

ON THE COVER



PHOTO BY MIKE BEAUMONT, UNSPLASH

A Resource Shared

BY CAROL L. ALLEN

Bison (aka buffalo) have long been an important resource for indigenous people. That truth is recognized in the herd management of the valuable animals that inhabit the Grand Canyon's North Rim. One hundred bison were successfully relocated last month and transferred to the Intertribal Buffalo Council. Since herd reduction began in 2018, 282 buffalo have been transferred to eight different American Indian tribes. The sharing of this resource is as it should be, contributing to both conservation and recognizing the indigenous peoples' heritage.

And, speaking of conservation — among other things relating to wildlife and the outdoors — we congratulate the winners of this year's Arizona Game & Fish Commission awards. Individuals and organizations like these are leaders in protecting the incredibly diverse and precious resources of our state.

Moving on in Arizona, this issue celebrates Halloween at the end of the month with some really scary places to visit. Yes, there are many and the Andersons are happy to take you on a spooky tour of several of them. Don't shiver too much though chills may run up your spine. Boo! Happy Halloween.



NPS PHOTO/M. QUINN

Bison are shown at the corral site on the North Rim.

SUCCESSFUL RELOCATION

100 Bison Moved From Grand Canyon's North Rim

Grand Canyon wildlife managers successfully relocated 100 bison from the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park in mid-September. All bison were transferred to the Intertribal Buffalo Council (<https://itbcbuffalonation.org/>), which transported them to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota (<https://www.cheyenneriversioux.com/>).

Since reduction efforts began in 2018, park staff have removed 306 bison from the North Rim, with 282 transferred to eight different American Indian tribes through an agreement with the Intertribal Buffalo Council.

In 2014, the National Park Service (NPS) initiated a science-based planning process to manage bison overpopulation at Grand

Canyon National Park. By 2017, using the best available science and working closely with the public, the state of Arizona, and American Indian tribes, park managers finalized the Initial Bison Herd Reduction Plan. This plan aims to reduce the herd through live capture and transfer, as well as limited lethal removal. The 2024 summer population estimate for the herd was approximately 378 animals.

"This successful relocation is a testament to the collaborative efforts of all our partners," said Grand Canyon Superintendent Ed Keable. "It represents a significant step toward achieving our long-term goals for bison management and conservation."

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AZGFC Announces Recipients Of This Year's Awards

Commission Awards Banquet set for Jan. 25th

PHOENIX — The Arizona Game and Fish Commission announced the recipients of the 2024 Commission Awards at its September meeting in Prescott, Ariz. The awards recognize Arizonans who have contributed significantly to the conservation of the state's wildlife, its outdoor heritage, and the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish

Department.

- This year's recipients are —
- Award of Excellence – Kohinoor Kar – ADOT
- Youth Conservationist of the Year – Ryder and Cadence Walton
- Media of the Year – The Williams Grand Canyon News
- Conservation Organization of the Year – Pete Cimellaro – AZ Big Game Super Raffle dba Conservation First
- Conservationist of the Year – Nate Rees

– Trout Unlimited

- Natural Resource Professional of the Year – Cheryl Rodriguez
- Volunteer of the Year – Mark Venuti
- Educator of the Year – Jacob Swartwood
- Mentor of the Year – Marci Welton
- Advocate of the Year (State) – Rep. Tim Dunn
- Advocate of the Year (Federal) – Senator Mark Kelly
- Business Partner of the Year – AZ Fly Shop – Chris Rich

- Buck Appleby Hunter Education Instructor of the Year – Denis Rusty McBride
- Sprague's Sports LLC
- Wildlife Habitat Steward of the Year – Terry Schmidt of Schmidt Ranch
- North American Model Commissioners' Award – Jeff Gagnon

The awards will be presented at the annual Commission Awards Banquet on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, at the Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort, Grande Ballroom, 11111 N.

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AZGFD celebrates delisting of Apache trout.



AZ STATE PARKS

'One More For The Road'

FROM ARIZONA STATE PARKS

It's back to school season, which means it's time for one more trip to cap off your summer experience. Load the family up and hit the road aimed at your favorite lake or Arizona high country destination. We've made it easy for you to make even more summer memories. Take a look at these great outdoor options below, then fin-

ish summer strong by getting outside and enjoying all that this beautiful state has to offer.

Rev Up Your Adventure: Discover Eastern Arizona's Scenic OHV Trails!

Get ready for an unforgettable off-road

ROAD, continued on page 19

Tom Finley Named New Director Of AZGFD

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has appointed Tom Finley as the new director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

The appointment came in a unanimous 5-0 vote at the Commission's early September meeting in Prescott.

Finley will replace outgoing director Ty Gray who is retiring after 31 years with the agency, the past seven as director.

Finley has been with Game and Fish for 33 years and is currently the agency's deputy director. He will assume the director position following a brief transition period.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department director is appointed by the Arizona



Finley

DIRECTOR, continued on page 19

October 7

The Governor's Office is now accepting applications to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Residents knowledgeable and passionate about Arizona wildlife and conservation in eligible counties are welcome to **apply by Monday, Oct. 7** Information: bc@az.gov.



Indigenous People's Day: October 14

Halloween Events In Northern Arizona

Costumes for Kids 5K Fun Run

Where: 120 S Cortez St., Prescott
What: Join in on a costumed dash in the heart of downtown Prescott. Run or walk this 5k with a purpose, supporting CASA for Kids Foundation at Courthouse Square.
When: October 29

Verde Canyon Railroad

Where: 300 N. Broadway, Clarkdale
What: When you're dying to tap into everything dreaded, climb aboard Verde Canyon Railroad's Fright Night phantom railcars, permanently parked at the depot, and make all your nightmares come true. Frightening tales and treats are plenty through the month of October. Passengers and train staff are encouraged to ride the rails in costume on **October 31**.
When: Fright Nights and stationary train: select nights, September 23 - October 31. Haunted Halloween Express: October 31, 1 p.m.

Haunted History

Where: 735 Jordan Rd., Sedona
What: Think you know Sedona? Tune in to an afternoon of ghostly tales and terrifying true stories of the haunted desert, told by cowboy poet and author Michael Peach.
When: October 30

Halloween Harvest & Trick or Treat Trail

Where: Heritage Square, Flagstaff
What: Roughly 20 downtown businesses take part in this family-friendly event and offer "treats" in the form of candy, discounts or both to those on the trail. Live music, fun crafts, games and plenty of deals round out this Halloween event.

Halloween Events In Central Arizona

Brick or Treat, Legoland

Where: 5000 S Arizona Mills Cir., Ste. 135, Tempe

What: Stay and play in the Halloween spirit at Legoland. Families are invited to participate in a spooky scavenger hunt and create a LEGO® pumpkin display to take home throughout the month of October.

When: September 30 - October 31

Strange Garden

Where: 1201 N Galvin Pkwy., Phoenix
What: Discover the desert's creepy crawlies and frightening flora at the Desert Botanical Garden (DBG). Enjoy live performances and take home a free pumpkin from the Garden's patch.
When: October 21 - 22

Halloween Spook-Track-Ula

Where: 7301 E Indian Bend Rd., Scottsdale
What: Witness as McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park transforms into a haunted playground, chock full of family-friendly fun. Reserve your hour-and-a-half block to experience unlimited spooky train and haunted carousel rides.
When: October 7 - 31

Immersive Tut Exhibit

Where: 4301 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale
What: Art and history unite. Experience the myths and legends of King Tut and Ancient Egypt at this frighteningly immersive exhibit.
When: September 30 - November 13

Fear Farm Haunted House

Where: 6801 N 99th Ave., Glendale
What: Leave behind city lights and experience 30 acres of farmyard frights. 5 indoor/outdoor spooky attractions (plus a haunted hayride and corn maze) provide scary fun for all ages. From confrontations with undead trick-or-treaters to maniacal clowns, Fear Farm dares you to stroll the scenes and stay a while this Halloween.
When: Select days, September 23 - October 31

Mount Mayhem: Bayou

Where: North Phoenix (visit the site for details)
What: Taking place at a private home in north Phoenix, Mount Mayhem is a family-run haunted house put together with some serious devotion. This year's theme, "Bayou, a blood tale," incorporates all the creepiness of a Southern gothic night—think spooky swamps and voodoo magic. (Note: No groups larger than 5 people allowed at a time; larger groups will be split.)
When: October 27-31

Sanctum of Horror and The Breach

Where: 6555 East Southern Ave., Mesa
What: The Sanctum of Horror haunted house is chock full of terror, with undead stories of St. Charlotte Asylum. Ghostly horrors in scary detail await those brave enough to enter. If a post-apocalyptic military bunker scene is more your style, opt for The Breach.

