

ON THE COVER



PHOTO BY MARGIE ANDERSON

We Salute Our Wildlife

BY CAROL L. ALLEN

From bears to bison, from trout to turkeys, from fish to falcons, our Arizona wildlife is a plethora of precious beings who share our world. Arizona Game & Fish is a major guardian of this resource, assisted by various species-specific groups and caring individuals.

The Wildlife for Tomorrow's Hall of Fame each year recognizes people and organizations who have significantly cared for the environment and those who inhabit it, our wildlife. We congratulate this year's inductees and thank them all, past and present. A quote from the AZGFD web site (<https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/support-wildlife-conservation/donate-to-azgfd/>) can apply to all of us:

"Help Us Make A Difference For Arizona Wildlife"

Every day, Arizona Game and Fish experts are out in the field, making a difference for Arizona's wildlife. With limited funding sources, we rely on wildlife enthusiasts like you to help us achieve our mission. With your support, we can keep the great outdoors great! Choose the initiative you're most passionate about from the options below and donate to the Arizona Game and Fish Department today.

- conservation memberships
- sending water
- wildlife center

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WESTERN WILDLIFE

What's Up With The Wolves?

AZGFD Accepting Entries For Arizona Wildlife Photo Contest

Submissions accepted through 5 p.m. Aug. 9, 2024

Do you want to see your photo on the cover of Arizona Wildlife Views? Do you have a knack for capturing great photos of wildlife? Then you won't want to miss the Arizona Game and Fish Department's 18th annual wildlife photo contest.

One best in show and 11 winners will be showcased in the 2025 calendar, which is published as part of the November-December 2024 issue of Arizona Wildlife Views. The best-in-show photo is published on the cover of the issue and as one of the photos representing a month.

We're partnering with Arizona Highways to provide an easier way to submit photographs. Use the online form to submit your Arizona wildlife photos. Each contestant may submit a maximum of three photographs, which must be uploaded as separate submissions through the form.

CONTEST, continued on page 19



PHOTO BY BYRON JOHNSON ON UNSPLASH

Raffle Proceeds Benefit Conservation

Enter now: Conservation First USA's 2024 raffle where seven lucky individuals will win one of seven special big-game tags (bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, bison and turkey) for the 2024-25 hunting season.

Buy Tickets Now!

<https://t.ly/FH5Rq>

The real winner is Arizona's wildlife. Every dollar raised for each species through the raffle is returned to the Arizona Game and Fish Department and managed by the Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee. With input from local habitat partners across the state and sponsoring organizations involved in the fundraising, project priorities are determined that provide the most benefit

to each species.

Purchase the "All 7 Package" and receive one entry per species, plus a free entry for the Swarovski Optics Package.

Details

Raffle tickets are \$10 each, per species.

RAFFLE, continued on page 18

Mark Your Calendars For The WFT AZ Outdoor Hall Of Fame Banquet

Eight inductees to be honored Aug. 24 at the Wigwam Resort.



PHOENIX — Make plans to honor your fellow conservationists at the Wildlife for Tomorrow(WFT) Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame Banquet Aug. 24 at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park.

Eight new members will be inducted this year, a diverse group of experts and advocates who have made significant contributions to Arizona's natural heritage and have demonstrated passion and leadership in shaping the future of wildlife conservation in Arizona:

A Passionate Advocate

Tom Slaughter: A passionate advocate for outdoor sports and wildlife conservation, Tom is nominated for the Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame for his extensive work in promoting a safe shooting sports culture. Over 18 years, Tom's initiatives, such as founding Arizona Outdoor Sports and coaching youth in shotgun programs, have transformed the lives of many, foster-

ing confidence and leadership skills. His dedication to coaching excellence and commitment to youth involvement in shooting sports have made a lasting impact, influencing programs like the Scholastic Clay Target Program. Tom's efforts reach beyond Arizona, impacting national initiatives and expanding access to shotgun coaching through innovative programs, highlighting his leadership in outdoor sports and conservation.

Dedicated To Wildlife Conservation

Randy Stalcup: A dedicated wildlife conservation advocate, Randy has contrib-

BANQUET, continued on page 18



Wenima Wildlife Area is home to many species of birds, including this belted kingfisher.

Take A Walk On The Wild Side

The Wenima Wildlife Area, located about three miles northwest of the towns of Springerville and Eagar in the White Mountains, is an excellent place to view a wide variety of birds.

While birding can be rewarding throughout the year, the best times are spring, summer and fall. Some of the species of waterfowl, birds and raptors that can be seen here include golden eagle, American kestrel, belted kingfisher, blue

WILDLIFE, continued on page 19

PORT DOWNSTREAM



JULY 1 - 7

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JULY 7

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JULY 3

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JULY 4

4th of July at Green Valley Park

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Scottsdale 4th of July Celebration at WestWorld

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Scottsdale, Arizona 85260

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Maricopa, Arizona 85138



JULY 5 - 7

North Rim UTV Fun Run

North Grand Canyon, Arizona

JULY 6

Prescott Frontier Days® Rodeo Parade

Downtown Prescott, AZ
Prescott, Arizona 86305



JULY 12 - 14

The Maricopa County Home & Landscape Show

1 Cardinals Dr
Glendale, Arizona 85305

JULY 19 - 21

Williams To The Grand Canyon Experience

Williams, Arizona

JULY 24

AZGFD expects to mail hunt permit-

tags to customers by July 24, with the exception of those who have downloaded the new Arizona E-Tag mobile app (from either the Apple or Google Play stores) and opted-in to receive an electronic hunt permit-tag in their portal account



Sedona Hummingbird Festival Sedona, Arizona

JULY 26 - 28

Sedona Hummingbird Festival

995 Upper Red Rock Loop Road
Sedona, AZ, Arizona 86336



JULY 27

Morning Summer Rides At Verde Canyon Railroad

300 N Broadway
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324

JULY 31 - AUG 3

Southwest Wings Birding And Nature Summer Festival 2024

2200 El Mercado Loop
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635

AUGUST 9

Photo Contest

AZGFD accepting entries for Arizona Wildlife Photo Contest. Submissions accepted through 5 p.m. Aug. 9, 2024

AUGUST 24

Wildlife for Tomorrow AZ Outdoor Hall of Fame Banquet

8 inductees to be honored Aug. 24 at the Wigwam Resort ■

**COMING IN
SEPTEMBER**



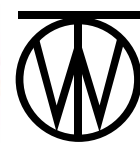
LABOR DAY
September 2



GRANDPARENTS DAY
September 8



PATRIOT DAY
September 11



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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.

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



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ASKING THE QUIET PART OUT LOUD:

Will A Vessel Safety Check Save You From A Random Boarding By Law Enforcement?

Each spring and summer, recreational boaters debate getting a free, no-penalty vessel safety check (VSC). Some may also wonder if that VSC decal on their boat will save them from a random summertime boarding by law enforcement.

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water, the boating safety arm of the nation's largest membership-based boating group and Vessel Safety Check program sponsor says there is no data that supports having a current-year VSC decal lessens the chance for a random boating safety check. The U.S. Coast Guard flatly states the decal does not exempt boaters from law enforcement boarding.



So Why Get A Vessel Safety Check?

