

Western Outdoor Times Arizona Boating & Watersports

January - February 2015

Vol. 10. No. 11

The Southwest Swings Into Spring

International Sportsmen's Exposition Launches New Consumer Blog

Stay up-to-date at ISEConnects.com and plan to attend the big event in person too.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Get closer to the great outdoors with International Sportsmen's Expositions' (ISE) new consumer blog, ISEConnects. Show attendees and those who haven't attended can access information about their favorite outdoor experts, get industry insider news, and connect with show specials, discounts, contests and other value-enhancing programs. ISEConnects is also the perfect forum to share stories of the outdoor adventures.

Since 1975, ISE events have presented America's premier adventure-travel, hunting, fishing, shooting-sports, boating, camping products and services to outdoor enthusiasts at events held during the first quarter throughout top western U.S. markets, including Sacramento, Denver, Phoenix and Salt

Lake City

ISE's mission has always been to connect more than 100,000 outdoor enthusiasts, no matter age or skill level, with nearly 1,500 exhibiting companies, face-to-face, at giant events

Now, ISE's new blog, ISEConnects, will help extend show-made relationships, as well as introduce others who haven't been to ISE events to the thousands of products and services, destinations, experiences, and the shows' many experts, whose skills and advice cover the waterfront forest and sky

vice cover the waterfront, forest and sky.

"We invite all – newcomer to expert, youth to senior...come to experience the outdoors at our four sportsmen shows," said John Kirk, director of communications.

"And stay connected to whichever outdoor



Credit: ISE

GOT BOATS? — Yes! Last year's introduction of the Arizona Boat Show as part of the International Sportsmen's Expo was a giant success, and ISE is ready for another great year. With more marine dealers and accessories scheduled to exhibit, this is your best opportunity to research and buy your next fishing, wakeboarding or pontoon boat.

activities you love. See you at www.ISEC-

Let The Show Begin

The International Sportsmen's Expo and Arizona Boat Shown highlights February alendar.

ISE Phoenix and the Arizona Boat Show are ready to welcome you Feb. 19-22 at the University of Phoenix Stadium.

See BLOG, Page 18

27th Annual Arizona Renaissance Festival

Are you looking for an uplifting good time? It's easy! Take a trip back in time to the wildly popular and entertaining Arizona Renaissance Festival. The annual faire begins at 10 a.m. every Saturday, Sunday — and on Presidents' Day Monday — from Feb. 7 through March 29.

Today's audience want to be more then spectators. They want to interact and be surrounded by entertainment as they seek to escape the everyday world.

See FESTIVAL, Page 19



Bring On The Spring At AZGFD's Outdoor Expo



A SPRING THING — How appropriate that just a week after the start of spring (March 20) the Arizona Game & Fish Department's Outdoor Expo gets underway. This ever-popular event features a plethora of outdoor activities that enthusiasts in the Southwest can enjoy this season and beyond.

Welcoming the wonderful outdoor activities that come with spring in the Southwest (the first day of spring is March 20) will be one of Arizona's favorite annual events: the Arizona Game & Fish Department's Outdoor Expo.

Expo Objective

The objective of this popular outdoor event is to inform, educate, train and introduce the public through activities, demonstrations and exhibits of hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, archery, wildlife watching, off-highway vehicle and watercraft recreation, wildlife conservation, wildlife education, camping, trapping and other related outdoor activities that are consistent with the Department's mission, policies and positions.

Many Activities Featured

The annual Expo showcases wildlife-related and outdoor recreation activities, including wildlife viewing, fish-

See EXPO, Page 18

ON THE COVER

ON 15 Fx

2015 Expos Kick Off New Year

Margie Anderson recently snapped this photo of a deer poised above beautiful Bartlett Lake.

He symbolizes to us the many opportunities to learn more about wildlife and outdoor activities at the two expos that traditionally begin the New Year: the International Sportsmen's Expo and Arizona Boat Show, Feb. 19-22 at the University of Phoenix Stadium and the Arizona Game & Fish Department's Outdoor Expo, March 28-29 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility.

Although wildlife per se is not its feature, another favorite spring event

See ACTIVITIES, Page 18

In This Month's Issue

Boating

Give A Gift That Can Save A Life

Even though the traditional gift-giving season is over, these ideas are valuable any time of the year./Page 4



Land Cruising Solitude In The Superstitions

Bighorn sheep, many bird species, incredible beauty are all nestled near the Superstition Mountains/Page 12





Western Outdoor Times

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Recipients of 2008 and 2013 AZGFC Media of the Year and 2009 National Water Safety Congress Award of Merit



We sincerely thank Margie and John Anderson for their contributions to Arizona Boating & Watersports/Western Outdoor Times. Their articles on hiking, wildlife, hunting, and fishing -- plus their overall appreciation of the outdoors — have enriched many of our issues.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Jim Allen, 950 East Baseline Road, 104-901, Tempe, AZ 85283.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$25 for 12 issues; single copies are \$2.50 prepaid. Subscriptions are transferable, non refundable. WOT/AZBW is distributed free in Arizona, Southern California, Mexico, Canda, the U.K., and other states and countries.

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DOWNSTREAM Events Calendar Beginning Mid Jan.