Scarizona

Where: 1901 N. Alma School Rd., Mesa
What: Scarizona Scaregrounds combines two haunted houses on one site. Celebrate all things chaotic and bizarre at Mayhem in the Madness, which features plenty of blood, guts and unfriendly clowns. Or explore the confined spaces of Startled Darkness, a near-total dark experience full of loud noises, jolts and other scares. Closed-toed shoes are a must for entry at both haunts.

Halloween Events In Southern Arizona



Apple Annie's Fall Pumpkin Celebration

Where: 2081 Hardy Rd., Willcox
What: Swing by the farm just in time for fall. Hayrides, a corn maze and cool autumn weather await at Apple Annie's. End the day by picking the perfect pumpkin, sunflower or fall vegetable.
When: September 24 - October 30 (Saturdays and Sundays)

Flandrau Spooktacular Science

Where: 1601 E University Blvd., Tucson
What: Discover scary science this Halloween weekend. Little scientists can explore spooky arts and crafts, terrifying treats and a Halloween-themed laser show. Two other planetarium shows, "Legends of the Night Sky" and "Spooky Tucson Sky," also make their return for a limited time.
When: October 30 - 31

Nightfall

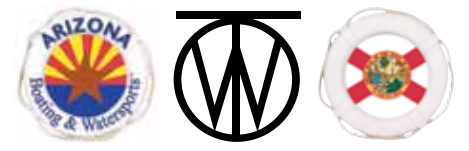
Where: 201 S. Kinney Rd., Tucson
What: After a two-year hiatus, the popular Old Tucson Halloween event returns for its 30th anniversary with a completely new experience. Instead of roaming characters, those brave enough to explore this haunted attraction will have to explore the grounds. How much you experience is completely up to you. Will you help the residents of Nightfall and uncover the town's hidden secrets or sit back and enjoy the show?
When: October 6 - 30 (Thursdays - Sundays)



Daylight Savings Time Ends: November 3



Election Day: November 5



THE CREW

Publisher: Jim Allen
Editor: Carol L. Allen
Production: Angela Ogden
Boating Co-Editors: Ed and Debbie Huntsman
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 LPSC
Bill Roecker	Mary Syrett
BoatU.S.	M.D.R. Proctor
Bureau of Reclamation	Margie Allen
Chelle Brookes	Maxine Brookes
Christi Brookes	Mike Brookes
Daryl Horsman	National Park Service
Debbie Huntsman	NAU Athletics
DJ Proctor	Patrick Horning
Don McDowell	Phoenix Power Squadron
Ed Huntsman	Rory Aikin
Fur and Feather	Rose and Ron Werner
Gloria Bryson Pyszka	SAPC
Henri Hurrier	Superstition Search & Rescue
Jack Innis	Tom Nunez
Jackson Bridges	Tonto National
Jane Lemon Mott	Forrest
Janet Bosley	USA Water Ski
Jay Williams	Wayne Gustaveson
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 AZGFC Media of the Year
 2009 National Water Safety Congress Award of Merit
 2016 AZGFC Writer Of The Year

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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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ALYSSIA GREINER

Boating safety changes as temperatures cool.

How The Arrival Of Autumn Changes Boating

Here are three tips for safely enjoying the water in the off season from BoatUS Foundation.

Say a final goodbye to the summer 2024 boating season as Sept. 22 marked the fall equinox. With the change of season, ushered in by cooler air and water temperatures, boating safety also changes. With that in mind, the BoatUS Foundation offers three safety tips tailor-made to help you safely enjoy the wonders of the water during the off season — yes, even in Arizona.

- **A life jacket for the season:** Unexpected falls overboard could be big

trouble fast, so wear a life jacket that fits over your clothing or consider investing in a float coat (a combination winter jacket and PFD). It can provide the return of your life. A life jacket or float coat can give you more time to self-recover as there are fewer boaters on the water, decreasing your chance for good Samaritan help. Some of the most comfortable life jackets today are inflatable models and can be easily worn over outer gear, but keep in mind inflatable jackets should not be used when air temperatures are expected to be below 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

- **More than just a hat:** Keeping your body warm when fall temperatures drop is a story about layers and facing the myth about the need to wear a hat. While it may

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BoatUS Foundation: Reviewers Needed For New Grant Program

Environmentally conscious individuals with diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply for national effort to clean our waterways.



The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is seeking a diverse panel of volunteers who will serve as peer reviewers to evaluate proposals for Abandoned and Derelict Vessel (ADV) removal grants between December 2024 and July 2025.

The Foundation has been awarded a four-year, \$10 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program with funding provided by the Bipartisan In-

frastructure Law to clean up and improve safety along coastal areas by removing abandoned and damaged boats from our nation's waterways and the Great Lakes. Reviewers will be part of this national effort to improve the environment and remove unsightly vessels from our waters.

Volunteers with backgrounds in marine debris management, the boating industry, education, non-profits, government agencies, marketing and outreach,

grant management, financial analysis, project evaluation, impact assessment, as well as legal or regulatory fields are encouraged to apply. Reviewers are asked to commit to at least one review cycle (2-3 months) with an expected time commitment of 25 hours per cycle that includes independent review of proposals and 4-8 hours of virtual meetings.

How To Apply:

Prospective grant reviewers are encouraged to learn more about the BoatUS Foundation Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Program. To apply, visit the Grant Reviewer Application page (<https://www.boatus.org/advgrant/reviewer>).

"This is a coordinated, impactful investment to remove abandoned and derelict vessels, and we're proud to help NOAA carry out this important mission to rid our shores and waterways of ma-

rine debris," said BoatUS Foundation president Heather Lougheed. "Our goal over the next four years is to focus on the immediate issue – the substantial number of ADVs that need removal."

Lougheed added that in the future, the BoatUS Foundation hopes to expand the program to inland freshwater lakes and waterways, and reach a point where ADV removals diminish as educational and preventive efforts have greater impact.

"It's much more cost-effective to prevent owners from abandoning their boats by showing them other options that are available to dispose of a vessel that's no longer seaworthy," Lougheed said.

By being part of this program, volunteers will help remove the harmful pollution and safety hazards caused by ADVs, ensuring a positive impact on the environment and our waters for years to come. ■



Guests Happier With A Bombora PFD

Many people push back when asked to put on a traditional bulky life preserver but eagerly accept a Bombora Slim Belt personal flotation device. Worn around the waist, the US Coast Guard-approved Type V inflatable PFD is perfect for boat, kayak, paddleboard and cottage owners who want to keep their guests safe and happy.

Small and lightweight, the Slim Belt is barely noticeable when worn. Because it's around the waist, arm and shoulder movement is unrestricted. Designed for all-day comfort, it has a soft, breathable neoprene-style liner.

The Slim Belt is simple to put on with a buckle closure. It's ideal for anglers 16 years and older with chest sizes from 30" to 56". A zippered pocket and D-ring attachments add to its practicality.

With the pull of its CO2 activation cord, the Slim Belt instantly inflates to provide 16.5 lbs. of buoyancy. Then, the strap on the high-visibility yellow airbag is brought up and over the head. A manual inflation tube can add an extra 13 lbs. of flotation. Once deployed, the PFD is easily repacked with a fresh 16gm CO2 cylinder.

Available in 10 unique, vibrant colors, the Bombora Slim Belt costs \$99. PFDs for children, youth and pets are also offered.

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

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BoatUS Magazine Wins 8 Awards For Writing And Video Production Excellence

Boating Writers International, the professional association for writers, editors, publishers, bloggers, photographers and videographers in the recreational boating and fishing industries, bestowed eight awards on *BoatUS Magazine* staff and contributors earlier this year.

The award recognized the best marine writing and content to winners across

16 categories. Recipients were awarded a plaque noting their “excellence in creating compelling stories about boating through entertaining, educational and inspiring journalism” as well as cash prizes.

BoatUS Magazine articles and produced video earned a first-, three second-, third-place awards as well as three merit awards across six categories.



Writer Elaine Lembo’s December 2023 *BoatUS Magazine* feature, “It’s a Jungle Out There,” took a First place award in the Boating Writers International annual writing competition.

The Venerable Cooler, Reimagined

For over 70 years, coolers have remained relatively unchanged. That ended with the introduction of the PacBak P88-MK. The state-of-the-art 88-quart cooler is loaded with user-friendly innovations unavailable on any other ice chest.

