an increased chance of potentially fatal vehicle-wildlife collisions.

The root cause of most human-wildlife conflicts is giving wildlife easy access to food, water and/or shelter.

"People who love wildlife should understand that feeding wild animals or leaving food accessible to them is not a good practice and can put the animal and people in danger," said Locana de Souza, AZGFD urban wildlife specialist. "When wildlife such as coyotes, javelina, bobcats, bears or mountain lions learn to associate humans with food, they lose their fear of people, and that can lead to conflict situations that end badly for both humans and wildlife."

De Souza added that it's also important to not accidentally feed wildlife - measures such as landscaping your yard with plants that aren't attractants to wildlife, picking up downed fruit, or taking in bird feeders can all cut down on unwanted animal behaviors.

AZGFD offers the following tips for people to discourage wild animals from taking up residence in populated areas:

- Don't feed wildlife. It is unlawful to feed wildlife (except for birds and tree squirrels) in Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties per Arizona Revised Statute 13-2927. Some cities and less populated counties have also adopted ordinances against feeding. Check your local city and county ordinances.

- Remove pet food, water bowls, garbage and other attractants from around your home and put them in a secure location inaccessible to wildlife.

- Feed your pets inside and never leave them unattended, especially at dusk and dawn. Predatory animals may opportunistically see small pets as a food source. Keep domestic livestock and poultry in a secure area. Don't feed feral or "neighborhood" cats.

- Don't let animals such as coyotes get comfortable in your neighborhood — spray them (from a safe distance) with a hose, throw pebbles in their direction,

light up the area at night, or bang pots and pans to keep the animals moving.

- Secure garbage containers and eliminate odors by cleaning trash cans with a 10-percent chlorine bleach solution. Put out trash containers on the morning of pickup, not the night before.

- Keep an eye on small children. The department's Living with Wildlife web page has tips for what to do if you encounter a wild animal (these may differ depending on the species).

If a wild animal has attacked or bitten a person, call 911. Anyone bitten should immediately seek medical attention from a qualified healthcare provider. If you encounter any wildlife acting aggressively toward people, call the Arizona Game and Fish Department's 24-hour Communications Center at 623-236-7201.

AZGFD will respond if there is an immediate public safety threat. The department does not provide removal or capture services for nuisance wildlife but does offer self-help advice. If necessary, homeowners can contact a qualified wildlife control business to attempt to capture and remove nuisance wildlife for a fee. Keep in mind that even if coyotes, javelinas or other animals are removed from an area, others will probably subsequently move in if attractants remain. ■



AZGFD ISSUES PRECAUTIONS

With the detection of avian influenza (HPAI) in domestic and wild birds in Arizona, the Arizona Game and Fish Department urges hunters and falconers to help prevent the spread of the disease and stay safe. Visit these sites for important information: USDA-APHIS Avian influenza, CDC Avian influenza, USFWS Avian influenza.

Rocky Point Times
NEWSPAPER
Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico
"Since 1993"

(11-52-638) 383-6325
(480) 463-6255
FAX (011-52-638) 383-5193

rockypointtimes@yahoo.com
www.rptimes.com
http://issuu.com/rockypoint

Find us on Facebook

BLOCK FENCE SPECIALISTS

Since 1971
Toro Construction
602-789-6929

- QUALITY WORK
- ECONOMY PRICES
- RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
- LICNSED (ROC# 57163) - BONDED
- FREE ESTIMATES
- GATE SPECIALISTS

SERVING THE ENTIRE VALLEY

VALENTINE'S DAY FEB.14

JOIN IN THE REVELRY!

37TH ANNUAL ARIZONA **R**ENAISSANCE FESTIVAL & ARTISAN MARKETPLACE

NINE FESTIVE WEEKENDS

FEBRUARY 1-MARCH 30

SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS & PRESIDENTS' DAY • 10AM-6PM



SAVE WITH DISCOUNT TICKETS AT: *Bashas' &* FOOD CITY

EXPLORE OUR 50 ACRE MEDIEVAL AMUSEMENT PARK!
16 STAGES OF MUSIC & COMEDY • FOOD & DRINK • JOUSTING TOURNAMENTS
THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!



SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMART PHONE TO
PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS AT THE FESTIVAL WEBSITE



GUINNESS



Budweiser



PRINT DISCOUNT TICKETS ONLINE • DIRECTIONS & FESTIVAL INFO

ARIZONA.RENFESTINFO.com

SEE NATURAL ARCHES, SPRINGS, CAVES, GUZZLERS

It's A Great Drive!