Captain's Corner



BY CAPT. DAVE ESPARZA

It is that time of the year again, time for your annual Vessel Safety Check, courtesy of the Coast

Guard Auxiliary. Have you had your vessel inspected? If not, now is the time to do so. The courtesy vessel safety check is performed at your boat whether in a slip, at the launch ramp, or in your driveway — by a certified Vessel Examiner, at a mutuallyconvenient time, and usually takes 30 to 45 minutes, depending upon the size of your boat. To find a vessel examiner, go to www.cgaux.org and click on Vessel Safety Checks or bring your vessel to West Marine in Tempe on any Friday and ask for me, Captain

BOATING

LAKE PLEASANT: Through Jan. 18-55th Arizona Yacht Club Birthday Regatta and Leukemia Cup- Pleasant Harbor Marina, participants from all over the U.S., 100 boats in 10 classes, sailboat race, benefits Desert Mountain States Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, free to spectators, 12:30 pm, http://www.arizonayachtelub.org

LEARN TO SAIL: Current — If you know someone who would like to learn to sail, turn them on to the Arizona Sailing Foundation's Adult Beginning Sailing class.

AZ YACHT CLUB MEETINGS: Second Tuesday of every month 7 p.m. the Caddy Shack at Rolling Hills Golf Course, 1415 N. Mill Ave., Tempe; www.arizonayachtclub.org

US SAILING/ RED CROSS ONLINE TRAINING: Ongoing — To make it easier for prospective US SAILING-certified instructors to fulfill course requirements for CPR and First Aid certification, US SAIL-ING teams up with the American Red Cross to provide an online training program. Participants can sign up by visiting www.us-sailing.org/training and clicking on the Red Cross Online Training button (towards the bottom of the page).

CAMPING/RVING/AZ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

PHOENIX: BECOMING AN OUT-DOORS WOMAN: Jan. 23-25 Saguaro Lake Ranch, offers adventure and life skills, for women age 18 and older to learn to camp, fish, rappel, hike, cook with Dutch ovens, photograph wildlife & a range of outdoor recreation skills, "hawk talks" and nature hikes, \$420 includes meals, lodging and classes, 480-644-0077 or http://www.azwildlife.org

CLASSES/SEMINARS

AZGFD, CG AUXILIARY, PHOENIX POWER SQUADRON BOATING CLASSES: Ongoing (See page 3 of this issue.)

COMMUNITY AND SEASONAL

THE NFL SUPER BOWL 2015: Sunday, Feb. 1 - University of Phoenix Stahttps://www.primesport.com/d/ dium superbowl

GRAND CANYON PRO RODEO ASSO-CIATION & LITTLE DELBERT DAYS: Jan.24-25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. - Sandi Nagel: sandi@campbellredimix.com or Mark Cowper: 928-208-2093; havasurodeo@ gmail.com; www.golakehavasu. com/ events/details/79/grand-canyon-prorodeo-association-little-delbert-days

HOMELESS PROGRAM NEEDS: Ongoing — new underwear, socks, sun screen, razors, feminine hygiene products, hats and backpacks: e-mail I-Help for more details: ihelp@tempeaction.org.

FISHING

BILL LUKE BASS DAYS: March 13-15 See story on page 7.

LITCHFIELD PARK: Winter Trout Fishing Derby: Jan. 24 — Tierra Verde Lake Park, fish with 700 lbs of trout stocked in the lake (8-17 inches long), food, prizes and giveaways, license not reguired for this event, must provide your own fishing equipment and bait, \$4 per pole 15 and under; \$6 per pole 16 and over, 7 am - 3 pm, http://www.litchfieldpark.org

Velentine's Day February

GREAT CANADIAN PICNIC: Feb. 7. 10 a.m. — South Mountain Park, 10919 South Central Avenue. Phoenix, AZ 85042

SCOTTSDALE: Feb. 14 — 62nd Annual Parada Del Sol Rodeo Parade - starts at Indian School Rd to Oak St. on Scottsdale Rd, free, 9 am, followed by Trail's End 480-990-3179 or http://www. paradadelsol.org

CAMP VERDE: Buffalo Soldiers: Feb. - Fort Verde State Historic Park, Buffalo Soldiers will be at Fort Verde to celebrate African American Heritage Month, in conjunction with the Town of Camp Verde's Pecan and Wine Festival, they will conduct living history presentations, as well as riding demonstrations, \$5, Sat. 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 9 am - 1 pm, http://AZStateParks.com

SCOTTSDALE: Jan. 26-Feb. 1 — 79th Annual Waste Management Phoenix Open - Tournament Players Club of Scottsdale, one of the PGA Tour's top events, with the largest crowds on the tour, attracts the finest golfers in the world, \$20/day or ticket packages, 8 am - 6 pm, 602-870-0163or http://wmphoenixopen.com

SCOTTSDALE: Through Jan. 18 -44th Annual Barrett-Jackson Classic Car Auction - WestWorld, largest, most prestigious antique/classic car auction in the world, 700+ American & European clas-sic, sports & racing cars, buyers from around the world, 9 am - 10 pm, 480-421-6694 or http://www.barrett-jackson.com

TEMPE COMMUNITY MARKET: Sundays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. — 620 N. Mill Ave., SW Corner Mill Ave. & Washington

ARIZONA FLYCASTERS CLUB MEETINGS: Second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. - Sunnyslope Community Center; http://www.azflycasters.org

HUNTING/SHOOTING/ ARCHERY

WINTER HAHWG MEETING: Feb. 28 - Phoenix at the Archery Center at the Ben Avery facility. We plan on having a potluck and archery shoot Friday night, and a big breakfast on Saturday before the gathering.