Backed by a lifetime warranty, the award-winning P88-MK has three gasketed compartments that keep contents simultaneously hot and/or cold and wet and/or dry. Ideal for wilderness use, rotomolded construction and extra-thick insulation ensure contents remain at the optimal temperatures for days on end.

The P88-MK has a removable tabletop with integrated fold-down legs. This quickly attaches to either side of the cooler to form a large 10.2 sq. ft. work surface. The lower 58 qt. and 22 qt. compartments drain without having to lean the cooler, while the upper 8 qt. section has a convenient slide-out cutting board and is perfectly sized to hold PacBak’s portable,



battery-operated vacuum sealer.

All hardware on the P88-MK is stainless steel for long-lasting durability, including the corner bottle openers that double as security locking points. For portability, it has removable nylon strap handles. Tie-down points are ideal for securing it on a boat deck, ATV or truck bed.

The 32.5” x 22.75” x 18.75” PacBak P88-MK is offered in white, seafoam, sky blue, sand, green camo and army green, and costs \$549. The companion ROAM 18V Portable Vacuum Sealer is \$199; both the cooler and sealer are available as a Combo for \$699.

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.

Editor’s note: Additional product and lifestyle images are available by contacting news@martinflory.com.

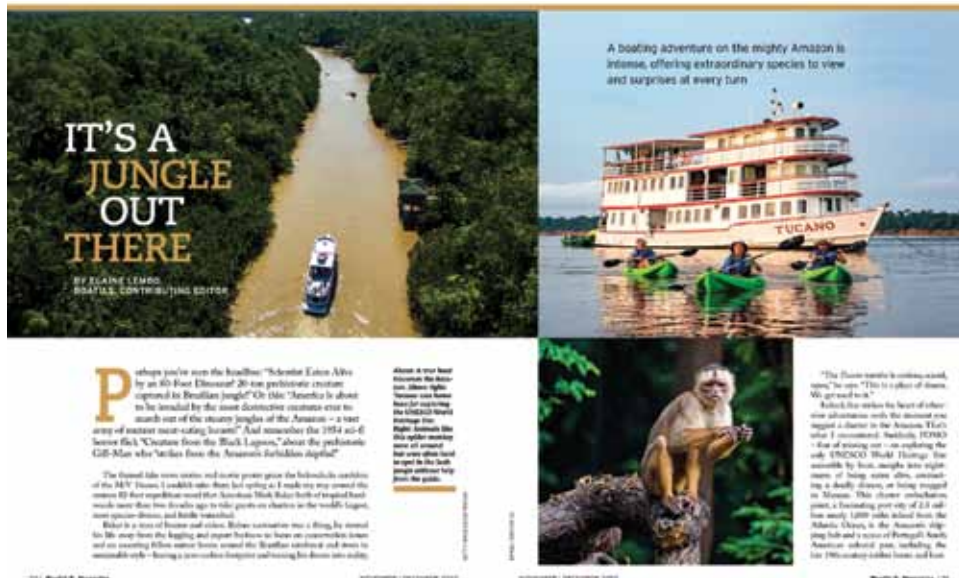
AUTUMN

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be a sunny October day when you head out just wearing a T-shirt, ensure that it’s synthetic or wool, as wet cotton has no thermal value. Additional layers can be added as the day and temperatures change. And while your grandmother always told you to wear a hat because that’s where the biggest loss of heat is, that’s a myth based on imperfect testing done by the military in the 1950s. Yes – your grandmom loves you and you should wear a hat. However, 90% of heat loss comes from the body, so having the right layers are key. It’s also a good idea to keep a spare set of clothing

aboard in a drybag.

• **A word about batteries:** While smartphones work in all seasons, battery performance declines as temperatures drop. On average, a cellphone battery can last two to three years, or 300 to 500 charge cycles, depending how much it’s used and recharged. The biggest drain on battery life is the energy your phone uses trying to find and connect to Wi-Fi or data networks. With all these variables, don’t trust that your phone’s battery life will be there for you when you need it. Carry a spare power pack aboard when cold weather boating. You don’t want to lose a critical navigation app, or the ability to call for help if necessary. The same goes for personal locator beacon batteries. ■



BoatUS Magazine managing editor Stacey Nedrow-Wigmore’s three-minute video, “Don’t Make These Common Boating Etiquette Mistakes,” took a Second place in the Boating Writers International annual competition.

Categories

Boating Travel and Destinations

First place: “It’s a Jungle Out There” by Elaine Lembo
 Judge Peter Robson commented, “This chronicle of a trip up the Amazon features a creative lead that draws the reader in

and is entertaining, interesting, informative, smooth-flowing, and inspiring. Wish I’d been along.”

Boating Videos

Second place: “Don’t Make These

AWARDS, continued on page 9

New Compass Was Designed Specifically For Paddlers

Few things are as disorienting to a paddler as losing sight of landmarks due to fog or rain. In times like these, it’s critical to have a magnetic compass such as the XP-99 Kayaker from Ritchie Navigation. The deck-mounted device provides true heading, even when stopped — some-

COMPASS, continued on page 9



LET THERE BE LIGHT

The new CLS Courtesy Light from Shadow-Caster upends how people think about onboard LED lighting. With its elegant backlit touch sensor, it’s easy to turn it on and off and adjust the brightness with the stroke of a fingertip. Plus, the fixture easily networks into with any Shadow-Caster Light Commander Series controller, making it remotely adjustable — a real plus when descending steps into a dark cabin while underway. Contact local dealers or info@shadow-caster.com.

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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Fall Raffle Launches With Bonus Tags

Conservation First USA (<https://conservationfirstusa.org/>) is excited to announce a unique opportunity for you to win one of eight big game hunt permit-tags in its special fall raffle. The tags (one each for mule deer, whitetail deer, bison, elk, pronghorn, javelina, mountain lion and black bear) grants you the opportunity to hunt almost anywhere in the state for 365 days — a rare and valuable chance for any hunter.



Key Details

- Unlimited ticket purchases – you can buy as many tickets as you like.
- Raffle tickets are \$10 each, per species.
- The winner can hunt for 365 days (Aug. 15, 2025, to Aug. 14, 2026).

- Purchase the “Great 8 Package” and receive one entry per species, PLUS a free Swarovski NL Pure 14x52 Binocular entry.
- The deadline to purchase tickets is 9 p.m. on Dec. 15.
- Raffle tickets must be purchased online, and the buyer must be in Arizona at

the time of purchase. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to enjoy big game hunting next fall. Buy your tickets today!

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.

General Rules

- You must be present in the state of Arizona at the time of purchase;
- You must be 21 years of age or older to enter;

- Winning tags/hunts cannot be sold;
- Winners of the AZ special big game tags are responsible for purchasing an Arizona hunting license;
- Winner is responsible for any and all federal, state and local income or excise taxes, fees, and licenses;
- The department of the treasury requires cfusa to collect withholding taxes from winners of all major prizes with a cost exceeding \$5,000. more here;
- There is no limit on the number of tickets that can be purchased, or that will be sold;
- By entering, you are agreeing to all of our complete rules that can be found here;
- All sales are final – there will be no refunds. ■

AZGFD And Its Arizona Partners Put Record \$24 Million Into Wildlife Conservation In 2023

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), partnering with Arizona's wildlife conservation organizations, put a combined total of \$24.2 million into on-the-ground projects for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife conservation in 2023.

Equally impressive to the dollar amount was the teamwork it took to make these projects happen: 151 conservation partners helped complete 867 distinct efforts. See the summary list of projects, funding amounts and partners.

“It's a great achievement, but we couldn't have done it without all of our partners,” said Dan Sturla, AZGFD's Landowner Relations & Habitat Enhancement program manager. “It's all hands on deck to get that amount of money on the ground.”

Although project selection focused on those involving game species and projects that improved hunting and fishing opportunities throughout the state, many non-game species will benefit from this work as well.

“For example,” said Kyle Duro, AZGFD habitat enhancement coordinator, “projects that involve removing encroaching woody vegetation from historic grasslands can benefit everything from

pronghorn and elk to prairie dogs, ferrets, and other grassland obligate species.”

The summary list is Arizona-specific. While federal partners make significant contributions to the state's wildlife, this list highlights what was done by AZGFD and its in-state, non-governmental partners.

“Although some of our efforts may include federal funding,” said Sturla, “we wanted to focus this list on efforts led by non-federal partners.”