"It's a question some boaters don't feel comfortable asking out loud," says BoatUS Foundation boating safety director Ted Sensenbrenner, "Many boaters think that having a current VSC decal is some type of 'get out of jail free' card. It's not."

The Real Value Of A VSC

However, completing a free VSC offers a much more important benefit. "The real value to passing a VSC means you and your boat are ready for potential safety challenges or emergencies that may come up over the boating season," says Sensenbrenner. "You won't be caught scrambling or without an important safety device when you most need it. This is far

more important than simply indicating to a potential boarding officer that a boat has been found to be in compliance with safety equipment regulations."

Scheduled VSC inspections are often offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club, at launch ramps, marinas and boat clubs, or appointments can be made for a vessel examiner to come to your boat. Go to cgaux.org/vsc to learn more and request an exam. Exams typically take less than 60 minutes.

List Of Items Needing Your Attention

Failing a VSC from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or United States Power

CHECK, continued on page 7

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Just-Released U.S. Coast Guard Stats Show Decrease In Fatalities, Accidents, But Problems Persist

Alcohol continues to be a leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents.

The recently released U.S. Coast Guard 2023 Recreational Boating Statistics shows some good news on the boating safety front, with fatalities falling by 11.3% to 564 from 636 in 2022, and overall incidents decreasing by 4.9% from 4,040 to 3,844. Nonfatal injuries also dropped by 4.3% from 2,222 in 2022 to 2,126 in 2023.

Over the long haul, the Coast Guard report also noted that when the Safe Boating Act was first passed in 1971, the fatality rate was 20.6 deaths per 100,000 registered vessels. The latest stats show that number has been reduced to 4.9 per 100,000.

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water, the nonprofit sister organization of Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), says that latest data is a testament to the collective efforts of boating safety advocates, educators and law enforcement agencies across the country. However, boaters shouldn't rest on their laurels.

"We can't seem to overcome some perennial issues," said BoatUS Foundation director of boating safety Ted Sensenbrenner. "Alcohol continues to be a leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents. Of the 75% deaths attributed to drowning, 87% were not wearing life jackets. Additionally, the



Alcohol continues to be a leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents, according to recent U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics.

top five primary contributing factors to accidents continue to be inattention, improper lookout, inexperience, excessive speed and machinery failure."

However, says Sensenbrenner, boaters can increase safety efforts in these areas. "Can you save the alcohol for after boating, or at the minimum, ensure the skipper avoids alcohol? Keep in mind inebriated passengers are still a risk to themselves. Do you offer your guests



Boating safety instruction has proven to be a critical factor in reducing fatalities, according to recent U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics.

comfortable life jackets that they will wear? If not going to be worn, are life jackets readily available and do you have one for everyone aboard? Are you keeping distractions at the helm to a minimum and using everyone's eyes aboard your boat as a lookout?"

One bright spot has been in boating safety education.

"Coast Guard stats continue to confirm the value of boating safety instruction, as they indicate the majority of deaths occur on vessels operated by individuals who had not received boating safety instruction," said Sensenbrenner.

The Foundation plays a significant boating safety role by offering a free online boating safety course that meets minimum boating safety education requirements in 36 states that more than 2.5 million students have taken, as well as on-water training that boosts confidence behind the helm.

"BoatUS Foundation's goal is to ensure every boater has the knowledge and resources to enjoy America's waterways safely and responsibly, and to help get these numbers even lower next year," added Sensenbrenner. ■

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

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Grant Program Opened For \$7.5M Effort To Remove ADVs From Our Nation's Waterways

From June 10-August 12, organizations are invited to apply for grant funding to clean up their local waterways.

What

In a nationwide effort to remove abandoned and neglected boats from our nation's waterways, the Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatUS) Foundation is seeking qualified, diverse and experienced organizations to submit projects for funding. The massive cleanup effort to remove abandoned and derelict vessels (ADV) in U.S. coastal waterways and the Great Lakes is fueled by a four-year, \$10 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program with funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Applicants are encouraged to submit a letter of intent between before August 12.

ADV litter ports, waterways, and estuaries all over the country and can cause major problems. These boats can crush or smother sensitive plants and corals, sink or move during coastal storms, threaten safe navigation, and contribute to economic losses. Removing ADVs is a costly effort, often averaging more than \$24,000 to remove a single boat. For many communities, there may be no local funding for removal of vessels, and navigating complicated funding programs can be challenging for communities with limited time or resources. This is why the BoatUS Foundation grant program is so important.

"We're excited about building upon our years of experience with ADV removals," said BoatUS Foundation Director of Outreach and Grant Program Director, Alanna Keating. "This is a unique program that is open to any organization, nonprofit or for-profit, as well as local, state, territorial, tribal, and regional government agencies. Some of our focus will be seeking underserved or marginalized communities that don't have the local resources to rid their shores of abandoned and derelict vessels."

"Abandoned and derelict vessels are a widespread problem across the United States," said Nancy Wallace, Director of the NOAA Marine Debris Program. "We are pleased to partner with the BoatUS Foundation to maximize our impact,



while reducing the accumulation of costly and damaging debris in our ports, waterways, and coasts."

Why

The goal of the BoatUS Foundation program is to improve U.S. coastal and Great Lakes waters affected by ADVs and create a first-of-its-kind national online database to track ADV location and removal efforts. By removing the associated pollution, navigation and safety hazards ADVs can cause in waters for years, the 20-75 awardees of this grant program will have a lasting, positive impact on the environment and our waters locally and nationally for years to come.

How

Organizations are invited to apply for ADV removal funds by submitting a letter of intent that answers the following questions:

- Body of water from which the debris will be removed
- The purpose of the project and the planned steps to complete it
- Anticipated outcomes of the project on the environment and the community
- How diversity, equity, justice and inclusion will be part of the project
- Project budget and expenses to be covered by the grant funding
- Authorizations and/or permits needed to complete the work

Priority will be given to projects that include input from and benefit tribal, underserved, or low-income communities; demonstrate strong community support; benefit marine animals and their habitats, local coastal communities, and/or local



economies; and include local outreach and education activities directed toward the boating community and general public to prevent abandoned and derelict vessels.

More information on how to apply and grant guidelines can be found here: <https://www.boatus.org/advgrant>

Additional Details And Contacts

- **Organization:** The BoatUS Foundation
- **Non-press calls regarding grant applications:** Email: cleanwater@boatus.com Phone: 800-245-2628, cleanwater@boatus.com
- **Link to use in your story:** BoatUS Foundation Receives \$10 million Grant

About the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water

BoatUS Foundation is leading a nationally competitive grant program for the removal of abandoned and derelict vessels throughout coastal and marine areas of the United States, including the Great Lakes, U.S. territories, and Freely Associated States. This project is supported by the NOAA Marine Debris Program with funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

In an effort to help educate and prevent future ADVs, the Foundation will also create a national ADV database to track the scope of the challenge and measure success, document ADV prevention and removal activities to share with the public, and support a national dialogue and education efforts on boating-related debris removal, with an added focus on how ADVs impact waters in underserved communities. Learn more about the Marine Debris Program by visiting marinedebris.noaa.gov. ■

CHECK

Continued from page 4

Squadrons, America's Boating Club, does not penalize a boater. The owner is given a road map on what items or issues to focus on so they can pass the next exam. In contrast, if your boat is boarded by the Coast Guard and deficiencies are found, you could receive a citation or fine.