CALENDAR OF OUTDOOR EVENTS: Ongoing www.azgfd.gov/OutdoorSkills Google

BEN AVERY CLAY TARGET CEN-TER: Current - Open seven days a week; (623) 434-8119

SHOWS AND EXPOS

OUARTZSITE: Through Jan. 25 -33rd Annual Sports, Vacation & RV Show - RVs. supplies, camping equipment, food, entertainment, free, 9 am - 5 pm, 928-927-800-969-5464 http://www.quartzsitervshow.com

INTERNATIONAL SPORTSMEN'S EXPO AND ARIZONA BOAT SHOW: Feb. 19-22 — See story on page 1.

ARIZONA GAME & FISH EXPO: March 28-29 — See story on page 1.

WATERSPORTS

Diving:

SAGUARO DIVING & SPORTS: Ongoing — Learn to Scuba Dive, Open Water Certification Dives, Private Class & Pool, Private Lake Open Water Certification Dives, San Carlos, Mexico; Lake Pleasant, and more; Saguaro can plan your diving vacation for small groups or just one person. How about Grand Cayman, Curarco, Cozumel, Belize, Roatan, Bonaire, Turks & Caicos Contact Saguaro Diving & Sports, 908 E. Impala Ave., Mesa, AZ 85204; (480)507-3988 sales@saguarosports.com

WILDLIFE/ ANIMAL-RELATED

EMPTY PET FOOD BANK IN TEMPE: Ongoing — A unique food bank which serves cats and dogs needs your help. Lost Our Home Pet Foundation has been providing food and pet supplies to the pets of family in need since 2009, all through community donations. Donations can be made at the shelter location at 2323 S. Hardy Dr. Tempe, AZ 85282. Lost Our Home Pet Foundation is a no-kill pet shelter that rescues abandoned animals and provides support services to families in crisis. In addition to their pet food bank, they have a Temporary Care Program which provides up to 90 days of care for people experiencing a life crisis; 2323 S. Hardy Dr., Tempe, AZ 85254; Jodi Polanski, Jodi@lostourhome.org

WILLCOX: Through Jan. 22 — Annual Wings Over Willcox Birding & Nature Festival - Willcox Community Center, a celebration of birds, nature and culture, includes guided tours and field trips for bird watching, photography, geology, ranching, agriculture, history and more, free semi-nars, a crafts and trade show, live animal educational booths, workshops, banquet, silent auction and keynote speaker, \$5-90, 800-200-2272 or http://www.wingsoverwillcox.com

RAISING MONEY FOR ANIMALS: Ongoing — Heather L. James-Davis; www.azanimalassistance.com

Editor's Note: Please submit announcements for AZBW/WOT's calendar of events "Downstream" editor@azbw.com. To guarantee placement, as room allows, items must be received by the eighth 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.

Congratulations to Don McDowell and Shake. Rattle & Troll, awarded the 2014 Arizona Game & Fish Commission's "Media of the Year" award.



OW BEFORE

Update your boating safety knowledge

Life Jackets save lives—especially in colder water

In water under 49 degrees, half of boating accidents are fatal

Ask some boaters why they don't wear a life jacket and they'll most likely say they don't need one because they are a "strong swimmer." But in open water under 49 degrees, it doesn't matter how good a swimmer you are, without a life jacket you are more likely to drown.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department reminds winter boaters that their life iackets are even more important in the colder winter months. According to U.S. Coast Guard statistics, when the water temperature is 49 degrees or less, fifty percent of boating accidents are fatal. Sixtysix percent of those who drown were thought to be "good swimmers," and 55 percent of open water drownings occur within ten feet of safety.

'Wearing a life jacket before you end up in cold water and knowing what to do in the first few minutes can make the difference between becoming a statistic or a survivor," said Paul Newman, recreational boating safety specialist for the U.S. Coast Guard Eleventh District, which includes Arizona. "A life jacket can buy you time and increase your chances of survival."

The first minute in cold water can be especially deadly because the human body reacts to the cold temperature by gasping deeply. Swimmers who gasp while underwater can take more than a liter of water into their lungs, making it impossible to reach the surface to breathe. If they survive the next ten minutes, the cold water saps the body's ability for meaningful motion, making it difficult to swim, tread water, climb out or signal for help.

After an hour in cold water, hypothermia sets in, the swimmer loses consciousness and drowns. Wearing a life jacket can help keep your head above water, help keep you warm and keep you afloat even when you're exhausted. Newman said there are plenty of good reasons to always wear your life jacket, especially in the winter months.

"A life jacket can buy you time and keep you alive in cold water, but it won't help unless you're wearing it," said Newman. "Getting into the habit of always wearing your life jacket, especially when the water is cold, is the very best way to reduce the chances of drowning.3

Be a Better Boater: Take a Boating Safety Education Class.