A record-breaking year of investment in Arizona's wildlife is exciting on its own and it's also helping build momentum for the future.

“As soon as good things are done for wildlife, it grows and we bring in more and more partners,” said Jake Jaeger, AZGFD Landowner Relations program coordinator. “It wouldn't surprise me if next year it's even bigger.”

A few highlights of the conservation work benefitting Arizona and its wildlife:

- Aquatic Projects
 - Almost \$2 million dollars for fish stockings, including 51 Community Fishing Program lakes across the state; walleye, crappie and largemouth bass stockings in Region 6; five Colorado river

rainbow trout stockings; youth events; and more.

- Over \$1.5 million for the operation and maintenance of fish hatcheries, enabling over 600 stockings of sport fish at 100 locations across Arizona.

- \$124,000 for aquatic habitat enhancement, including 241 structures placed at Alamo Lake; fish habitat structures installed in Show Low Lake; as well as structures installed in three reservoirs.

Terrestrial Projects

- Over \$14 million for habitat enhancement and restoration, including 15,000 acres of grassland, browse, and forest restoration efforts to improve forage and habitat for a variety of wild-

life; the removal of 44 acres of invasive tamarisk near I-85; restoration of Tacna Marsh; migratory bird crop planting; and increased public recreational access.

- \$2.6 million in wildlife water building and repair, including a rain tank rebuild in Kaibab National Forest; constructing a wildlife water at Whitewater Draw; and redeveloping, constructing and performing major maintenance of wildlife waters statewide.

- \$725,000 for big game population surveys.

- Over \$200,000 in special projects, including monitoring deer and sheep for Gonzales pass crossing and translocating turkeys from Region 1 to Region 6. ■

AWARDS

Continued from page 7

Common Boating Etiquette Mistakes” by Stacey Wigmore

Boating Profiles

Second place: “A Schooner Runs Through It” by Tim Murphy

Boating Issues, News And Analysis

Second place: “Boat Selling Blues” by Lenny Rudow

Merit award: “Artificial Intelligence Onboard” by Richard Armstrong

Merit award: “Will Boat Prices Ever Come Down?” by Fiona McGlynn

Environmental Awareness & Education

Third place: “The Shrink Wrap Dilemma” by Fiona McGlynn

Seamanship, Rescue & Safety

Merit award: “The Crippling Effects of Cold Water” by Fiona McGlynn ■

COMPASS

Continued from page 7

thing a small GPS unit can't do.

Made in the USA, the low-profile Kayaker XP-99 is available with a black or blue 2-3/4" direct-reading dial. This is set atop a hardened steel movement with a scientifically-matched sapphire bearing. Ritchie's DirectiveForce magnet system provides fast and smooth heading lock-on, even in rough water. It's offered with a rugged black or white composite housing.

Designed for paddlers, the Kayaker XP-99 compass features a course minder movable bezel with a heading memory indicator to make staying on track easy. For dim and dark conditions, an optional LED

lighting kit is simple to install.

For owners who don't want to permanently install the compass, the available K-TD.2 Kayaker Tie Down allows the Kayaker XP-99 to be used without drilling holes. It attaches the device to the kayak using four high-strength bungee cords with integrated clips. A foam pad conforms to the shape of the deck and prevents the compass from moving.

Backed by a five-year warranty and 100% repairable, the Ritchie Navigation Kayaker XP-99 costs \$125.39. The K-TD.2 Kayaker Tie Down is \$58.25.

Contact local dealers or Ritchie Navigation, 243 Oak St., Pembroke, MA 02359 USA. +1-781-826-5131. sales@ritchienavigation.com, www.ritchienavigation.com. ■



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Shaping Up For The Great Outdoors

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

Does trudging up the ramp to fetch your truck and trailer leave you huffing and puffing? What about throwing a jerk-bait all day long – can your arm take it? How about your last pre-fish? Did you find yourself missing out on some opportunities because you just didn't have it in you to stand on the trolling motor for another hour? To get into better shape for your next fishing trip, start now.

If you want to maximize your enjoyment of the outdoors, getting and staying fit should be a priority. There are a lot of things you can do to make yourself a stronger outdoorsman. Building core strength is essential – it will improve your posture, strengthen your back, and build endurance and stability.

The Plank

The Plank is a simple exercise you can do anywhere to build your core strength. Simply get down on the floor with your elbows and forearms on the floor about shoulder distance apart. Your goal is to keep your body straight and up off the floor on your elbows and toes. The toes are bent forward. Start with twenty to thirty seconds at first, and build up as you get stronger.

Balance and stability are important whether you're standing on the deck of a rocking boat or scrambling up a hill covered with loose rock. Find something to step up on and you can easily work on balance. Step up, raise one knee, and hold it up for two to four seconds. Step back down, then do it over again. Work toward twenty hold-ups on each leg, and concentrate on keeping your back straight while pulling your belly button in.

Gym Membership

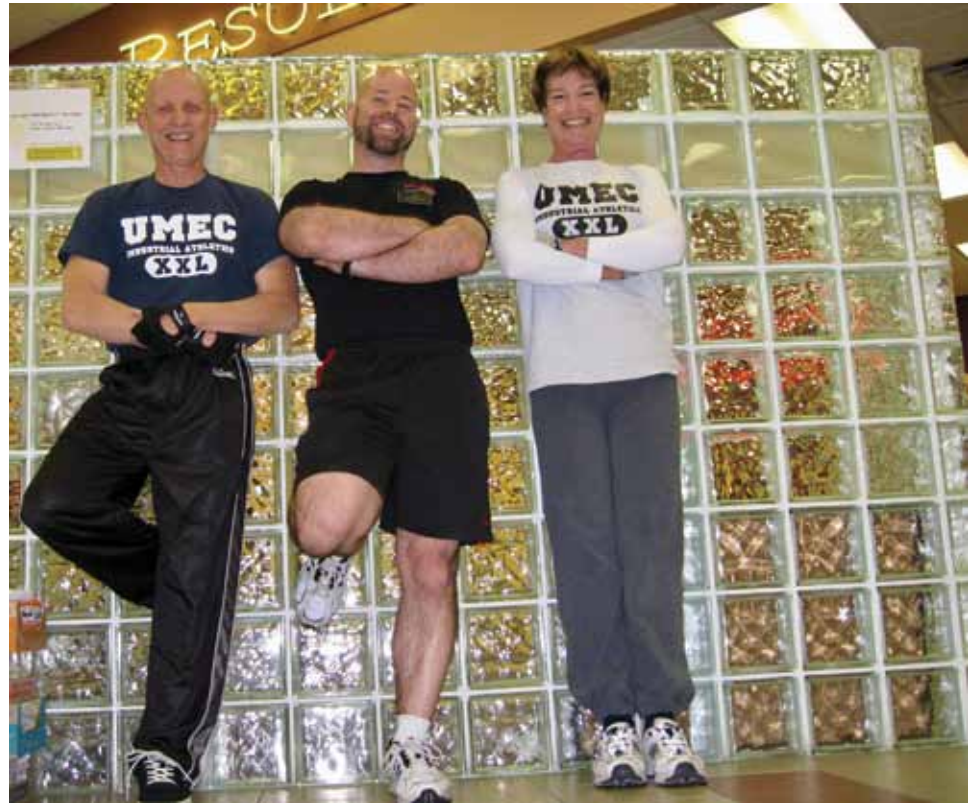
Investing in a gym membership is an excellent idea. You're more likely to work out when you are paying for it anyway, and a gym often offers more variety than you can get at home. If you belong to a gym, take advantage of all it has to offer. Most gyms give you a free session with a trainer once a month, so use it. Tell the trainer what your goals are and he or she can design a workout to help you get there.

A trainer can show you the correct way to use the machines in the gym, but he can also show you many of exercises you can do at home or on the road with a minimum of equipment. You can do a lot of different things with bands and a step, and the addition of a set of dumbbells gives you even more options. The bands and weights can accompany you on those out-of-town fishing tournaments, and you can almost always find something to use for a step.

Muscle Memory

Muscle memory is a good thing if you are practicing martial arts forms, but if you are simply doing the same exercises over and over, your body doesn't get as much benefit out of them. Switch things up constantly to keep hitting your muscles at different angles. This will give you overall body strength.

Strengthening your rotator cuff muscles is crucial, especially for anglers who make casts all day long. Visit the free-weight room in any gym and you'll see plenty of guys grimacing as they rub their shoulders. Don't let that be you. The first thing you should ask your trainer is how to perform the simple exercises that will



John, our trainer Paul Menzel, and me: a trainer can help you reach your goals faster.

strengthen your rotator cuffs. Do these every single time you visit the gym – make them part of your warm-up routine.