Boat clubs, marinas, boat yards and municipalities with launch ramps may also reach out to their local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club, to schedule a VSC inspection day at their property. ■

AZGFD Urges Everyone To Wear A Life Jacket

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) is urging everyone to wear a life jacket, and follow all safety regulations and laws this summer when recreating on Arizona's waterways.

"A life jacket does exactly what it says — it saves your life when you need it," said Danny Rodriguez, watercraft law enforcement program coordinator. "However, it can only save your life if you're wearing one, and often it's too late to put one on once you realize you need it."

According to U.S. Coast Guard statistics, in cases where the cause of death has been determined, 85% of drowning



victims in recreational boating accidents were not wearing a life jacket. AZGFD wants to stress the importance of wearing a life jacket and focusing on safe boating

practices as the busy boating season gets underway.

To promote the use of life jackets, AZGFD and partner agencies will conduct a life jacket exchange. Those who have an old, worn out, or improperly fitting life jacket will be able to exchange it for a new one, free of charge (while supplies last).

"Like anything else, life jackets wear out with time, and these exchange events are a great opportunity for Arizona's boaters and paddlers to ensure they have a life jacket that not only fits correctly, but is in great condition and ready should they

need it," said Josh Hoffman, boating safety education coordinator.

At press time, there were two remaining exchange locations:

Additional exchange location June 1-2: Lake Havasu City: Havasu Riviera, 2067 Havasu Riviera Parkway, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Additional exchange location June 15, July 20, Aug. 18: Bullhead City: Eagle Motorsports, 2106 AZ-Hwy. 95, store hours.

Note: Type I and Type II life jackets will not be accepted; only ski-type life jackets are eligible for exchange.

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.

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They're Fiesty Fighters With Razor-Sharp Teeth

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

If you like bass fishing, you will love fishing for pike. Pound for pound, they are among the most aggressive fish you will ever tangle with, and they can weigh up to 40 pounds or more. Even in a state as far south as Arizona, northern pike thrive at higher elevations and provide plenty of action for anglers who would otherwise be dangling earthworms for trout.

Behave Like Tigers

Pike not only behave like tigers, they have a mouthful of teeth to match. The jaws, roof of the mouth, and even the tongue and gill rakers are bristling with sharp teeth that are constantly replaced. Most of the pike you will catch will probably be in the two- to seven-pound range, which translates to anywhere from sixteen to thirty inches long. On my honeymoon I caught a 42-inch pike at Lake Mary. It weighed sixteen pounds and took me nearly forty-five minutes to land.

Pike are native to colder areas of the country, but they've been stocked in almost every state. If there is a lake near you that regularly ices up in winter, odds are there are pike in there. Pike love to hang out in weedy areas, but once the water starts to warm up, you can often find them out in deeper water even if there isn't any vegetation around.

Soon After Ice-Out

Soon after ice-out, when water temperatures get to about 40 degrees in the shallows, the pike start to move up for the spawn. Big females can produce up to half a million eggs, and they are just randomly broadcast onto vegetation while the male fertilizes them. They stick to underwater plants and hatch in six to 29 days depending on the water temperature. The fry start out eating plankton and tiny invertebrates, but they grow fast. Pretty soon they are eating a diet that is almost nothing but fish, and by the end of the summer they can be six inches long.

Pike are built for speed and they ambush other fish from cover, snagging them with their sharp teeth. They go for big stuff, and can eat fish that are a third their own size. They particularly like fish that are long and thin, rather than shorter, wider prey. Most of their activity takes place during the day, since they hunt primarily by sight.

Fishing Tougher In Hot Weather

Small pike spend almost the entire year in shallow weedy water, but the bigger ones will move off as things heat up. Fishing can get tougher in hotter weather, because not only do the pike get more lethargic in hot water, but there are also a lot more critters around to eat this time of year.

When pike are in a lake they are usually the top predator. Fishing for them is a lot like bass fishing, and you can use many of the same lures. No matter what lure you choose, it's probably a good idea to "super-size" it. Big bait, big fish doesn't hold true for pike, especially in lakes with lots of northerns. The little ones get really aggressive, and they'll often smack a really big lure. Bigger lures are attractive to pike because they represent a big meal worthy of a chase. Little bitty offerings are often ignored except by the smallest fish.

Great Pike Lures

Luckily for anglers, pike will hit just about anything that looks edible. Big Senkos, Chatterbaits with long trailers, in-line spinners (think musky lures), large spinnerbaits, swimming jigs, and your biggest minnow baits are all great pike



Pike will hit chatterbaits and spinnerbaits too.



Swimming a jig is a great way to catch pike, and you can fish shallow or deep with the same lure.

lures. Spoons are also often used for pike, and one of the best ways to shore-fish for pike is to float dead bait under a bobber.

You don't have to finesse a pike bait. If you're using Senkos, use the biggest ones and twitch them fairly quickly. Concentrate on the edges of weeds, or work your Senko right over the weeds and let it drop down into any little pockets you see. With a Senko, a steel leader is a good idea, since odds are the pike will inhale the entire lure. Pale colors work well, since one of a pike's favorite meals is a nice walleye.

Spoons Are A Good Lure

Spoons are another good lure for working the weeds. They are almost snagless, especially the Johnson Silver Minnows and the classic white and red Daredevil. You can add a trailer to the spoon and just cast it around the weeds. To really get the pike's attention, a lot of fishermen "slap" their spoons. Cast out past where you want the lure to land, then just before it hits the water jerk it toward you. Done correctly, it makes a really loud report you can hear yourself. That slapping noise must sound like a dinner bell to a pike.

Choose your spoon color based on visibility. In very clear water the traditional silver or red and white are always a good choice, but if the water is murky a gold or some other color may produce better. Changing the trailer is an easy way to try a different color without spending a fortune on spoons. Just bring along a few bags of 5-inch grubs in various colors. Don't be afraid to try bigger grubs, either, especially if the lake you're fishing has a reputation for big pike.

A Dynamite Lure

One lure that is dynamite for pike is a big football head jig with a skirt and twin-tail. This couldn't be easier to fish, either. All you have to do is throw it out and swim it back. You don't usually have to knock the bottom or bump stumps or anything. Just swim it past anything a pike could hide behind and stay ready.

Spoons and jigs are excellent for fishing drop-offs, because you can easily adjust the depth of the lure. Start out with a steady retrieve, and if it doesn't get bit, start pumping the rod gently to get a little bit of flutter in your lure.

Pike have a tendency to play with their food, and it can be incredibly frustrating. In fact, it's almost as bad as musky fishing. A pike may smack your lure many times before he actually grabs it, so don't give up and reel in. If you get a missed hit, just keep on fishing. He'll probably be back. Thing is, there are probably other pike down there too, and they are all in competition.

My Honeymoon Pike

The monster pike I caught on my honeymoon took a big frozen anchovy that was floating beneath a bobber. Rig a couple of big treble hooks in an anchovy, a big sardine, a trout, or even a nice big section of eel. Keep your bait iced down so it stays fresh, and rig it so it presents naturally. You want it to float as though it were swimming. With a big enough bait-fish, you don't even need any weights. Just sling it out there with a slip bobber that will keep it a couple of feet below the surface.