January 2015							
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration			
Arizona Game and Fish Department	January 17 9 a.m 5 p.m.	Arizona Game and Fish Headquarters 5000 W. Carefree Hwy. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219			
Arizona Game and Fish Department	January 17 9 a.m 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility 2176 McCulloch Blvd. Suite 8 Lake Havasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219			

February 2015							
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration			
Arizona Game and Fish Department	February 21 9 a.m 4 p.m.	Arizona Game and Fish Headquarters 5000 W. Carefree Hwy. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219			
Arizona Game and Fish Department	February 21 9 a.m 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility 2176 McCulloch Blvd. Suite 8 Lake Havasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219			

Alcohol and Boating: A Deadly Combination

Arizona law prohibits anyone from operating a power-driven vessel while under the influence of alcohol or any drug that causes the person to be even slightly impaired. Alcohol and drugs can cause impaired balance, blurred vision, poor coordination, impaired judgment and slower reaction time. These contribute to nearly one-third of all fatal boating accidents

If convicted of OUI or "Extreme OUI," a person can be fined up to \$2500 and jailed for up to six months. Subsequent convictions and "Aggravated OUI" may carry even more severe penalties.

By operating a vessel on Arizona waters, you have consented to be tested for alcohol or drugs if arrested by a law officer for alleged violations under Arizona Watercraft Statutes. Just remember this simple rule: Don't Drink and Boat!





Clean, Drain and Dry your boat. It's the Law.

Dock lines Livewells Prop Anchor Pull the Plug! Bilge Thru hull Hull Axle Rollers fittings Stop Aquatic Invasive Species.

Renew Your Watercraft Registration Online!

The Game and Fish online watercraft registration system allows you to renew your registration and have immediate use of your watercraft. Visit: https://az.gov/app/ watercraft. (A \$2.50 online service fee applies). You can also renew your registration by mail or in person at any Game and Fish of-



Get access to the latest news, the inside stories and the coolest videos on the Arizona Game and Fish Facebook page: www.Facebook.com/azgafd





IDEAS FOR BOATERS

Throughout The Year, Give Gifts That Save Lives

EIGHTH DISTRICT'S RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY PROGRAM MANAGER, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Need gift ideas for your favorite boater? Even though the traditional giftgiving holidays are over for now, there are always special occasions when presents are in order. When they come around, give a gift of life. Following are a few ideas that may end up ensuring your boater is around for the holidays next year.

Coast-Guard Approved Life Jacket

First on your list should be a comfortable Coast Guard approved life jacket designed for the intended use of the boater on your list. You may have heard that specific type classifications previously used to describe the performance characteristics of life jackets have been eliminated.

What you need to know is that all life jackets should be Coast Guard-approved and used in accordance with the manufacturer's design. That means all the snaps snapped, zippers zipped and buckles buck-

The relatively new inflatable models come in a variety of styles, sizes, colors and design that are appropriate for almost any type of boating. The Coast Guard continues to recommend a comfortable, inherently buoyant life jacket for small boat



as paddlers in canoes and kavaks

However, a fanny-pack ype inflatable worn around the waist still allows for those masculine physiques to be seen while SUPing on

a stand-up and are readily available when worn if needed in the

Carbon-Monoxide Detector

In far too many situations, the release of carbon monoxide from engines and various types of heaters sometimes results in the death or serious injury of those trying to stay warm during the colder winter This has prompted a warning about this dangerous boating-related hazard. Far too many people have

died from carbon monoxiderelated watercraft incidents.

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is formed by incomplete combustion of any fuel, including gasoline, kerosene, wood, coal, oil, natural

gas or charcoal. Sources on a boat include gasoline engines, generators, cooking ranges and space heaters. "Carbon monoxide is a silent killer because it is an odor-less, colorless gas," said Coast Guard Boating Safety Program Manager Ed

"All boat engines produce carbon monoxide and boaters across the country are killed every year because of improper cabin ventilation, poorly maintained equipment and careless behavior."

Dangerous or deadly fumes can accumulate in confined spaces on boats, near stern ladders and under swimming platforms. Swimmers and water-skiers behind running boat engines face the greatest risk of exposure to exhaust fumes, which can build up to deadly levels.

Boats emit up to 188 times the carbon monoxide that cars do. So, next on the gift list is a battery-powered carbon monoxide detector.

Marine-Band VHF Radio

Aside from a gift card for fuel, as gas prices continue to decline, you can't go

wrong with giving a quality marine band VHF radio. Available in handheld or permanently mounted models, submersible and yes, even water proof, a VHF radio allows a boater to communicate with others including the towing company, local enforcement officers and the Coast Guard in the event help is needed.

Easy to use, inexpensive and readily available, a marine band radio

gency because if the user is lost, or not really aware of an exact location, it can take up to three hours to locate a cell phone and that's assuming it's within the range of the nearest cell tower.

Personal Locator **Beacons**

Another great gift for a boater, especially off-



shore fisherman is a personal locator beacon. Known widely as a PLB or EPIRB (emergency position indicating radio beacon), many lives have been saved with this well established technology.

Give To Save

'Let's face it," said Huntsman, "Nobody gets up in the morning for a great day out on the water and says, 'I think I'm going to go out fishing or paddling and see what I can do to put myself in a serious life-threatening situation so I can get on the news tonight!' But, hardly a week goes by when we don't see a news report involving a serious boating-related accident

Give a gift that can save a life. For more information, call (504) 671-

Range Of Sailing Topics Slated For Women's Sailing Convention



SET SAIL - "Rigging Spinnakers" is just one of the workshops offered to ladies at the Women's Sailing Convention Feb. 7.

women sailors, when desiring to learn more skills, prefer courses taught by women instructors? Celebrating 26 years as the number one sailing education event for women on the West Coast, the Annual Women's Sailing Convention on Saturday, 7, proves that women-only educational opportunities are highly popular.
With water and land-based workshops,

the convention is full of hands-on courses for the beginner to the experienced, and re-turns to the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club in Corona del Mar, Calif.. It is presented by the Southern California Yachting Association (SCYA) and sponsored by Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS).