Using A Band

A good one is to use a band that is attached to something at about waist height. Keep your upper arm next to your body and use just the forearm to pull the band from your side to in front of you. You can also do this lying down with a light weight. Lie on your side and keep the elbow on top of your body pinned to your side. Use just your forearm to lift the weight from the floor to a point just above your body.

If you find yourself constantly performing a certain action, specificity of training can help you build strength in the muscles you use for that action. For instance, to improve your casting stamina, use a band to provide resistance while you perform your casting motion. You'll build endurance and teach your body not to hurt itself.

To Keep Fit

To keep fit, you don't need to be concerned with building up a lot of muscle mass. If you just want to build strength and endurance, use low weights and high reps. For example, to strengthen your wrists you can use small dumbbells and lift them using just your wrists. Rest your forearms on your legs and raise and lower the dumbbells with your hands facing down, then again with your hands facing up.

Your program should be designed to be part of an overall fitness regimen, in-

corporating strength training as well as cardio. Cardio is simply anything that gets your heart and lungs working. There are plenty of weight-bearing machines that can give you a good cardio workout at the gym. On the road you can simply climb the stairs at the motel, or walk up and down the ramp a few times. Jogging or vigorous hiking or bicycling can also do the trick, but remember that your goal is to get your heart rate up for extended periods of time.

Pro Anglers Are Athletes

More and more, today's pro anglers are athletes. Mike Iaconelli is a prime example. Working out and keeping fit and strong have helped him immensely on the road to being a world champion bass fisherman. Ike claims that his fitness regimen gives him an edge over the competition.

Even if you don't plan to hit the tournament trail, strength training will help you enjoy your outdoor pursuits even more, and with fewer injuries. Working out regularly will help you lose fat and build muscle, too. Let that extra weight you're toting be a big tournament bag, not excess belly fat.

Tips For Healthful Eating In The Great Outdoors

Your snacks should include a balance of carbs and protein for energy and endurance. Balancing carbs with proteins and fats help to keep the release of energy from the carbs more gradual, which helps to sustain energy. So when you're pack-

SHAPING UP, continued on page 12

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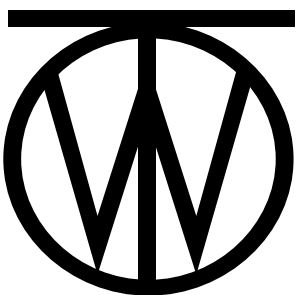
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AZGFD Celebrates Delisting Of Apache Trout

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), alongside conservation leaders, Gov. Katie Hobbs, and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, recently celebrated the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) decision to remove Apache trout from the federal Endangered Species List.

The delisting announcement was made by Secretary Haaland at a special event in Mesa in early September.

"The recovery of Apache trout is a culmination of more than five decades of hard work and the cooperation of many partners, and it's truly an amazing conservation success story," said AZGFD Director Ty Gray.

Two Native Trout Species

Apache trout, one of only two native trout species in Arizona, were found in streams across the White Mountains in east-central Arizona before their populations began to rapidly decline during the late 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. The White Mountain



Apache Tribe was the first to recognize the loss of this critical species and took steps to protect them on tribal lands.

AZGFD's efforts to protect Apache trout began in the 1960s through a controlled propagation program in collaboration with the Tribe and the FWS. Apache trout became one of the first species to be federally listed as endangered in 1967, before successful conservation work and a greater knowledge of existing populations allowed the species to be downlisted from endangered to threatened in 1975. This

downlisting created the ability to allow limited fishing opportunities for Apache trout in specific areas, giving anglers the chance to directly support the conservation of the species.

Apache Trout Recovery

AZGFD worked side-by-side with representatives from the Tribe, the FWS, and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to form an Apache Trout Recovery Team in 1979 to develop a long-term plan for the species' survival, updated in 1983 and 2009, and that close collaboration continues today. AZGFD has worked with its partners for decades to establish new and maintain existing recovery populations, improve habitat, construct and maintain fish barriers, and successfully propagate Apache trout at the Tonto Creek and Silver Creek hatcheries.

"Our work is not done yet," said Julie Carter, AZGFD's Aquatic Wildlife Branch Chief. "We are still working to restore Apache trout populations to new locations and continuing to protect and enhance our

existing populations. This achievement honors the current employees and retirees from all of the agencies who devoted countless hours to conserving and protecting Apache trout. Their dedication and perseverance made this possible."

Species Has Recovered

The most recent five-year status review of the Apache trout concluded that the species has recovered significantly since the time of its listing and recommended that it be considered for delisting. The Cooperative Management Plan (a collaborative effort between AZGFD, the Tribe, the FWS, the USFS, and Trout Unlimited) signed in 2021, outlines the management actions needed to ensure the long-term management of the species. While Apache trout are no longer listed, efforts will continue to establish, enhance, and maintain healthy populations while continuing to provide sportfishing opportunities for anglers across Arizona.

For more information on the Apache trout, visit <https://rb.gy/0fjoms> ■

A GREAT WILDLIFE VIEWING SPOT

Hulsey Lake Dam Repairs Have Begun

Anglers and outdoor enthusiasts can still enjoy the lake, but need to know where to go.

INFORMATION FROM USDA FOREST SERVICE ALPINE RANGER DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

SPRINGERVILLE, Ariz. — The western end of Hulsey Lake in the White Mountains will be closed from through Oct. 17, 2024, so that repair work and maintenance can be done on the lake's

dam.

Recreational use will still be open on the eastern end of the lake. The public will be advised through signage, official notice, and future announcements.

These repairs and upgrades are critical to maintaining the proper function of Hulsey Dam to protect downstream communities and promote the health of Hulsey Lake and the creek as it flows down to Nutrioso, Ariz. This project will help to promote the flow of water into natural channels and floodplains and re-

duce soil erosion.

The project will include the installation of an emergency spillway and will reconstruct the water control siphon and pipes that will allow the Forest Service to monitor and control the inflow and outflow of water through the dam to prevent unwanted downstream effects to the community of Nutrioso in the case of a major flood event.

Hulsey Lake is a favorite among anglers and is also a great wildlife viewing spot. It is located on National Forest



System Road 8056, off of U.S. Highway 180/191 near Escudilla Mountain. For more information and updates, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhambpk>

The Arizona Game and Fish Department receives no general fund tax dollars. The majority of funding to manage more than 800 native wildlife species comes from Arizona's hunters and anglers. ■

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Pups Add Genetic Diversity to Wolf Pack

A record 27 Mexican wolf pups were fostered into wild dens this spring. Fostering, a method in which genetically valuable captive-born pups are placed into wild packs to be raised with the skills needed for survival in the wild, has served a critical role in improving the genetic diversity of the wild population. Three of these pups, born at the Carlsbad Living Zoo in New Mexico, joined the Prime Canyon wolf pack in eastern Arizona, carrying on a long and successful history this pack has had with the fostering program.

In many ways, the Prime Canyon pack was founded on fostering. Alpha male 1471 was one of the earliest captive-born pups to be fostered into a wild den. After being born in 2016 at the Chicago Brookfield Zoo, 1471 was transported to Arizona and placed in a den with the Elk Horn Pack, where he was raised as one of their own. 1471 not only successfully reached adulthood, but eventually helped form a new pack in 2018, known as the Prime Canyon pack. As part of the pack, 1471 sired seven litters, of which, a minimum of five offspring became breeding adults themselves and produced litters of

their own.

Thriving and having successfully raised several litters, the pack was a perfect choice to receive the three new pups from New Mexico this spring, marking the third time pups were fostered into the Prime Canyon pack.

The Mexican wolf fostering program 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. ■

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SERVING THE ENTIRE VALLEY

SHAPING UP

Continued from page 10

ing for a day of fishing, bring along things like fresh fruit and nuts.

Jerky is okay in moderation but watch the sodium levels. You should be wary of energy bars, too because a lot of them are just like candy. Aim for a good balance of carbs, fiber, and protein when you shop for meal replacement bars.

Drinking water is incredibly important. Water helps flush toxins out of your body, and you'll produce a lot of toxins while you're working out. Water also helps maintain muscle tone and healthy skin. If you don't drink enough water, your body will start to hold on to all it can, and water retention is seldom a pretty picture. Drinking eight 8-oz glasses of water per day is what experts usually recommend, but if you're overweight

you should add one glass for each extra 25 pounds you're carrying.