By Margie Anderson

John and I love to toodle around Arizona in our Jeep, and often we don't actually have a planned route in mind. Such was the case last week. Our only plan was to avoid I-17. Since we live in the west valley, we hopped on the 60 and headed out past Wickenburg. My thoughts were that we'd be heading to Eagle Eye Road, but since I didn't actually communicate that thought to the guy driving the Jeep, we ended up on Vulture Mine Road, headed south.

Vulture City Tours

You'll come to spot along this road with a big sign that says **Vulture City Tours**. This is, according to their website, "Arizona's most unique and authentically restored ghost town". They say that Vulture City was established in 1863 because of the Vulture Mine – Arizona's most successful gold mine. It produced 340,000 ounces of gold between 1863 and 1942! But in '42 the War Production Board ordered the closing of all non-essential mines and that was the end of that.

Vulture City offers self-guided tours Thursdays through Sundays from 9 to 4. They also have Christmas in the Desert, Civil War re-enactments and living history camps, a blacksmith experience, Flashlight Ghost Tours, and Vulture City Lockdown Paranormal Investigation. It sounds like fun, right? General admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and veterans, \$7 for kids 7 – 12, and free for kids under 6. Their website is <https://vulture-cityghosttown.com>.

We Wanted New Stuff

I guess the only reason we haven't been in there to take a tour is because we are usually hunting when we're out that way, and when we aren't, we still have a dog with us. But I'd really like to visit sometime. On this trip, since it was still quail season, we had put the shotguns and a couple boxes of shells in the Jeep as well, in case Mochi found us some birds.

We have explored in the Vulture Mountains before, but not with a dog in tow. There is a LOT of cholla around there! However, if you keep going on Vulture Mine Road, you'll come to an intersection with Aguila Road. If you keep going straight you'll reach the Belmont Mountains and find all kinds of old abandoned mines and structures. It's a fun drive, but we were in the mood to find some new stuff.

Guzzlers, Tanks, And Springs

Maybe it's because I was born here in the desert, but I can't resist any side trip that looks like it might offer up some type of water. We stream Gaia GPS to the Jeep screen, and meanwhile I keep the Topo Maps app open on my phone. When I see a side road with a tank, spring, or guzzler marked on it, I tell John and we head toward it. We have found some incredibly beautiful little places that way!

On this trip, we took a side road to a guzzler that was not too far from the main road, but a bit hard to find because of all the trails made by off-roaders using the sandy bed of a big wash. But we did eventually find it, and it has two troughs. A guzzler is a man-made rain collection structure that stores the water underground but gives game animals and other



Water Access At A Guzzler



This is at the same guzzler, but this trough is dry.

critters access to the water via small concrete boxes with shallow steps or a ramp so that even when the water is low, smaller animals still have access.

Guzzlers For Wildlife

In this one, one of the two boxes was dry, but the other had water. These guzzlers almost always have a fence around them designed to keep cattle out and allow other animals in, and this one was no exception. Cattle have their own water sources – tanks and wells, etc. This guzzler was a fun little side trip off Vulture Mine Road, but then we got back on the main road until we reached Aguila Road, where we turned northwest and headed toward the town of Aguila.

There are more guzzlers along this road, on both sides, including a few around Black Butte, but we had already explored those. We decided to check out Wildcat Tank because we were there during dove season and it's a really nice waterhole with lots of trees and shade. But once we got on top of the hill above it, we could see the cattle were already using it, so we decided we'd have lunch somewhere else.



There are mines all over the area around Eagle Eye and the Vulture Mountains, so watch your pets and kids!

Be Careful Of Abandoned Mines

We took a side road that headed toward a mountain with a mine on the side of it, and pulled under a tree to have lunch. Anytime you get near mountains in this area, there are going to be mines, some of them abandoned, and some very dangerous. We've come across many that weren't fenced off or closed in, so we keep Mochi leashed unless we know there aren't any holes around.

Also on this road you'll pass the road to the old solar observatory at the top of Harquahala Mountains. This is a fun road that we've been up several times, and the old buildings are still there. There's also a picnic area and amazing views in every direction. If you'd like to learn more about this drive, it's on [Western Outdoor Times in the April 2018 issue](#).