Top Women Presentors

Top women sailors from all over Southern California, many of whom are USCGlicensed captains, will present all 30 of the workshops. Attendees may select a combination of topics such as Welcome

See CONVENTION, Page 6



PON'T MISS THE BOAT — Sail-World receives an average of 800,000 visits per month, with three million unique visitors per year. So, make sure your event public relations officers or your class or association has provided Sail-World with the event preview, the daily reports, mid-regatta reports or the wrap at very least. There is a news submit button on the front page. It's a very simple process. Around the world, 12 different events provided their news reports to us this way on a single day alone. Of course we also receive many event reports to our global email box editor@sail-world.com. We don't run them all and many need heavy editing and we often ask for more or better image and full result tables but if you do not send them to us, your event sponsors miss out on a lot of exposure. Combining the most recent two months, we will have run 80 or so of these reports; be awful if yours in not one of them.

Come To San Diego For These Unique Maritime Experiences

Whale Watching on America Through April

Come enjoy San Diego whale watching tours with our partner! Next Level Sailing has never made it so easy for you to see these wonderful mammals off our beautiful coastline. So do it right on board the beautiful 138 foot sailing yacht America.

Boy Scouts Take Over

Sunday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Celebrate the 105th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America at the Maritime Museum of San Diego. This event is de-

signed to provide Boy Scouts and youths a unique, hands-on and fun-filled maritime experience that they will remember forever. (Boy Scouts are encouraged to be in uniform.)

Sweetheart Sunset Sail

Saturday, Feb. 14 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

The best place to celebrate Valentines

Day with your loved ones is on beautiful San Diego Bay aboard the America. Enjoy a twilight sail that comes with a complimentary glass of sparkling wine and chocolate strawberries. Remember this day of love with a complimentary keepsake photo when you return.

Family Day Sunday, Feb. 22

Enjoy a great day with your family exploring our ships and stay for free activities. Kids activities are available from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Kids' admission is free all day (two kids per paying adult)! For an additional \$5.00 per person, families can sign



up for a Historic Bay Cruise on San Diego Bay aboard the museum's historic 1914 harbor pilot boat Pilot.

For more information about any of these events or other San Diego Maritime Museum activities, visit info@sdmaritime.org.

Boating



CONGRATULATIONS — Sara Anghel, of NMMA Canada, has been recognized by Boating Ontario with their prestigious President's Award. Anghel is shown receiving the award at the President's Dinner in Huntsville, Ontario, Canada.

NMMA Canada's Sara Anghel Receives Award

Prestigious honor is given annually to one outstanding industry leader.

Sara Anghel, executive director and vice-president of government relations for National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) Canada, was named the recipient of this year's Boating Ontario President's Award, the organization's highest honor. Boating Ontario's president Richard Carroll presented the award to Anghel at the Boating Ontario Conference & Trade Show President's Dinner in Huntsville in early December 2014.

"The Boating Ontario Board of Directors have unanimously voted to present Sara with this year's Boating Ontario President's Award," said Carroll. "This award is presented each year to one person from the industry [who] has made a significant contribution to the Ontario boating industry."

try."

"With Sara's leadership, NMMA
Canada has made the Canadian recreational boating industry stronger and more
unified in our advocacy efforts and beyond," said Donald Dubois, chairman of
NMMA Canada.

"In addition to providing Canadian marine companies with valuable resources to grow their business, Sara's government relations expertise has made NMMA the leading authority with government officials for recreational boating in Canada."

"This is recognition of the hard work Sara is doing for the Canadian boating industry and the outstanding job she has done building a strong relationship with Boating Ontario and Marine Trade Associations (MTAs) in Canada," said Thom Dammrich, president of NMMA. "Sara has successfully created a unified voice for the Canadian recreational boating industry and created a stronger North American presence."

In 2014, under Anghel's leadership, NMMA Canada actively engaged with the government to ensure water access for two of Canada's historic canals located in Ontario. The reinstatement of the hours of operation on the Trent-Severn Waterway and Rideau Canal were a direct result of the industry's unified advocacy efforts. Working closely with MTAs and the Office of the Minister of the Environment, together they were able to reinstate the hours of service.

Notable accomplishments from her

Seven Tips To Get More Out Of A Marine Survey

In 2013, over 955,000 boats changed hands on the pre-owned boat market. That meant for a nearly a million boat buyers, hiring an accredited marine surveyor to inspect their potential dreamboat was often the first step after finding it. Boat Owners Association of The United States has seven tips on how to get the most from a marine survey:

1. The only good survey is a current one: Relying on an old survey is a bad idea. The marine environment isn't nice to boats and sometimes a "little" maintenance issue can quickly turn into more serious problem. If you need to have the boat insured, you'll usually need a survey less than six months old — after that, it begins to smell like dead fish.

2. Don't miss your own survey: Just like your wedding, you need to be there. Attending and asking questions will reap reams of information about the boat you're buying, and most surveyors are happy to talk about what they are finding and what needs to be done to fix things.

3. Experience trumps price: Don't select a surveyor on price alone. It's important to find one who has experience on your type of boat that can tell you what



DON'T SKIMP HERE — Hiring a marine surveyor (not just the least expensive one) could be the single most important task to manage when buying (or selling) a boat.

you need to know. Surveyors who are members of the Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors (SAMS) or the National Association of Marine Surveyors (NAMS) are wise choices as these professional organizations have certification processes and provide educational training.