Cardio

Cardio is different from aerobics. A cardio workout pushes you toward the higher end of your target heart rate to make your entire cardiovascular system stronger. A stronger cardiovascular system means that more oxygen and nutrients can be delivered to your muscles, which will make you able to work harder and longer without getting tired.

The bonus is that as you get stronger and more fit, you'll burn more calories even when you're resting. The staff at the gym can show you the cardio machines (treadmills, elliptical trainers, etc.), and most of them can be programmed with your age and weight so that the machine itself will adjust your workout to keep your heart level at the target rate. ■



RYAN RICHARDS

Upgrade Planned

PETRIFIED FOREST, Ariz. — Petrified Forest National Park is pleased to announce the start of construction of a new restroom next to the Rainbow Forest Museum. Though the museum has restrooms, the building (and its plumbing) is one of the oldest in the park, making repairs costly and difficult.

The new restroom will have flushing toilets, water for handwashing and family friendly/gender neutral options. Petrified Forest National Park is one of the few national parks that have closed gates at night to protect park wildlife and petrified wood, but the park does allow visitor access during the early morning and early evening when the light is perfect for photography.

The new restrooms will be available for visitors who want to enjoy the park before and after visitor centers are open. “Many visitors enjoy being in the park early in the morning or later in the afternoon says park superintendent Jeanine McElveen. “Providing restroom facilities during those times of the day is extremely important for visitor satisfaction”.

Funding for the project came from entrance fees paid by park visitors, funds that are specifically used to improve the visitor experience. Entrance fees are crucial for supporting numerous projects in the park, both large and small. Construction of the new facility will begin in early September. Once the new restrooms are in use the park will be exploring optional uses for the old restrooms, including the possibility of additional exhibit space. ■

GCNRA Accepting Public Comment On Revisions To Off-Road Vehicle Regulations

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA) is accepting public comments through Nov. 15 on proposed changes to the park’s 2021 off road vehicle (ORV) special regulations. The proposed revisions to the 2021 rule are required under a settlement agreement and would be more protective of resources by limiting the use of off-highway vehicles and street-legal ATVs in certain shoreline access areas and unpaved roads.

Diverse Recreation Forms

While the proposed rule amendment would prohibit the use of ORVs and street-legal ATVs on approximately 24 miles of roads, there are nearly 388 miles of park roads within Glen Canyon with opportunities for a diverse collection of motorized and non-motorized recreation forms.

NPS has identified minor changes to the 2021 regulation that will result in improved management of motorized uses in the Recreation Area. Two changes would address ORV and street-legal all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use in the Orange Cliffs Special Management Unit.

Two Proposed Changes

- First, the amended rule would prohibit the use of ORVs and street-legal ATVs on an 8-mile segment of the Poison Spring Loop located on Route 633 proceeding north to Route 730 in the Orange Cliffs Special Management Unit.

- Second, the rule would also eliminate the superintendent’s authority to potentially allow ORVs and street-legal ATVs on the upper portion of the Flint Trail in the Orange Cliffs Special Management Unit. In addition to these changes, the proposed rule also establishes stricter quiet hours for the Lone Rock Beach Play Area, identifies specific lake elevations where Accessible Shoreline Areas will



CHRISTIAN MEHLFUHRER

Glen Canyon

be open or closed, and clarifies that motor vehicle use in all Accessible Shoreline Areas must be for the purpose of traveling from a road to the shoreline and back. Additional proposed changes are available for review in the <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2024-21032/glen-canyon-national-recreation-area-motor-vehicles>.

How To Comment

Public comments for the proposed rule revision must be received by Nov. 15. Public comments may be submitted electronically (at the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov/>); or by mailing a hard copy to: Superintendent, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, P.O. Box 1507, Page, Arizona 86040. Comments will not be accepted by fax, email, or in any way other than those specified above.

All submissions received must include the words “National Park Service” or “NPS” and must include the docket number or RIN (1024-AE91) for this

rulemaking. Comments received may be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov/>, including any personal information provided. The NPS will not accept bulk comments in any format (hard copy or electronic) submitted on behalf of others. The NPS will not consider comments that address aspects of existing regulations that would not be changed by this proposed rule. The scope of this rule is limited to the specific changes to existing regulations proposed, as published in the Federal Register on Sept. 16 [<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2024-21032/glen-canyon-national-recreation-area-motor-vehicles>].

More Information

For additional information, including definitions of ORV use, or to obtain a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/ORV Plan, visit: <https://park-planning.nps.gov/glca-orvplan>. Specific questions may be emailed to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Headquarters at GLCA_Superintendent@nps.gov. ■

GRAND CANYON UPDATES

NPS Issues Reminders

Update: Phantom Ranch Closure Added To Inner Canyon Trail Closures

The National Park Service (NPS) is providing an important update regarding inner canyon trail closures to support the Transcanyon Waterline (TCWL) construction project.

In addition to previously announced closures, please note that Phantom Ranch will be closed from January 2, 2025, to March 30, 2025, as the construction contractor, Stronghold Engineering, will be performing extensive excavation work in this area.

As a reminder, the other current inner canyon closure dates are:

- Bright Angel Trail north of Havasupai Gardens and the Silver Bridge: Oct 21, 2024 - May 14, 2025
- Bright Angel Campground: Nov 4, 2024 - May 14, 2025
- Plateau Point Trail from the Tonto Trail Junction north of Havasupai Gardens to Plateau Point: Oct. 12, 2023 - May 14, 2025

These closures are necessary to ensure the safety of staff and visitors during the TCWL construction efforts. The upper portion of the Bright Angel Trail, from the South Rim to Havasupai Gardens, and the Tonto Trail will remain open. The South Kaibab Trail will also be open for all hikers. No hikers or trail users will be allowed to pass through closure areas under any circumstances.

For current operational status and updates, please check the park website:

Critical Backcountry Updates: Including Trail Closures and Restrictions - Grand Canyon National Park (U.S. National Park Service).

Safety Reminder: Elk Rut Season

As a reminder, from September to mid-October, we enter the rut—elk mating season—when bull elk can often be seen in the South Rim Village. Don’t be fooled by their majestic appearance; elk can be particularly aggressive during this time and may view anyone entering their space as a threat.

Please remember to observe elk from a safe distance of at least 100 feet (30 meters) and stay aware of your surroundings while walking in the park. If you find yourself near an elk, try to position a tree or other large obstruction between you and the animal for added safety.

Stay safe and enjoy the beauty of these incredible creatures!

Hawkwatch International Programming Through Oct. 28

Fall raptor migration has begun! Starting this Friday, September 13, there will be raptor migration talks given by Hawk-Watch International. These programs will take place at Yaki Point Friday-Monday at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Additionally, visitors can visit Yaki Point anytime between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. every day to talk to the biologists monitoring and counting raptors. These programs will run through October 28. ■

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- Mission 22
- VFW National Home

Tickets donations only
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A new raffle and pot will commence at 12:00 am on the first of the month. Buyers through 11:59 pm on the last day of the month will have a chance to win before the pot is closed and reset.

There are no limits on the number of tickets sold or the number any one person can purchase. Winner will be drawn Sat random and announced on or before the 5th of the month. All purchasers must be at least 21 years old.

BOO!

Are You Brave Enough To Visit Some Ghost Towns, Haunted Places In Arizona?

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

If you stop and think about it, the days of the wild west aren't that far behind us, and Arizona used to be wild as all get-out. Miners, ranchers, and sheep herders didn't always get along well, and of course there have always been jilted lovers and jealousy, especially back when women were fairly scarce on the ground! So it's no wonder that Arizona has so many haunted places! And in addition to those ghostly spots, we've got a lot of ghost towns in various stages of ruin that can be fun to visit. Here's a run-down of just a few of the ghost towns and haunted places in Arizona – just in time for Halloween!

HAUNTED PLACES

NAU: Morton Hall

I have to start with this one because



Morton Hall is said to be haunted by the ghost of a student named Kathy, who hung herself in the stairwell.



When they moved historic buildings to Pioneer Village, they moved the ghosts too!

my granddaughter Trinity hadn't been at Northern Arizona University for more than a couple of days before she heard the story of how Morton Hall is haunted by the spirit of poor Kathy, a lovelorn student who hanged herself in one of the stairwells.

Shortly after poor Kathy was discovered, the body of a stillborn baby was

found in the basement. Students who live in Morton Hall have reported that posters fly off walls, and that Kathy herself roams the halls in her blue nightdress with a rope around her neck. Trinity says one of her friends had a dorm room at Morton but never heard anything besides the usual creakiness of an old building. But you never know!