Eagle Eye Peak

Whenever you're on Aguila Road near the town of Aguila, you can see Eagle Eye Peak. Aguila means "eagle" in Spanish, and one look at the top of the mountain

DRIVE, continued on page 15

TripleWall Productions

TripleWall Productions specialize in outdoor video production as well as all your video-production needs.

"We pride ourselves in the quality of our videography and editing. We are all avid outdoor enthusiasts with backgrounds in fishing, hunting, mountain and technical rescue. We understand the outdoors."



DRIVE

Continued from page 14

will tell you why it has that name. It looks like an eagle's beak – it's a large natural arch. Now I've seen that arch dozens of times, but one I hadn't seen is the one marked on the Topo Map in the hill next to Aguila Peak. It plainly says "natural arch".

We decided to go see that smaller one. I thought I had glimpsed it as we headed north up the Aguila road, but I didn't say anything. Once we got close to the mountain we found a road that headed toward it and took that. It had quite a few off-shoots and lollipops, but then it narrowed down to just one road that went between the peaks. CAUTION: this road between the peaks is rough, and covered with large, sharp, volcanic rocks. There's no place to turn around once you're on it, so when you find the big dusty area where you can tell people use to turn around, stay there or turn around unless you have a 4x4. I'm not kidding!

Fun To Find Them All

You can see the small arch on top of the smaller hill, and in fact, at one point from the road you can see three small arches at the top and glimpse the sky under them! There is also another smaller one on the side of that hill – there could even be more that we didn't see. It's really fun to find them all.

Like I said, that road is super rough, a little off-camber in spots, and it's slow going, but it isn't very long and it comes out right next to the little cemetery. There was a benchmarker there, too, which is a bonus for me! I love looking for them on our drives, too.

Have A Great Drive!

There is a lot more to do out in that



John is pointing to the fourth arch we spotted on the smaller peak - it's on the side of the hill.



Eagle Eye Mountain from Aguila Road. Can you see the beak?

area, so I hope you check it out sometime. In fact, when I was consulting the map for this story, I noticed that it says there are



Eagle Eye Cemetery



Here is the arch on Eagle Eye Peak as seen from the little Jeep trail that runs between the peaks.

caves in the western side of the Eagle Eye Mountains! You'll need a 4x4 out here if you go off the bigger roads, so do your research ahead of time, and have a great drive! ■



Look very closely and you will see sky under three arches along the top of this hill.

REGULATION

Continued from page 11

tions in California, visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website.

For more information on aquatic invasive species in Arizona, including links to Director's Order #1 (list of aquatic invasive species of Arizona), Director's Order #2 (list of AIS-affected waters in Arizona), and Director's Order #3 (mandatory conditions for movement of watercraft, conveyances and equipment from affected waters), visit www.azgfd.com/fishing-2/aquatic-invasive-species/.

In addition to the general AIS decontamination requirements and protocols described above, anglers should take note of the New Zealand Mudsail Decontamination Options and Angling Recommendations. ■



Wrought Iron

For 40 years we have designed, manufactured and installed custom wrought iron products in the state of Arizona.



Awnings

Our Custom made awnings provide shade and attention grabbing designs for your residential and commercial needs.



Eaglewings Iron Craft

A company that is truly unique - offering custom-built, quality products that are distinctive for both style and value.



1522 E. Victory St. Suite 1, Phoenix, AZ 85040
602-276-8101 | Tim@EagleWingsIronCraft.com | EagleWingsIronCraft.com

**5% OFF FOR NEW CUSTOMERS
WHEN THEY REFERENCE THIS AD**

EXPO

Continued from page 1

Saturday

9:30 a.m. – Living With Rattlesnakes. Presenter: Bryan Hughes, Rattlesnake Solutions.

10:30 a.m. – Desert Tortoises Make Great Pets: Learn How to Adopt One. Presenter: Tegan Wolf, AZGFD's desert tortoise adoption program coordinator.

11:30 a.m. – All About Eagles. Presenter: Kenneth "Tuk" Jacobson, AZGFD's raptor management coordinator.

12:30 p.m. – LIVE: Arizona's AmAZing Wildlife! Presenter: Nancy Kreuder, AZGFD's wildlife education outreach coordinator.

1:30 p.m. – Living With Wildlife: Wildcats. Presenter: Mark Hart, AZGFD's public affairs community liaison (Tucson).