4. It's not pass or fail: A survey is only a guide to determine if the boat is acceptable to the buyer. An insurance company may also use it to provide a list of corrective actions needed to provide coverage.

5. Surprise, surprise: Boats are a series of complex systems and even brand new boats sometimes have recommendations from a surveyor. The difference is that with new boats, corrective actions are often taken care of through the builder's warranty.

6. Use the survey to negotiate: Surveys include an approximate fair-market value for use by lenders and insurance companies. If the numbers warrant it, there's also nothing wrong with using this value in an attempt to negotiate a better deal with the seller.

7. A survey gives you a great punch list: A survey can guide planning for upgrades, repairs and help you prioritize.

For a list of surveyors and more boat buying information such as sales contracts, sea trials, and boat prices, go to BoatUS.com/surveyandseatrial.





Boating

LED Cockpit Light Is Small In Size, Big In Utility

When operating a vessel at night, it's important for boaters to maintain the ability to see what's underfoot, without losing their night vision with a harsh, bright glare Perko's new louvered cockpit LED utility light is perfect for illuminating deck areas and passageways, enhancing a boat's safety and overall ambience.

Ideal for any place mid-level lighting is needed—cockpit or cabin—the fixture's small size and sculpted louver make it look like a vent. Built tough and made to perform, the unit is manufactured to withstand both the weather and the occasional hard bump.

Constructed of durable stainless steel with a mirror-like finish, the light has a black polymer base for mounting on any flat surface. It features soft, rounded corners for an elegant appearance and to prevent snagging

The 12 volt fixture has an extremely low amperage draw and uses less than half the energy of a standard unit. It comes with 6' pigtail wire leads for simple connection.

Proudly made in the USA, Perko's Fig



1033 louvered cockpit LED utility light is 3-1/8" L x 1-5/8" H and requires four #8 screws for easy installation. The unit retails for under \$25

Contact local dealers or Perko, 16490 Northwest 13th Ave., Miami, FL 33169, 305-621-7525; Fax: 305-620-9978. 305-620-9978. sales@perko.com; www.perko.com.

AWARD

Continued from page 5

tenure at NMMA include the first-ever annual Canadian Recreational Boating Sta-Abstract, securing more than \$200,000 in government funding to support the industry, and establishment of NMMA Canada's first Recreational Boating Day on the Hill in Ottawa, an annual event where industry leaders meet with government officials to address key issues impacting the boating industry.

About NMMA

National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) is the leading association representing the recreational boating in-dustry in North America. NMMA member companies produce more than 80 percent of the boats, engines, trailers, accessories and gear used by boaters and anglers throughout the U.S. and Canada. The association is dedicated to industry growth through programs in public policy advocacy, market statistics and research, product quality assurance and promotion of the boating lifestyle.

For information, more www.nmma.ca or www.nmma.org.

CONVENTION

Continued from page 4

Aboard (for beginners), How to Heave a Line, Easy Electrical Education, Navigation 101, Dabble in Diesels, Suddenly Singlehanded, Advanced Anchoring, Weather, Introduction to Racing, Docking Basics, Rigging Spinnakers and Overboard Proce-

New this year are Cruising the Channel Islands, Prepare to Cruise to Mexico and 10 Years at Sea, a talk about "a few bad days at sea" along with lessons learned by two-time circumnavigator Capt. Nancy Early. The event includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, handouts, souvenirs, and opportunity to purchase logo'd event merchandise.

Sharon Green Featured

Capping the day will be dinner's featured speaker, photographer and Ultimate Sailing Calendar publisher Sharon Green who has been capturing electrifying images of performance sailing for more than three decades.

Green has also been extensively published in the world's foremost boating periodicals, and has published two books since first taking up a camera in high school. Since then she has worked on eight America's Cups and countless other high-profile campaigns and regat-

Green say's she is the happiest when photographing on the water or from a helicopter, in "fresh-to-frightening" conditions, in search of the elusive "ultimate sailing" image.

To obtain a reservation form, write Gail Hine, SCYA Women's Sailing Convention, 23414 Mt. Ashland Ct., Murrieta CA 951-677-8121; Gail@scya.org or on the Web at Womens-SailingConvention.com

The convention fee of \$200.00 includes workshops, breakfast, lunch, dinner, souvenirs and handouts. For more information women's sailing events go BoatUS.com/women.

About BoatUS

Boat Owners Association of The

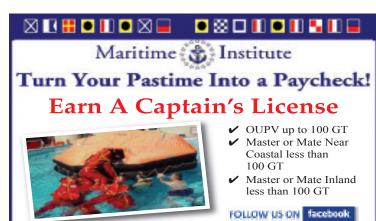
United States (BoatUS) is the nation's leading advocate for recreational boaters providing its over half-million members with government representation, services such as 24-hour dispatch, on-water boat towing as well as roadside assistance for boat trailers and tow vehicles, featurepacked boat insurance programs, moneysaving benefits including marina and service discounts, and vital information that improves recreational boating

Its member-funded BoatUS Foundation is a national leader, promoting safe, clean and responsible boating and offers range of boating safety courses - including 33 free state courses — that can be found at BoatUS.org/courses









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www.azbw.com

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Orlando Is The Biggest Destination For Global Sportfishing Industry

Mark your calendar for the world's largest sportfishing trade event.