People say they see the ghost of a woman in a long dress disappearing around corners at Sahuaro Ranch Park.

out the window. In room 305 there is a haunted rocking chair, and when it rocks itself, people sometimes hear knocking from the closet. You can still stay at the Hotel Monte Vista if you dare!

Bird Cage Theater, Tombstone

Of course Tombstone would have hauntings – it was quite the wild and famous place! Tombstone is a great place to visit, and when we took the granddaughters down to southern Arizona, they liked Tombstone better than Bisbee! The Bird Cage Theater in Tombstone used to be a house of ill-repute, and many brutal murders were committed there. They say 26 people died at this place, including one working girl called Margarita, who they say had her heart cut out.



What's left of Cleator is still a popular stop for thirsty desert travelers.

If you want to see Morton Hall, which is a beautiful building, October is a fantastic time to go – the leaves will be gorgeous around Flagstaff. Only students are allowed inside, however, because Morton Hall is still a dorm.

Hotel Monte Vista, Flagstaff

The Monte Vista, just off Route 66, was paid for by the citizens of Flagstaff because they needed a swank place for all the classy visitors that started showing up in the 1920's. There are rumors that a system of tunnels exist under the hotel that go around to other areas of Flagstaff, including Morton Hall. In actual fact, several relics from gambling and moonshine have been found underground.

The ghosts include a bellboy who will sometimes knock on doors and announce room service but when guests open the door, no one is there. Also, people hear a baby crying in the basement, and guests sometimes say they woke up in the middle of the night feeling like they are being watched. Some male guests have felt ghostly hands over their mouths so they can't breathe. In the early 40's two prostitutes in room 306 were killed and thrown

Besides Margarita, other spirits are said to haunt the theater, and the former owner was nearly strangled to death during a séance! You can go on an official guided ghost tour at the Bird Cage next time you are there. October, by the way, is an ideal time to visit because of the lovely weather. Be sure to check Groupon and the internet for discounts on all kinds of tours and events at Tombstone. Don't miss the gunfight!

Oliver House, Bisbee

The Oliver House is a bed and breakfast in Bisbee – a great place to visit after your adventures in Tombstone! Because it used to be a popular place for adulterous meetings, it's no surprise that there were murders there. People say they hear loud gunshots, that doors open and shut by themselves, and ghostly footsteps are heard when there is no one there. You can still stay there if you like!

Jerome Grand Hotel, Jerome

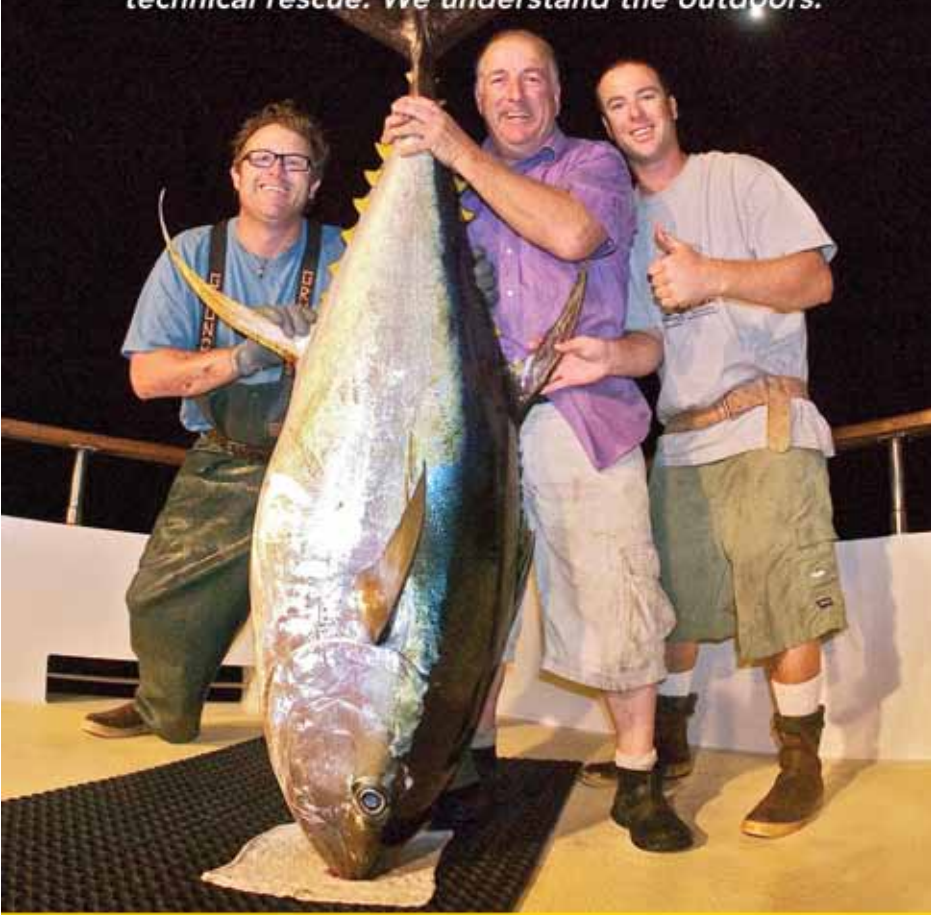
Jerome is a colorful place with lots of wonderful little restaurants and shops

BOO, continued on page 15

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The Superstition Mountains are beautiful and deadly - many have gone in and never come back.

BOO

Continued from page 14

where you can buy all kinds of unique art. You're sure to notice one building with a skeleton apparently climbing the wall, and several places in Jerome are said to be haunted. The Jerome Grand Hotel is the most famous one, and it started life as a hospital for wounded miners and the mentally ill. People say that you will be bumped by ghosts of nurses and hear voices moaning and coughing. You might even see an old miner who died in the elevator shaft. You can book a room at this hotel even now!

Vulture Gold Mine

The Vulture Gold Mine is two attractions in one – it's haunted, and it's a ghost town! It's reportedly haunted by violent ghosts who throw rocks and scream. You can take guided tours of this ghost town if you're brave enough.

Superstition Mountains, Apache Junction

Everybody has heard the story of the Lost Dutchman Gold Mine, but not everyone knows that many people claim that ghosts of Apache armies haunt the mountains and you can hear their screams. Some even say that cannibals wander the Superstitions. What IS a fact is that many people have disappeared in the Superstition Mountains, never to be seen again. That being said, there are lots of gorgeous hikes in the Superstitions, and October is a fantastic time of year to do those hikes. Lost Dutchman State Park is an ideal place to start your visit to the Superstitions.

Scottsdale Public Library, Scottsdale

A haunted library? Apparently so! The Scottsdale Public Library has four branches, and two of them – the Arabian and the Civic Center branches – are said to be haunted. The library actually requested a paranormal investigation there because of

books and things moving around unaided, cold spots in different locations, and just a spooky atmosphere. Check it out!

Sahuaro Ranch Park, Glendale

I've been to Sahuaro Ranch Park many times and even attended a wedding in one of the buildings, but I've never seen anything ghostly. But the word from locals is that two ghosts haunt this 19th century ranch, and people claim to have seen a woman in a long dress vanishing around corners. Regardless of whether you see a ghost or not, this park is a great place to take the family for a picnic.

Pioneer Living History Museum, Phoenix

We went here for Emily's third grade field trip and it's a pretty cool place – it's 90 acres of buildings that are recreations of an old western town and it's lots of fun to visit. You can get a sepia photo of yourself taken while you're dressed up in old-time duds, see a gunfight, and much more. Supposedly, when some of the buildings were moved to the museum, the spirits that haunt them came along. Guests sometimes hear voices and see ghosts. You should check it out – it's between Phoenix and Anthem just off I-17 and late fall and winter are the best times to visit this desert attraction.

GHOST TOWNS

If you drive around on desert back roads long enough, you'll see plenty of old abandoned mines and ranch houses. They can be a lot of fun to explore, but here's something you definitely need to stay aware of – there are old mine shafts all over the place in the desert. Some have fences around them, but they are usually barbed wire fences, which are not enough to keep a dog or a small child out. Mine shafts can be death traps, so make sure you keep your dog on a leash and don't let kids wander off alone.