PIKE, continued on page 10



FISHING



HUNTING



CONSERVATION



NEWS

Dove, Band-Tailed Pigeon Regulations Available Online

Waterfowl and snipe, trapping rules also on AZGFD's website.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) has posted the "2024-2025 Arizona Dove and Band-tailed Pigeon Regulations" at www.azgfd.com/hunting/regulations.

In addition, the "2024-2025 Arizona Waterfowl and Snipe Regulations" and "2024-2025 Arizona Trapping Regulations" can be found on the department's website.



The dove and band-tailed pigeon regulations are produced in a downloadable format that hunters will find handy

in the field. A glossy, color brochure, now available at license dealers statewide (call in advance for availability), contains important hunting information, such as season dates, daily bag and possession limits, and legal requirements, at a glance.

All hunters 18 and older must possess a valid Arizona hunting license, as well as a migratory bird stamp for the 2024-2025 season — both of which can be purchased at www.azgfd.com/license/. A combination hunt and fish license for youth hunters 10 to 17 is only \$5 and includes a migratory bird stamp.

Dove 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 right back to Arizona for habitat improvements, shooting ranges, boating access and more.

AZGFD conserves and protects 800-plus wildlife species without any general fund tax dollars. Your support makes our science-based work possible. Donate today. ■



For Convenient Tackle Storage, There's Seasucker

Hardcore fishing platforms have lure storage in every possible spot on board. But for the average boat, there's the new Tackle Station from SeaSucker. Because it mounts temporarily and is so easy to relocate, it's perfect for owners who may be pulling a tube one day and trolling the next.

Made in the USA of durable high-density polyethylene (HDPE), the Tackle Station uses SeaSucker's powerful 4.5" Vacuum Mount. Supporting up to 120 lbs. once attached to any non-porous surface, it holds the included Plano 3600 Series storage box or a similar 7.25" x 2.5" container in place with an integrated marine-grade shock cord.

Simple to use, the Tackle Station is positioned where needed and the power

STORAGE, continued on page 17

Angling To Catch A Catfish?

Community Fishing Program waters teeming with scrappy fighters.

It doesn't have to be Friday to enjoy a good, old-fashioned fish fry.

Cole slaw. French fries. Red beans and rice. Oh, and don't forget hush puppies. All are perfect complements to a pile of fresh-caught catfish filets, fried in a savory cornmeal batter until crisp and golden-brown.

Whatever your choice of side dishes, leave the main course up to the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), which is now stocking Community Fishing Program waters with tons of channel catfish just waiting to get caught.

And "Tons" Is Not An Exaggeration.

At more than 50 city park lakes and ponds across Arizona, AZGFD expects to stock between 210,000 and 220,000 pounds — more than 100 tons — of channel catfish in two-week intervals (approximately) over the course of the spring and fall seasons this year.

The lower-elevation waters, located in metro Phoenix and Tucson, Yuma, and Safford, will be stocked through May.



The higher elevation waters, in places like Prescott Valley, Ash Fork, Show Low, and St. Johns, will receive fish through mid-September.

Anglers who hook into one of these stockers can expect a tussle. AZGFD has a contract with an Arkansas-based supplier that ensures the fish being delivered mostly weigh between 1 1/2 and 2 pounds apiece, with some tipping the scales up to 5 pounds or more.

One Of Those Would Make For Quite The Meal. Or Even Two.

Catfish are an excellent species for stocking into recreational fishing waters, as they are scrappy, omnivores — which means they will eat almost anything," said Scott Gurtin, who manages the Community Fishing Program. "They're also

exceptionally delicious when fried. If you haven't tried deep-fried catfish, give it a try."

In addition to channel catfish, Gurtin said there are plans to stock about 6,000 pounds of bluegills into the same waters over the course of the year.

The Community Fishing Program was established to provide fun, family-friendly opportunities close to home for all anglers, hence the motto: "If people can't get to the fish, we'll bring fish to the people." It's estimated that more than four million Arizona residents live within 20 minutes of one of these stocked waters.

Anglers Are Advised

Anglers are advised that a valid license is still needed (for those 10 and older) to fish these waters. Valid licenses include general fishing, youth combination hunt and fish (10 to 17), combination hunt and fish (18 and over), or pioneer, blind, disabled veteran (one day), and youth group licenses.

Anglers also should know the difference between waters that have been designated as either a "lake" or a "pond," and have been named accordingly. Community "lakes" are larger bodies of water, generally over three acres, and have higher daily bag limits. Community "ponds"

ANGLING, continued on page 17

PIKE

Continued from page 9

Fish your floating bait around long stretches of cover like the edges of weedbeds or a drop-off next to a flat. If you're moving around in a boat, don't use a bobber. Rig up your bait like a drop-shot rig. Use a three-way swivel so you can have a bit of a leader to tie the hook to, and match the weight to your speed and the depth you're fishing. Most guys start out with a smallish split-shot and add weight until they are hitting bottom or catching

fish. You can fish a soft plastic this way, too, or even a swimbait.

Count To Ten

When you get bit on one of these drift rigs, count to ten before you set the hook. If you wait too long the fish will feel the hook or the sinker and let go, but you do need to give him time to take the bait.

If you're fishing for pike, you're fishing for what is probably the biggest, baddest fish in the lake. Think largemouths on steroids. Anyplace that other fish hang out is where the pike will be, and they attack without hesitation. Leave your fi-



The 42" pike I caught at Lake Mary on our honeymoon. Bob Hirsch put it in the paper he used to write for Yellow Front.

ness gear at home. You're gonna want good stout tackle, big hooks, steel leaders, and strong line. Give a pike an inch, and he'll take your finger.

How To Fillet, Pickle Pike

Some people don't like to eat pike because they are so bony. They have a Y-bone that makes filleting them difficult. You can get around this by pickling the smaller ones. Pike have mild, flaky white meat that is very tasty, but make sure you cook them without the skin. They have an incredible amount of slime that just flat tastes nasty. For detailed instructions on

filleting pike, as well as locating those dreaded Y-bones, just search for "how to fillet pike" — you'll find tons of great videos.

- Pickled Pike: There are many different recipes for pickled pike, but this one is my uncle Ralph's favorite:

- Fillet the fish and cut it into small pieces.

- Freeze the hunks for about a week to get rid of any bacteria or parasites.

- Soak the fish in salt water in the fridge for a couple of days. (Use a little over half a cup of salt for each quart of water).

- Drain off the salt water and rinse the fish in cold water.

Now cover the fish with white vinegar and put it in the fridge for five days.

- Pour off the vinegar and soak the fish in cold water for half an hour before packing it into clean jars, alternating layers of fish with layers of sliced onions.

- Then mix up a sugar and vinegar mixture, enough to fill up your jars of fish. Use one cup of sugar for each two cups of vinegar.

Add pickling spices to the vinegar and sugar and pour it over the fish and onions in the jars.

- Let the jars refrigerate for at least a week before eating.

Pickled pike keeps for about six weeks or so. The pickling process makes the bones so soft that you don't even notice them. Really!

Note: According to the Game and Fish, pike are found in Lake Mary, Ashurst Lake, and Long Lake. ■

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Prescott Welcomes You All Summer Long

Prescott's trails systems continue to expand: next up – Gateway Park.