Now is the time to mark your calendar for the International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades, better known as ICAST, the world's largest sportfishing trade show. Produced by the American Sportfishing Association (ASA), the trade group that represents the sportfishing industry, ICAST will be held July 14 – 17, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla.

From buyers to media to exhibitors ICAST annually attracts more than 11,000 representatives from the international sportfishing community to conduct business, network with industry leaders and see the latest innovations in gear, accessories and apparel. This past November, ICAST was recognized by the Trade Show News Network as one of top 25 fastest growing trade shows by attendance in the

ICAST And IFTD Together For the third year, ICAST and the Inter-

national Fly Tackle Dealer show (IFTD), the fly tackle-specific show produced by the American Fly Fishing Trade Association (AFFTA), are co-locating in the Orange County Convention Center on the same days and the same show hours.

"ICAST is the premier showcase for the fishing tackle industry and the only one-stop-shopping opportunity to look at everything in recreational fishing, all under one roof," said Trade Show Director Kenneth Andres.

"However, with the addition of several new events and a full schedule of business development seminars, ICAST should be the "go-to" destination for everyone whose business involves recreational fishing. There are more opportunities now than ever before to see gear, apparel and accessories as well as expand your business network."

New Events In 2015

Three new events have been added to the ICAST schedule. On Tuesday morning, July 14, for the first time, ICAST, in partnership with Fishing Tackle Retailer, is hosting a product demonstration day called ICAST on the Water on Lake To-hopekaliga (Lake Toho), the largest lake in Osceola County and a prime bass fishing



EXCERPTS FROM AZGFD FISHING REPORT

Although It's Trout Time, Don't Forget The Crappie

Tip Of The Week

At Silver Creek, Cinda Howard of Fly Fish Arizona said fishing is good but has been getting tougher. Flies of choice have been bunny leeches in tan or black, Glo Bugs, San Juan worms and zebra midges. There also has been some top-water action, especially when the sun hits the water and generates midge hatches. Water temperatures are in the 40s.

The Reel Deal

We call them "incentive" trout for a reason: To get you out on the water and hopefully onto some big fish.

The reports of big trout keep coming in. Ryan L. reported catching a rainbow trout that he said measured 23 inches and weighed 5.5 pounds (see photo).

Also congratulations to Harold Heres, who caught a 4.44-pound, 21.75-inch rainbow trout on PowerBait at Red Mountain Lake near Mesa on the morning of Jan. 1. The trout was entered in the Big Fish of the Year contest. Go get yours!

We're getting things off right with incentive trout stockings that have just gone into many of the Community Fishing Program waters. Which ones? The trout have been stocked into all the waters but the Phoenix/Maricopa expansion and custom waters. See the stocking schedule.

These fish are all at least 1 pound, with most being 3-5 pounds. (A few are 6-8 pounds.) This is prime winter trout time.

Also, Winter Crappie Time

Typically, it's also winter crappie time. Might want to stay away from Roosevelt Lake if you want crappie. On the other hand, sounds like Alamo Lake could be a good crappie producer.

Anglers were reporting that crappie were trying to turn on at this lake, which is located west of Wickenburg. A recent storm that blew through shut the bite down for a few days, but with high temperatures back into the 70s-plus, things should turn on again. Crappie are definitely blue-sky

Go where the Bill Williams River enters the lake and you will see some ancient cottonwood tops sticking out of the water
— that is a huge flat where the crappie like to hold. The crappie might be in 30 or even 50 feet of water, but the active crappie are usually at around 15 feet deep. Keep in mind that crappie feed upward.

So, slow troll and get your bait or jig



down to just above 15 feet. For example, 6-pound Fireline and a 1/16-ounce curly tail swimming jig translates into 41.5 feet of line at a trolling speed 1.5 mph to reach 14 feet

Another good idea is to consider Bartlett Lake for crappie.

Don't forget to bring your license! Need one? They can be purchased online. Your purchase helps conserve wildlife for future genrations! (The Arizona Game and Fish Department does not receive state tax

White Mountains Updates

Significant access roads closed for the winter on Dec. 30, including Highways 273 and 261, and Forest Road 300 towards Woods Canyon Lake, Bear Canyon Lake, and Chevelon Lake. This has impacted access to a number of waters on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, but the incoming snowstorm would have limited much of that access anyway.

Most of the lakes in the region are entirely frozen over, or mostly frozen. As of Dec. 29, there wasn't any ice cover that was safe to walk on and thus, ice fishing will have to wait for thicker ice conditions

The late onset of the ice cover will delay the ice fishing season, but will likely mean that no winter kills will occur.

There are only a few waters in the region that are fully accessible (open water or safe ice, open/clear roads), including Lyman Lake, Clear Creek Reservoir, Fool Hollow Lake, Show Low Lake, and Silver

Most waters are still ice covered, and Show Low Lake that was previously ice free now has partial ice that restricts boat launching. Ice cover should still be considered unsafe

The ice came on very late this year and needs a little more time to build before it

Upcoming Fishing Events

Saturday, Jan. 31 - Big Game Fish Bowl, 8-11 a.m. at Peoria's Pioneer Park lake at 8755 N. 83rd Ave. — It's going down the day before the Super Bowl! Wear your favorite team's jersey and enjoy a variety of activities.