2:30 p.m. – Have a Great Day on the Water: Paddling in Arizona. Presenter: Josh Hoffman, AZGFD's boating safety education coordinator.

Sunday

10:30 a.m. – Responsible Recreation: OHVs in Arizona. Presenter: Kim Jackson, AZGFD's boating and OHV education program manager.

11:30 a.m. – How, Where, When to View Arizona's AmAZing Wildlife. Presenters: Jeff Meyers, AZGFD's wildlife viewing program manager; Cheyenne Towne, AZGFD's wildlife viewing program coordinator.

12:30 p.m. – Connect With Outdoor Enthusiasts Through the Outdoor Skills Network. Presenter: Scott Lavin, AZGFD's recruitment, retention and reactivation chief.

1:30 p.m. – What to Do With Sick, Injured, Orphaned Wildlife. Presenter: Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center.

As a reminder, the department will

auction its annual collection of wildlife assets this weekend. More than 100 sets of antlers, hides, skulls and wildlife mounts, as well as wildlife artwork and taxidermy — all seized during law enforcement investigations, obtained from animals killed in vehicle collisions, or acquired through donations — will be sold. Items can be purchased individually, by the pound, or through a silent auction.

AZGFD will be posting bidding rules and auction procedures on *Instagram* (www.instagram.com/gf_assets). Once the expo gets underway, photos of many of the assets will be posted for the benefit of those wanting to see what items become available throughout the day.

Funds generated from the wildlife assets auction are used to purchase equipment and technology used in the investigation of wildlife crimes and to protect the state's wildlife resources.

New this year: Reserve your spot to attend the expo and be entered to win a Canyon Coolers Ultimate Prize Pack, complete with:

- Outfitter 75 quart cooler.
- Cooler basket.
- Clean ice bag.
- D-funk cooler cleaner.
- Canyon Coolers T-shirt, hoodie and hat.
- Tumblers, stickers and beverage coolers.

Event sponsors this year include Sig Sauer (gold), Kimber America (silver), Walther and TrueShot Gun Club (bronze), and Canyon Coolers (prize pack).

Game and Fish conducts the expo to promote wildlife-related and other outdoor recreation activities. The public's participation in these activities supports the department's mission and funding. The department receives no Arizona tax dollars, and no tax dollars are used in conducting the expo. For more information about the expo, visit www.azgfd.com/expo.

EXPO, continued on page 19

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

WE ARE
VFW POST 3513
AUXILIARY



BECOME AN AUXILIARY MEMBER.
carolnelsonaz@gmail.com

VFW 3513 Auxiliary is proud to be a part of District 4

District 4 is comprised of 8 VFW Posts across the Greater Phoenix/Fountain Hills/Black Canyon cities of Arizona: 720, 1760, 1796, 3513, 3632, 7507, 9400 and 12031.

facebook.com/vfwazdist4
vfwazdist4@gmail.com

VFW Post 3513

We are the largest VFW Post in Scottsdale and the only Scottsdale VFW Post with its own building for events. We are located one mile south of downtown Scottsdale.

7220 E Wilshire Dr, Scottsdale, AZ • (480) 941-9849
#AuxiliaryPatriotism



HALES MARINE SERVICE

BOATING TRANSPORTATION



MECHANICAL

We service all outboard and inboard motors from annual service to engine repowers and drive rebuilds



SERVICES

Wheel bearing replacement, welding, bunk carpet and wiring.



TRANSPORTATION

Whether you are looking for a long haul or a short haul, we do it all.



STORAGE

Uncovered storage \$125 per month

2101 W. Williams Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85027 | (623) 879-7236 | halesmarineservices.com

Welcome Home, Viet Nam Vets

From The VFW National Home For Children

On March 29, the VFW National Home for Children stands with the entire nation in commemorating Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. From the Presidential Proclamation: Our veterans answered our country's call and served with honor, and on March 29, 1973, the last of our troops left Vietnam. Yet, in one of the war's most profound tragedies, many of these men and women came home to be shunned or neglected — to face treatment unbecoming their courage and a welcome unworthy of their example. We must never let this happen again.

Today, we reaffirm one of our most fundamental obligations: to show all who have worn the uniform of the United States the respect and dignity they deserve, and to honor their sacrifice by serving them as well as they served us. Half a century after those helicopters swept off the ground and into the annals of history, we pay tribute to the fallen, the missing, the wounded, the millions who served, and the millions more who awaited their return. Our Nation stands stronger for their service, and on Vietnam Veterans Day, we honor their proud legacy with our deepest gratitude.