The City of Prescott continues to add new trails to its ever expanding system, many of which connect to one another. The overall design is intended to give users as many options as possible. Although the more remote trails have access by connecting to other trail systems, such as Peavine National Recreation Trail, it often requires a trek of a couple of miles to arrive at these more remote trailheads. The City intends to solve this problem by providing new parking areas closer to remote areas.

The new Granite Dells Gateway Park is such an area. Conveniently located just east of State Highway 89, it will provide expanded Parking giving easy access to the heart of Granite Dells, one of Prescott's most scenic areas. It will also unite some Prescott Valley and City of Prescott trails. Completion date is to be determined as it relies on the funding for the project. (Contributor: Nancy Nesbit with Chris Hosking)

Granite Dells/North Storm Ranch

Granite Dells - North Storm Trails Storm Ranch in the Granite Dells, just east of Peavine National Recreation Trail has been an ongoing project. The original Storm Ranch property was acquired in January 2018. The City subsequently acquired adjacent property, North Storm Ranch, in July 2022.

The purchase of this private property included agreements with developers, and the purchase of State Trust Land in



DANIEL LLOYD ON UNSPLASH

2023, requiring collaboration between the cities of Prescott Valley and Prescott, as well as Yavapai County, with the intention of creating a Granite Dells/Glassford Hill Regional Park.

Construction Begins

The City of Prescott began construction of trails in North Storm Ranch in 2021. Designed by Chris Hosking, City of Prescott Trails and Natural Parklands Coordinator, it showcases the views of the Dells. With the help of the Over the Hill Gang, the major part of this trail system has been completed, although just over five additional miles have been added. The majority of trails are technical in nature, but some easy trails were added.

With the addition of these trails, the total of City managed trails has risen to about 140 miles of trail. 120 miles of the trails have been built in just the last 15 years. There is also access to additional connecting trails in the Granite Dells subdivision just north of North Storm Ranch. Close to the City and neighborhoods, this very scenic area gives residents and visitors a natural wilderness experience seldom available and so easily accessible.

The City's Goal

The City of Prescott's goal is to make this experience readily available whether



AUSTIN BAN ON UNSPLASH

by foot, bicycle or even a horse. (Contributors: Nancy Nesbit with Chris Hosking/All photos, Chris Hosking)

The Trails

- North Storm Trails Boblett Trail - 0.79 miles
- Candy Trail - 0.27 miles
- Dells Bonanza Trail - 0.66 miles
- Elizabeth Trail - 0.38 miles
- Gunsmoke Trail - 0.26 miles
- High Chaparral Trail - 0.78 miles
- Optional Loop - 4.27 miles (Using Peavine/Iron King/Storm Trails)
- Rattler Trail - 0.71 miles
- Tom Mix Trail - 0.4 miles
- Trampus Trail - 0.38 miles
- Virginia Trail - 0.43 miles

Maps for City trails and the Prescott Circle Trail are downloadable at: prescott-az.gov/recreation-area/trails/ or prescotttrails.com

Prescott 2024 Summer Special Events

- July 1-7 Worlds Oldest Rodeo Prescott Rodeo Grounds <https://worldsoldeastrodeo.com>
- July 4-6 Rodeo Dance Depot Marketplace <https://worldsoldeastrodeo.com>
- July 4 Prescott 4th of July Fireworks Event Watson Lake <https://www.jardevents.com/prescotts4th>
- July 5 Kiwanis Kiddie Parade Cortez Street <https://prescottkiwanis.com>

Street <https://prescottkiwanis.com>

July 5-7 Prescott Rodeo Days Fine Arts & Crafts Courthouse Plaza <https://prescottdowntown.com>

July 6 Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo Parade Prescott Rodeo Grounds <https://worldsoldeastrodeo.com>

July 6 Prescott Whiskey Row Boot Race Whiskey Row

July 7 Prescott Fire Dept. Hose Cart Races Cortez Street

Aug. 3-4 Mountain Artist Guild Summer Fine Arts Fest Courthouse Plaza <https://mountainartistguild.org>

Aug. 3-4 Prescott Antique Auto Club Car Show Watson Lake <http://paacaz.com>

Aug. 17 Tac O' the Town Mile High Middle School <https://prescott.events>

Aug. 30- Sep. 2 Faire on the Square Arts & Crafts Courthouse Plaza <https://www.prescott.org>

Sep. 14 Hopefest AZ Courthouse Plaza <https://www.hopefestaz.com>

Sep. 20-22 Prescott Pow-Wow Watson Lake <http://prescottpowwow.org>

Sep. 27-28 Prescott All-Corvette Car Show Downtown <https://prescottvette-sette.com>

Sep. 22-24 Prescott Highland Games Watson Lake <https://prescottareaceltic-society.com>

Sep. 29 Saddles 100 Trail Run Cortez Street <https://ultrasignup.com> ■

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Installing SeaSucker Ridge Ready Monkey Bars is simple. Placed on any non-porous surface, such as paint, fiberglass or glass panel, the integrated pump on each Vacuum Mount is pushed until the orange indicator band disappears. Mounts can hold for days; should the band reappear, a few quick presses will recharge the holding power.

SeaSucker Ridge Ready Monkey Bars come with a spare vacuum pump and maintenance lubricant. The 48" model



costs \$549 and the 60" version is \$599; both come with a limited lifetime warranty.

Contact local dealers or SeaSucker, LLC, 1912 44th Ave. E, Bradenton, FL 34203. 941-900-1850. info@seasucker.com; www.seasucker.com ■



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A Short But Sweet Off-Road Trip Near Mormon Lake

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

When I was a kid, my dad always took us kids hunting off Dugas Road. There used to be a dirt road and a gate right on the side of I-17 and that road led to Hooker Tank, and from there over the hill to road 68D which goes from Dugas Road north to Squaw Peak Road. We loved it there and since we went there so often we all knew that area very well. There's a lot to be said about knowing all the best and prettiest places in an area, but after I married John I learned that going to different places all the time can be even more fun. We love to explore!

You'd think that since I was born here and I've been hunting and camping all my life, that I would have been every-

where by now. No way! Even in areas that you've been to before, it seems like there is always a new trail to investigate, and when John and I and Mochi go out in the Jeep, we always find fun roads with interesting stops along the way. FR 127 up near Mormon Lake is an example. We've been on a lot of roads around Apache Maid and Mormon Lake, but there are so many I don't think we'll ever see them all. But I sure am happy to try!

Start on Exit 315, Rocky Park Road

You won't need a 4WD vehicle for this road, but you'll need high clearance. When you exit at Rocky Park Road the road comes to a T right away and you'll want to head north (left). Of course



The road near the bottom of this map highlighted in orange is our route on FR 127. This is from the National Geographic map of Flagstaff and Sedona.



Mochi chasing frogs at Lee Spring.



I don't know what these are called but they sure are pretty.

you're in forest all the time here and we stopped pretty quickly to let Mochi out to run around while we filled our coffee cups and got ready to explore. This was just last month (May) so there were lots of flowers around, which I always enjoy.