Arizona Ghost Town Loop

Just outside of Patagonia, Arizona,

you can hop on a road that will take you on a loop that passes five different ghost towns. This Arizona Ghost Town Loop can be done in a day, and it's a lovely drive. The Ghost towns themselves are a bit underwhelming, and there are a couple of places where you can't even get out of your car, but it was something I had always wanted to do, and John and I had a great time driving this loop. You can read all about it in Western Outdoor Times Arizona Ghost Town Loop March 2020.

Cleator Ghost Town

Cleator used to be called Turkey Creek and was a mining town established in 1864. There was even a railway station there after Murphy's Impossible Railroad was built between Cordes and Crown King. But once the mining declined, the population declined as well, and after James Cleator died (who founded the town), his son Thomas bought the place and lived there until he died in 1996. The bar is still open and it's a popular spot for tourists and OHV drivers. As of 2020 it had just 8 permanent residents. Cleator is on the way to Crown King, and again, this is a great time of year to visit! Continue on up the gravel road to Crown King and have a burger!

Congress Ghost Town

Congress exists because gold was found at the Congress Mine in 1884. Pretty soon there were railroads passing close by, but then the mine petered out and finally closed in the mid '30's. Not much is left of the original mining camp, and now Congress is basically a suburb of Wickenburg. The country around Congress is beautiful, though, and worth a visit.

Nothing Ghost Town

You've probably passed this place on the way to Vegas, because it's on the highway between Wikeup and Wickenburg. The original founders gave up on Noth-

ing in 2005, and then in 2009 some new owners tried to make a go of it, but within a year they gave up, too. Current population is zero. I have passed it many times and never tried to visit, and I've read that it is fenced off.

Two Guns, Winslow

I had never heard of Two Guns until our granddaughter Trinity told us about it. It used to be a tourist stop on Route 66, but then it was bypassed by Interstate 40. Now it's just ruins of abandoned buildings and even the remains of a zoo that had mountain lions, panthers, and bobcats. Trinity and a friend went there to photograph the astonishing amount of graffiti that covers every square inch of much of the old place. Find it just off I-40 at exit 230 east of Flagstaff.

Tiptop

Sad to say, the last I heard was that Tiptop was bought by someone who blocked off the road and now you can't go there. John and I were fortunate enough to visit beforehand. There are some ruins that are actually pretty good – some of them are almost as tall as I am, and there are doorways and window openings in the rock walls. We also found a few old graves. Tiptop was a rich silver mine back in the day and was one of the biggest towns in Arizona in the 1870s. A mill at Gillette (now also a ghost town and also closed to the public) processed the silver ore.

GO, BUT BE CAREFUL

These are just a few of the fascinating places there are to visit in Arizona. John and I are always wandering around the state visiting fun little places, and the back roads are full of surprises. Fall is the ideal time of year to visit these places, especially the desert places. Be careful, take lots of water, and have fun. Be aware also that on many backroad trips you won't have cell service. And, Happy Halloween! ■



Tiptop was a rough drive that required 4 wheel drive, but it's been closed to the public since 2019.

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deadline for 2025 is March 31.

• 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

Open to students in grades 9–12, including home-schooled students. The national first-place winner receives a \$2,500 scholarship. The submission deadline for 2025 is March 31.

SCHOLARSHIPS, continued on page 18



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

World War II Air Force veteran Lt Col Chester Henry, 102, was recently honored with a "Quilt of Valor" in recognition of his military service. The honoring quilt was made and presented by the Quilters Group at Friendship Village, Tempe, Ariz.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Continued from page 17

Continuing Education Scholarship

Open to applicants who are 21 years of age or older and are a current VFW Auxiliary Member, spouse, son, or daughter of a current VFW Auxiliary Member.

The VFW Auxiliary Promotes These VFW Scholarships:

Voice of Democracy

An annual audio-essay contest for high school students in grades 9–12. The national first-place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship, and the first-place winner from each VFW Department receives at least a \$1,000 scholarship. The application deadline for 2025 is October 31.

Established in 1947, our **Voice of Democracy** audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 ninth through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

About the 2023-2024 winner

Sophia Lin, a high school junior at BASIS Scottsdale in Scottsdale, Arizona, was named the 2023-2024 Voice of Democracy first place winner. Sophia's speech

on the theme, "What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?" won her a \$35,000 college scholarship. Sophia was sponsored by Scottsdale VFW Post 3513. Watch as Sophia delivered her speech during the VFW's Parade of Winners award ceremony or read it here: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/events/vfw-legislative-conference/2024-vfw-washington-conference>

Patriot's Pen

A youth scholarship competition: The VFW is dedicated to promoting patriotism and investing in our future generation. If you are a democracy-loving high school student interested in a \$35,000 college scholarship or a patriotic middle school student interested in winning \$5,000, these scholarships may be for you.

Each year, nearly 68,800 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of nearly \$1 million in state and national awards. Each first place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

For More Information

Locally, contact Marianne Hayes at rdhhays@gmail.com or Carol Allen at editor@azbw.com (please put "Scholarships" in the subject line). Both represent Scottsdale's VFW Post 3513.

Nationally, watch for updates and application forms at —

www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships ■



MAM Is For Veterans And Their Families

About Us

Military Assistance Mission (MAM) provides financial assistance and morale aid to Arizona military and their families and our wounded heroes.

MAM strives to provide financial assistance each year to 120 Arizona active duty, guard & reserve military service members.

Each year approximately 2,500 military members and families benefit from MAM's morale/event programs such as Operation Holiday Giving, Seats for Soldiers, and Baby Bundle Bash.

Our Mission

• Provide financial assistance and morale aid to Arizona military and their families.

Our Vision

• Through generous and widespread public support, we aspire to be the provider of choice for emergency financial aid and morale assistance to those we serve.

Our Values

• Honor, patriotism, and service to country: Those who wear our country's uniform do so with a sense of duty, without thought of recognition or gain. We serve by serving them and their families.

Morale Programs

Baby Bundle Bash

MAM hosts military families expecting a child at a Baby Shower. All the essentials for their upcoming bundle of joy are provided. Apply today! Eligible for AZ Military E-5 or below.

Holiday For Heroes

Adopt a military family for the holi-



days! MAM pairs individuals & businesses with eligible military families in need. MAM will provide the sponsor with the family's wish list and contact information.

Operation Holiday Giving

Military Families receive gifts for their children, at a festive holiday event in December. Christmas Carolers, photos with Santa, superheroes, princesses, hot cocoa, sweet treats and more make Operation Holiday Giving fun for all!

Seats For Soldiers

Tickets provided by Sanderson Ford, service members can attend Arizona D'Backs, Coyotes, GCU men's basketball, and spring training games. Sign up for our ticket program today!

But Wait, There's More!

Visit <https://azmam.org/about-us/> to learn about financial programs, community events, and how to get involved. ■

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BISON

Continued from page 1

Grand Canyon managers extend their thanks to the multiple agencies and organizations involved in bison management on the Kaibab Plateau. The NPS continues to collaborate closely with partners at the Intertribal Buffalo Council, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S.

Geological Survey Fort Collins Science Center, U.S. Forest Service, and the NPS Office of Public Health to implement this science-based relocation as outlined in the 2017 Initial Bison Herd Reduction Plan (<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/project>).

For more information on bison management at Grand Canyon National Park, please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/nature/bison.htm> ■

AWARDS

Continued from page 1

7th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

The banquet will begin with a social hour at 4 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m. The awards will be presented concurrently with dinner. The cost is \$75 per person. All RSVP's are due by Jan. 3, 2025.

• Registration and Sponsorship Form: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/s18cz

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission held its first annual awards banquet on Jan. 12, 1991. Since then, more than

400 recipients have been recognized with Commission awards. The awards banquet gives the Commission an opportunity to recognize individuals, groups and organizations for their contributions to Arizona's wildlife resources.

All of the costs associated with the awards banquet must be paid for by ticket sales and sponsorship donations, including the complimentary tickets for award recipients and their spouse or guest. Table sponsorships for organizations are available in several categories and include logo advertisement in the event program and sponsorship recognition during the introductory PowerPoint presentation. ■

ROAD

Continued from page 1

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the perfect blend of excitement and natural beauty found in White Mountain country. Discover diverse terrains, breathtaking vistas, a variety of wildlife, and plenty of hidden gems along the way.

For Information

Visit: <https://azstateparks.com/eastern-az-show-me-rides> ■

DIRECTOR

Continued from page 1

Game and Fish Commission, a five-member citizen board that sets policy and has broad oversight of the department. The director serves as the department's chief administrative officer and is responsible for the general supervision and control of all activities, functions and employees of the department. ■



Post 720 celebrated its 100th anniversary in early 2021.



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