Should they need us, the National Home stands ready to serve the families



Many Served

of our nation's Vietnam veterans, whether through our nationwide Military and Veteran Family Helpline at 800-313-4200, or by welcoming them to our campus community, where they can benefit from programs and services like case management, child care, youth programs, parenting classes and other programs.

Honoring These Veterans

From Veterans Of Foreign Wars Post 3513, Arizona

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, a poignant reminder of the Vietnam War's profound impact on our nation and its veterans. Many brave



Others Did Not

men and women served with honor, yet upon their return, they were met with challenges that left deep scars, both seen and unseen. It is time to finally give them the welcome home they so richly deserve, celebrating their sacrifices and resilience half a century later.

As we gather to honor the memory of those who served — and those who nev-

er returned—we invite our community to join us in this momentous occasion, fostering camaraderie and support for our veterans and their families who have endured so much, including the struggles of PTSD that many faced long before it was understood. Stay tuned for exciting details about this grand celebration during all of April 2025; it's an event you won't want to miss as we come together to express our gratitude and respect for their unwavering dedication to our American values, even though it's 50 years too late!

Those joining us are expected to be American Legion posts, Boy Scouts troops, some ROTC units, and all interested members of the community. For more information, please contact VFW Post 3513 at (480) 941-9849 and watch for more news on social-media platforms.

The Toasts

7 p.m.: "To those who went, to those who are there still, to those who have returned, to those who never will."

Mission 22: "To those who died today: We honor you and wish you peace." ■



The Invaluable Hueys

Business Directory

BOAT TRANSPORT

Hale's Marine Service
(623) 879-7236
halesmarineservice@aol.com
halesmarineservices.com
22241 North 24 Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027 U.S.A

FIBERGLASS REPAIR

Sun Valley Fiber-Glas, Inc.
480-833-6561
925 South Center
Mesa, AZ, U.S.A

MARINAS

Bartlett Lake Marina
NE of Carefree, AZ U.S.A.
602/316-3378
bartlettlake.com/index.html
info@bartlettlake.com

Pleasant Harbor RV Resort & Marina
Peoria, AZ
(928) 501-5263
(602) 269-0077
pleasantharbor.com

PUBLICATIONS

Arizona Boating & Watersports
480/947-6219
jim@azbw.com
azbw.com
westernoutdoortimes.com

Florida Boating & Watersports
480/947-6219
jim@azbw.com
floriaboatingandwatersports.com

Western Outdoor Times
480/947-6219
jim@azbw.com
azbw.com
westernoutdoortimes.com

Rocky Point Times Newspaper
(52) 6383836325
rptimes@prodigy.net.mx
rockypointcollectibles.com
P.O. Box 887
Lukeville, AZ 85341 U.S.A.

RADIO SHOWS

Don McDowell Outdoors
(623) 221-7655
don@shakerattleandtroll.com
huntingfishing.com
Glendale, AZ

REPAIR

Hale's Marine Service
(623) 879-7236
halesmarineservice@aol.com
halesmarineservices.com
22241 North 24 Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027 U.S.A.

SWIM PLATFORMS

Swim Platforms
Swimplatforms.com
602/431-8225
swimplatforms.com
3220 S. 38th St
Phoenix, AZ 85040 U.S.A.

TRADE ORGANIZATIONS

Arizona Trade Exchange
https://itradePAY.com
iTrade Pay
https://itradePAY.com

TRAILERS

Kokopelli Trailers
kokopellitrailers.com

WEB SITES


Arizona Boating & Watersports/

Western Outdoor Times
(480) 947-6219
jim@azbw.com
azbw.com
westernoutdoortimes.com
7620 East McKellips Road, Ste 490
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

List your business in
our Western Outdoor
Business Directory.


westernoutdoortimes.com/directory





FEARLESS KITTY RESCUE






ADOPT




FOSTER



VOLUNTEER



DONATE



SURRENDER

16832 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
(480) 837-7777 | info@fearlesskittyrescue.org
fearlesskittyrescue.org

EXPO

Continued from page 17

Antlers, hides, head mounts, and more will be in high demand

PHOENIX — The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) will auction its inventory of wildlife assets at the upcoming 2023 Outdoor Expo at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, one-half of a mile west of Interstate 17 on Carefree Highway.