The road goes north for just a ways, swings east, then heads north again and intersects FR127. This is the road we took. Hang a right so you're headed east on 127. There are a lot of roads that branch off from this road, and we definitely want to come back and explore some of them, but the first time we take a trail, we like to stay on track because you never know if you're going to hit a rough spot, get a flat, or whatever.

On the map photo I highlighted 127 in orange and it's right near the bottom of the photo. You can see how close you

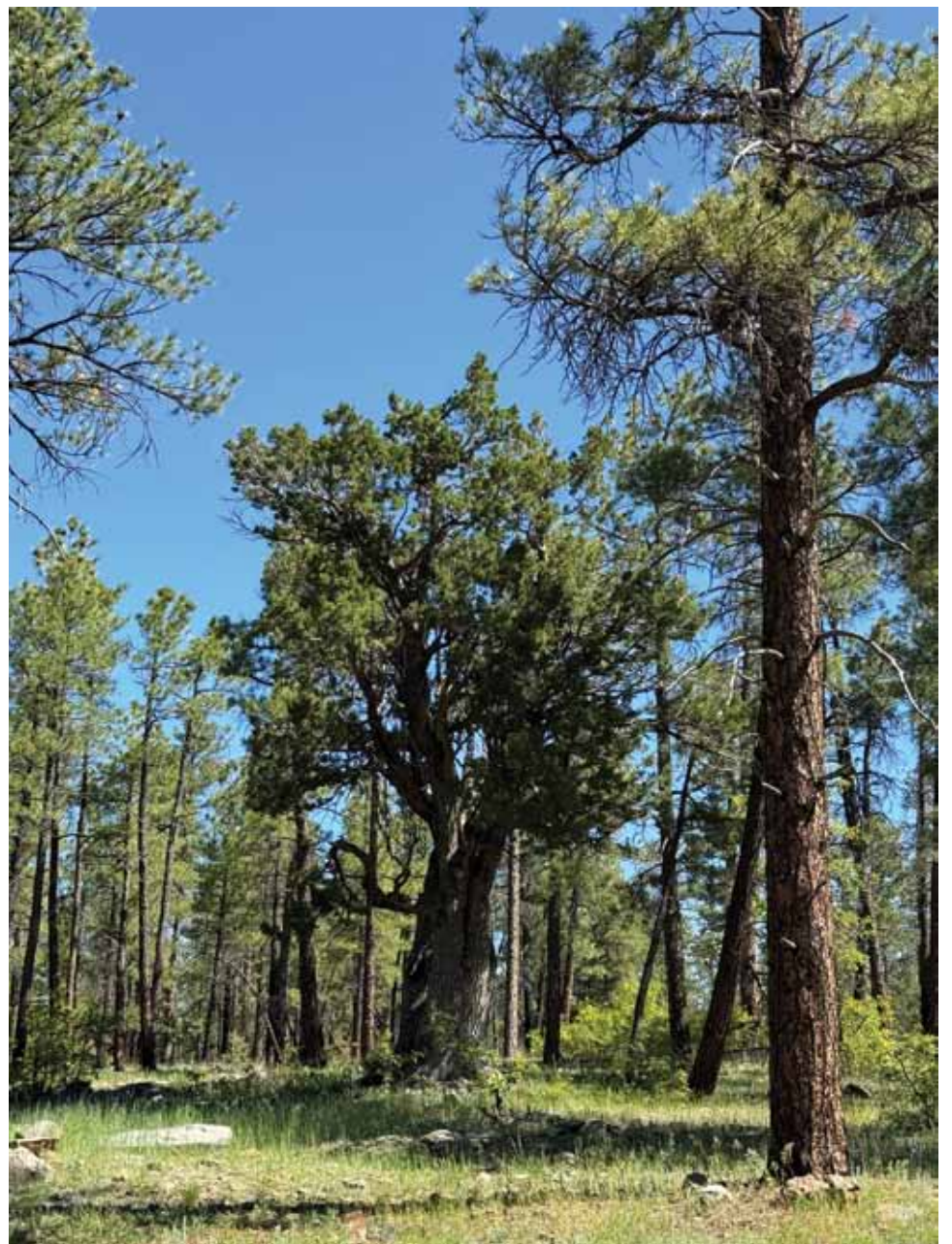
MORMON LAKE, continued on page 15

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A magnificent juniper among the pines.



MORMON LAKE

Continued from page 14

are to Mormon Lake and County Road 3 which takes you to Flagstaff or down to 87 and 260 to Payson or Camp Verde. So you're really in the thick of things but on this road you feel as if you have the whole forest to yourself. We went on a weekday and never saw another vehicle. It was lovely.

Lee Spring

I can never resist a spring that is close enough to investigate, and Lee Spring was no different. I spotted it on my Topo-Maps App and it was just south of 127, so we swung over and got out to walk over to it. There are some old concrete boxes like troughs in the middle of a little meadow and I thought they marked the spring, but when I got to them there was no water.

But John and Mochi had headed over to a barbed wire fence and on the other side of it was the spring. This is one spring that didn't disappoint – Lee Spring is a small round pond surrounded by green grass and trees. Mochi loved it because it was full of little frogs. Wherever she went on the edge of the pond frogs would leap off the bank and into the water. She chased them happily for quite a while. It was so pretty and peaceful there that I hated to leave, but we wanted to see the rest of the road so we headed back to the Jeep and onward.

Lee Butte

About a half mile past the spring there is a road (127D) that goes south to the top of Lee Butte. I saw on the map that there is a Lookout there, so we drove to the top. Like most roads that go to lookouts, this road wound around the hill and was narrow in places, so you're hoping no one is coming the other way. But no one was, and we made it to the top in just a few minutes.



The cabin at Lee Butte lookout.



The lookout tower on Lee Butte is in the Historic Registry - it's one of only three such towers built in Arizona.

At the top was the lookout tower, a cabin, a big fireplace, a well, and a bunch of mysterious foundations and things that might be part of a previous lookout. The lookout is no longer in use and the gate to the stairs has a sign warning of danger. Trust me, one look at those stairs and no one had to tell me not to climb them!

The cabin was locked, but it was cool and shady up there. A lot of pollinators were hanging around the well – everyone needs water – so we went over by the big fire place and had our lunch there at the top of the Butte. There are views here and there through the trees, but nothing like I bet it is from the top of that lookout!

When I got home I looked up Lee Butte Lookout and found out that it is on the National Historic Lookout Register. It's at an elevation of 7,385 feet and is a 46 foot International Derrick Tower with a 7'x7' cab and was built in 1933. It is one of only three of that design in Arizona and it's listed on the National Register of Historic Sites along with the ground house (cabin). Pretty cool!

Little Daisy Tank

Tanks are like springs in that you never know if there is water in them unless you go look. You also never know what they'll look like. I've seen plenty that were simply muddy circles with brown water surrounded by cow poo, but then I've seen many that turned out to be so pretty they look like little lakes. Little Daisy Tank is one of the pretty ones.

We could see the tank from the road so we pulled over and walked out to it. It's a peaceful round pond surrounded by bright green grass and pine trees. Very nice. Again, Mochi had a blast running in and out of the water – you can't keep a



Little Daisy Tank. It's so nice to get out and walk around where it's cool and smells like pine trees!

Brittany out of water, so don't even try! It made for a nice little walk and John showed me how many times he can skip a stone – very impressive!