Antlers, hides, skulls and wildlife mounts, as well as wildlife artwork and taxidermy — all seized during law enforcement investigations, obtained from animals killed in vehicle collisions, or acquired through donations — will be sold March 25-26. Items can be purchased

individually, by the pound or through a silent auction (cash or credit card only).

AZGFD will be posting bidding rules and auction procedures on Instagram (www.instagram.com/gf_assets). Once the expo gets underway, photos of many of the assets will be posted for the benefit of those wanting to see what items become available throughout each day.

Funds generated from the wildlife assets auction are used to purchase equipment and technology used in the investigation of wildlife crimes and to protect the state's wildlife resources.

Expo hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 25; and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 26. Admission and parking are free. Event sponsors this year include Sig Sauer (gold), Kimber America (silver), Walther and TrueShot Gun Club (bronze), and Canyon Coolers (prize pack). ■

AZGFD Gives eNews A Fresh Look

Stay up to date on the latest news, department activities, events, more.

Subscribers to the Arizona Game and Fish Department's free eNews will notice a new look to these communications. You may have already received some of the new-look eNews as part of the department's soft launch pilot program.

The functionality remains the same as before, but subscribers will notice two other differences besides the look: (1) The "From" field will now read "Arizona Game and Fish Department" instead of "AZGFD," and (2) The "Subscribe" form (see button at bottom of our website) to sign up for or manage subscriptions has a slightly different look and simplified field of topic selections. ■



Post 720 celebrated its 100th anniversary in early 2021.



VFW POST 720

- Barry Goldwater was a lifelong member.
- The food is amazing and the outdoor gathering space is comfortable and relaxing
- Hall Rental Available (Capacity 300+)



4853 E THOMAS RD, PHOENIX, AZ • (602) 620-6418

Extend Your Boating Pleasure

Visit our websites today
www.SwimPlatforms.com &
www.EasyUpSwimHandles.com

Ask about installations at our shop.
Swim Platforms Inc.
 3220 S. 38th St.
 Phoenix, AZ 85040
 602-431-8225

Get On Board With

Easy Up Swim Handles

ARIZONA'S BEST KEPT SECRET



Located just 55 minutes from Tempe Town Lake on beautiful Bartlett Lake in the heart of the Tonto National Forest, Bartlett Lake Marina's family atmosphere and beautiful surroundings make it a wonderful location for your friends and family to enjoy an unforgettable Arizona day on the water.

2,815 ACRES OF FUN!

Bartlett Lake Marina has a boatable surface area of 2,815 acres - more than Canyon Lake and Saguaro Lake, combined. Fed by the pristine waters of the Verde River, Indians of this valley spoke descriptively in their legends of the river's "sweet waters".

Outdoor enthusiasts frequent Bartlett Lake for a variety of recreational opportunities, including shoreline camping in Arizona's natural desert terrain. While in this part of the Tonto National Forest, visitors may see mule deer, bald eagles, javelina, coyotes, and many indigenous desert plants, including the majestic saguaro, mesquite trees, and blooming ocotillo.



BOAT RENTALS

Bartlett Lake Marina we are ideally located 17 miles northeast of Carefree and only one hour from Phoenix. Our marina offers a range of well equipped comfortable pontoon rental boats. All safety gear and full instruction are included. We welcome novices! You can trust our rental boats to keep you and your family safe while exploring the surrounding bays. We have a number of different pontoon boats for your party needs. We also offer a variety of packages from full day rentals, and weekend rental packages.



PONTOON BOAT



SKI BOAT



PERSONAL WATERCRAFT



PARTY YACHT



PADDLE BOARD

www.BartlettLake.com

VOLUME 20 | ISSUE 2

WESTERN

FEBRUARY 2025

OUTDOOR TIMES

A PUBLICATION OF ARIZONA BOATING & WATERSPORTS

AZGFD EXPO

Paddling: One Of Many Features



DRAGONS ROAR

These paddle craft race on Tempe Town Lake.

MILLIONS FOR CONSERVATION

Restoration project will benefit wildlife.

JUST WEAR IT!

Most boating fatalities involve individuals not wearing a life jacket.



Kokopelli Trailers

Custom aluminum boat trailers, top quality materials, a lifetime warranty and some good ol' fashioned TLC.



32240 West Bud Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85138
602.705.2164 • kokopellitrailers.com