Brolliar Park

By the time you leave Little Daisy Tank there's only about 4-5 miles left of 127, and just before it T's into FR91 there is a pullout on the north side of the road that has a lot of places where people camp. There's a large meadow there called Brolliar Park, but it's fenced off so you can't drive into it. My map shows a fairly big body of water in there without a name, but we couldn't see it from the road.

From there it's just a hop skip and a jump to where 127 joins 91, so turn right there (east) and you'll end up on Lake Mary Road, also known as County Road 3. Turn left to go to Mormon Lake and Flagstaff, right (south) to go to Highway 87 and 260. We went south, but only to Stoneman Lake Road, which we took to I-17 to head home. Of course we stopped at the overlook, and this was the second time in my life that I've seen water in Stoneman Lake. It's beautiful!

This drive was short but had so many cool things to see! We had left the house



Look closely and you can see a mama turkey and her poults. There must have been a dozen little ones!

in Sun City at 6:30 am and got home around 4. If you get a chance, head up there and check it out. Please leave it as beautiful as you found it, and stay on the roads! Thanks! ■

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Wolves And Geography

What is the best way to infuse genetic diversity into the wild Mexican wolf population?

Some argue that releasing captive-reared adult wolf pairs into the wild is the best way. But is it really?

In this video, Jim deVos, Mexican wolf coordinator for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, discusses why fostering of wolf pups into wild dens is more effective than releasing captive pairs in the long run because of the geographic dispersal of genetics that fostering provides.

This video was recorded before the latest fostering numbers were released; for an update on the continuing success of

the program, see the news release (<https://www.fws.gov/press-release/2024-05/re-cord-mexican-wolf-pup-foster-year>).

Fostering is a coordinated effort of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and the Saving Animals From Extinction program. Aerial support for the 2024 operations was provided by LightHawk Conservation Flying and the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Aviation Program.

View the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkrAMRf9de8> ■

ANGLING

Continued from page 10

have daily bag limits that are only one-half that of lakes.

Limits are reduced at the smaller bodies of water to avoid overcrowding and overfishing, while still providing a quality angling experience. Once a daily bag limit is reached, an angler must stop fishing for that species.

The Best Method To Catch Cats

The best method for channel catfish is to use a hook-and-sinker setup fished on the bottom. Anglers should use an 8- to 12-pound test line with a No. 2 to No. 6 baitholder hook. Typical baits include worms, stink baits, hotdogs, liver, and shrimp. Fish the deepest spots during the daytime and shallower areas after dark.

For more information about the Community Fishing Program, visit www.azgfd.gov/community. ■

STORAGE

Continued from page 10

button pumped until the orange section disappears. If the color reappears after a couple of days, a few quick pumps recharges it. And when it's time to move or stow the device — or even repurpose it around the boat with a different box —

it removes without leaving a mark. The SeaSucker Tackle Station costs \$115.

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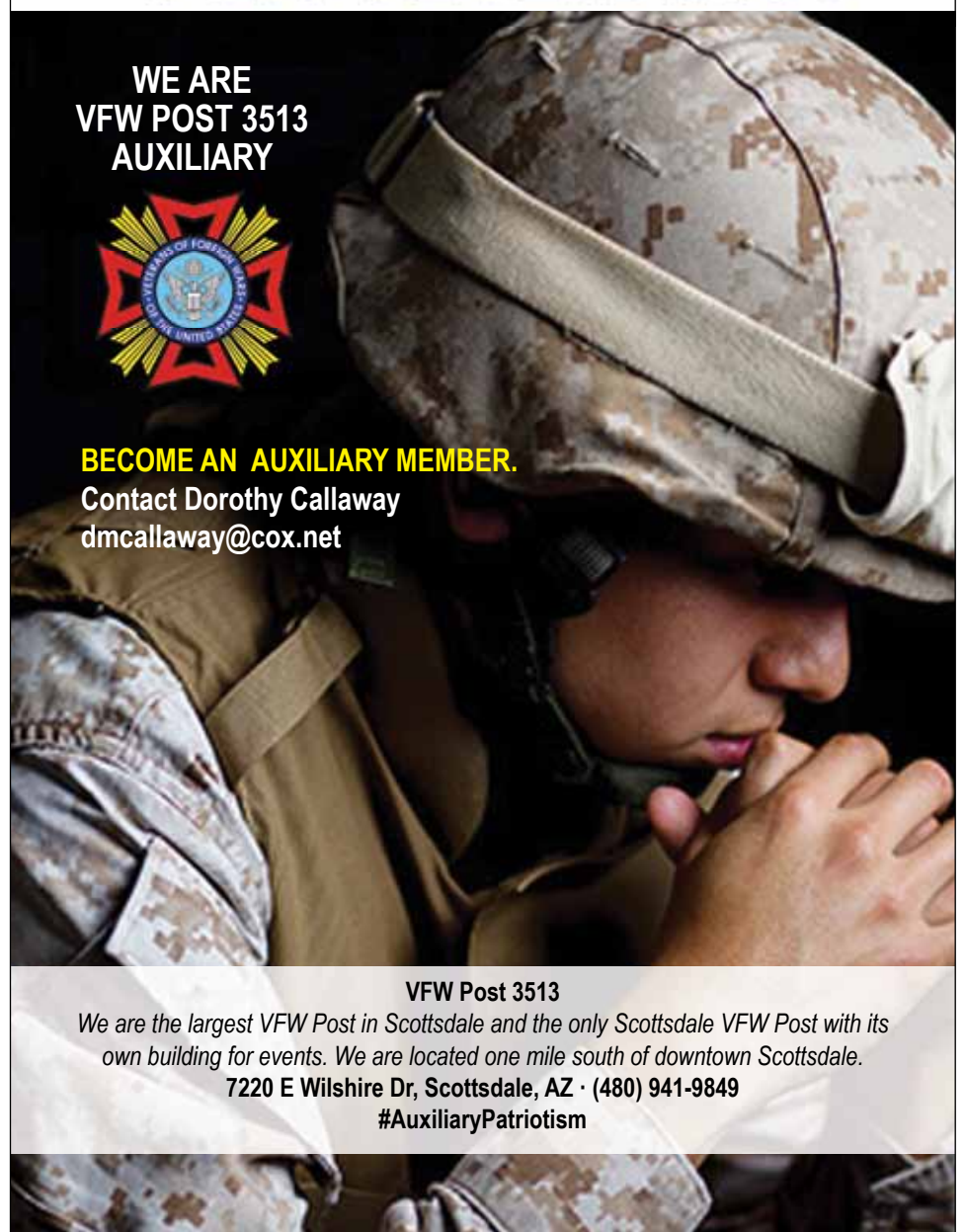
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BANQUET

Continued from page 1

uted significantly to various organizations in Arizona for over three decades. His journey began as a volunteer for Arizona's wildlife in the early 1990s. Since then, he has played integral roles in organizations such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), Arizona Deer Association (ADA), Outdoor Experience for All (OE4A), and more. Randy's graphic design expertise has been instrumental in organizing successful fundraisers, creating banquet programs, and supporting initiatives like the Adopt-A-Ranch program with the O'Haco Ranch. His tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed, as reflected in awards like the 2022 RMEF Chairman's Award, recognizing his exceptional contributions to wildlife conservation. Randy's selfless dedication and professional services have made a lasting impact on Arizona's wildlife and conservation efforts.

A Strategic Approach

Jim Walker: Jim's strategic approach to conservation challenges has resulted in efficient and timely solutions, showcasing his talent for identifying and nurturing conservation leaders. His notable contributions to Trout Unlimited in Arizona include unifying fragmented chapters in Phoenix, Tucson, and Payson into a strong, collaborative organization. He has played a crucial role in various conservation projects. Jim's leadership extends to legislative advocacy on conservation and water issues, with extensive involvement in the Western River Action Network and visits to congressional offices. His co-founding of the annual Arizona Native and Wild Trout Conference has significantly contributed to the restoration of Apache and Gila trout populations in the state. Beyond Trout Unlimited, Jim has actively promoted expansion of initiatives such as the Trout in the Classroom

program and has been active with various conservation councils and federations.

Lifelong Love For Outdoors

Tom Britt: Tom's lifelong love for the outdoors began in South Carolina and Southwest Virginia, where he was introduced to fishing by one grandfather, while the other grandfather was involved in running trail hounds. Settling in Tucson as a teenager sparked a profound connection to the Sonoran Desert. After two years of employment with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission as a Wildlife Biologist II stationed in the headwaters of the Atchafalaya Swamp, he returned to Arizona. For 26 years, Tom dedicated himself to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, beginning as a Wildlife Manager in Game Management Unit 24B. Later, he was promoted to Wildlife Specialist II in Flagstaff, where he worked extensively with elk and the Kaibab Deer Herd. In 1984, he was further promoted as Region II Supervisor in Flagstaff. Even after retiring in 1999, Tom continued his commitment by teaching Hunter Education for over 50 years in Arizona, instilling conservation values in generations to come.

Unwavering Dedication

Suzanne and Hays Gilstrap: Suzanne and Hays have exhibited an unwavering dedication to wildlife conservation and outdoor pursuits. Suzanne's advocacy work, particularly in client representation and government relations, has influenced critical legislation benefiting Arizona's wildlife, while Hays' extensive business experience led him to serve on notable boards and commissions, including the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Together, they have made significant contributions to the state's conservation efforts, with Suzanne's leadership at Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation and Hays' instrumental role in initiatives like Arizona Initiative 202. Their passion for the outdoors and commitment to conservation have left a lasting impact on Arizona's wildlife and conservation ethos.

Connection To The Land

Kelly Glenn Kimbro: A fifth-generation Arizona cattle rancher, Kelly embodies a deep-rooted connection to the land and a fervent commitment to conservation and community service. Her tireless advocacy for natural resources, wildlife, and western traditions marks her as a respected figure in the ranching community. From owning and operating multiple ranches with her family to actively engaging in conservation projects and supporting local initiatives, Kelly's impact resonates far and wide. Her dedication to environmental conservation, coupled with her leadership in the livestock industry, distinguishes her as a champion for sustainable land management and cultural heritage. Inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2023, Kelly's legacy is a testament to her unwavering passion for ranching, conservation, and community enrichment.

Dedicated To Conservation

Jackie A. Meck: Former Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck has dedicated himself to sustainability and conservation in the West Valley. His list of accomplishments in urban planning and environmental conservation over eight decades has had a profound impact. His visionary leadership includes founding the White Tanks Mountains Conservancy and spearheading the expansion of the White Tanks Regional Park. His passion for ecological restoration is evident in projects like the El Rio Restoration initiative, where he engaged Senator John McCain and others to restore the Gila River's habitat. His commitment to environmental education is reflected in the creation of the Tres Rios Nature Festival. In addition to his public service, Mayor Meck's agricultural background and role as the retired General Manager of the Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District underscore his dedication to sustainable land and water management.

Need-To-Knows

The inductees will be honored at the 26th annual Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame banquet on Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Wigwam Resort, 300 Wigwam Blvd. in Litchfield Park. The evening will feature a social hour fundraiser beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by a dinner and awards ceremony.

To purchase banquet tickets, or for information on sponsorship opportunities, visit <https://www.wildlifefortomorrow.org/halloffame> and scroll down to the appropriate links.

Established In 1998

Wildlife for Tomorrow established the Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame in 1998. This prestigious award honors individuals and organizations that have made remarkable and enduring contributions towards the conservation of Arizona's wildlife, the preservation of its natural resources, and the promotion of the state's outdoor heritage.

Past Hall Of Fame Inductees

Past Outdoor Hall of Fame inductees have been individuals with backgrounds in wildlife volunteerism, corporate leadership, politics, wildlife and the media, including Ben Avery, Barry Goldwater, Morris Udall, John McCain, Bill Quimby, Margie Anderson, Tom Woods, and Steve Hirsch, as well as groups and organizations such as Adobe Mountain

BANQUET, continued on page 19

RAFFLE

Continued from page 1

There is no limit to the number of tickets customers can purchase.

The deadline to purchase tickets is 9 p.m. on July hase.

The drawing will be conducted in July. In the 18-year history of the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle, more than \$11 million have been raised for wildlife and wildlife management in Arizona. ■



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CONTEST

Continued from page 1

Please review the Official Rules (<https://www.arizonahighways.com/photography/photo-contest>) prior to entering. Entrants are responsible for complying with the Official Rules or may result in disqualification. This contest is for images of Arizona wildlife. All photos must depict wildlife native to and found in Arizona, and all photos must have been taken in Arizona settings.

The deadline is 5 p.m. MST on Aug. 9, 2024.

Winners will be announced after Nov. 1, 2024.

View the list of past wildlife photo contest winners <https://t.ly/HH09U>.

AZGFD conserves and protects 800-plus wildlife species without any general fund tax dollars. Your support makes our science-based work possible. Donate today. ■

WILDLIFE

Continued from page 1

grosbeak, indigo bunting, black-crowned night-heron, green-backed heron, yellow-breasted chat, black phoebe, gray catbird, and a variety of migrating warblers and songbirds. Check the bluff edges for raptors. Both mountain and western bluebird are found in the junipers in winter.

To get to the Wenima Wildlife Area, take U.S. Highway 60 a couple miles west going out of Springerville. At the junction of U.S. Highways 60 and 180/191, go a quarter-mile north on Highway 180/191 and look to turn right onto a graded dirt road going northeast. After 1.5 miles, the graded road drops a short distance into the Little Colorado River canyon corridor. Park at the designated parking area next to the restroom and information kiosks. The wildlife area is open from sunrise to sunset. ■

BANQUET

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Wildlife Center Volunteers, Arizona Antelope Foundation, Rio Salado Sportsman's Club, Arizona Deer Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, Audubon Arizona, Arizona Public Service, Salt River Project, and others (see list of past inductees here: <https://www.wildlifefortomorrow.org/halloffame> by scrolling to the bottom of that page).

For More Information

Wildlife for Tomorrow was created in 1990 to enhance the management, protection and enjoyment of Arizona's fish and wildlife resources. As the official 501(c)(3) partner of AZGFD, WFT works to provide funds to advance key programs and initiatives beyond AZGFD's self-funding capacity. For more information, visit <https://www.wildlifefortomorrow.org/>.

Subscribe to WFT for more information on how you can make an impact on wildlife conservation efforts in Arizona. ■



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