The fishing portion, an Arizona Game and Fish Department fishing clinic, is free. Rainbow trout will have been stocked just prior to the event. Loaner rods and reels will be available, and bait will be provided. No license is required for those who register.

For a \$5 entry fee, the event also includes giveaways, gift cards, an event T-shirt, prizes, food and more while supplies

For more information, call 623-773-7137 or to pre-register, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/specialevents.

Saturday, Feb. 21 — There will be a free fishing clinic at Silverbell Lake in Tucson, 8 a.m. - noon.

See our Fish&Boat Arizona map for directions to our state's primary fisheries. See the full report for more details, and please share your fishing memories and pictures with us at BFishing@AZGFD.



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Tackle & Target

Arizona Game And Fish Commission To Cost-Share Repairs To Willow Beach Hatchery

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission voted to give the director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department authority to finalize a cost-sharing agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to repair the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery. In a 5-0 vote, the commission agreed to pay up to \$389,000 to fix a broken pipeline for the hatchery. The contribution amounts to 50 percent of the cost of the project.

"This is a great pre-New Year's present for the people of Mohave County and anglers across the state," said Commission Vice-Chair Kurt Davis of Phoenix. "Sport-fishing recreation contributes \$1.47 billion to Arizona's economy annually, with much of that money going to rural communities, and Game and Fish is proud to be part of the solution keeping Willow Beach in

Thank You To Mc-Cain, Gosar

The vote by the Commission to cost share the Willow Beach hatchery repairs comes after much work by Arizona's congressional delegation, particularly Senator John McCain and Congressman Paul Gosar, who championed a repair to the hatchery. Mohave County officials, includ-ing County Board of Supervisors Chair Hildy Angius, also worked diligently to ensure trout production wasn't lost at Willow Beach. Senator McCain said he is proud that the commission has worked with other Arizona and federal agencies to keep the hatchery online.

"I am very pleased that an agreement be-tween the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore trout stocking at Willow Beach Hatchery in Mohave County is a big step closer today," said Senator McCain.
"This will be an important development

for this stretch of the Lower Colorado River, where trout fishing supports some

See HATCHERY, Page 19



The Arizona Game and Fish Department is accepting comments on improving the hunt guidelines to continue the sustainable management of the state's game animals, while providing as much hunting recreation as possible.

Comments on the existing hunt guidelines may be submitted through Feb. 15, 2015, either by e-mail to azgame-branch@azgfd.gov, or by mail to Hunt Guidelines, Arizona Game and Fish De-partment, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086. "This is the public's opportunity to get

involved in the nuts and bolts of this bi-annual process," said Big Game Manage-ment Supervisor Amber Munig. "We are seeking your ideas, comments, concerns, or observations on how to meet the many demands by our varied hunting public, as

well as fostering new opportunities for continuing our hunting heritage for future generations.

The hunt guidelines provide the biological and social parameters that make up the 'recipes" used by wildlife managers to formulate the annual hunt recommendations (season structures, season lengths, season dates, permits allocated, etc.) and results in the hunts in which sportsmen, women and children participate.

However, wildlife biologists note that while wildlife is held in the public's trust, and hunting opportunity is important, using science-based principles in shaping the guideline process remains paramount to ensure healthy, sustainable, and diverse wildlife populations in perpetuity.

After all the comments are received, reviewed and processed, the department will

host public meetings across the state to present the proposed revisions, answer questions, and collect any further public input. A final draft will then be prepared and posted on the department's Web site prior to being presented to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission in September.

The existing hunt guidelines, as well as information on the hunt guidelines process, can be found at www.azgfd.gov/ huntguidelines.

Did You Know?

Arizona hunting and fishing licenses are a great value. You can get combination hunting and fishing licenses for a family of four for less than the price of one night in a motel. Great Outdoors, Great Value! http://www.azgfd.gov/eservices/licenses.s



2015 Arizona Pronghorn Antelope, **Elk Hunt Draw Booklet Online**

The 2015 Pronghorn Antelope and Elk Hunt Draw Information booklet has been posted online by the Arizona Game and Fish Department at www.azgfd.gov/draw. Printed copies of the booklet should be available at hunting license dealers in the

Hunters may now begin applying for hunt permit-tags issued through the drawing process by submitting a paper application by mail to Arizona Game and Fish Department, P.O. Box 74020, Phoenix, AZ 85087-1052, or by hand delivery to any Game and Fish office until the deadline. The online application service is anticipated to be available by mid-January.

The deadline for applying for pronghorn antelope and elk hunts is Tuesday, Feb. 10 by 7 p.m. (MST). Applications must be received by the department by the deadline; postmarks don't count.

A valid Arizona hunting license or combination hunting/fishing license is required to apply for the draw. Because all licenses (other than the short-term license) are valid for 365 days, please check the

See HUNT DRAW, Page 19

James Zieler Appointed To Arizona Game And Fish Commission

Outgoing Governor Jan Brewer on Dec. 31 announced the appointment of James Zieler to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission

Zieler has been with Salt River Project since 2008, and has served as Supply Chain Manager, Operations and Mainte-nance Supervisor and Safety and Security Coordinator. He previously served as Chief of Police for the St. Johns Police De-partment (1998-2007); Narcotics Agent, Gang Enforcement Officer and Deputy Sheriff with the Apache County Sheriff's



James Zieler

Corrections Officer for the Arizona Department of Corrections

Additionally, has served on numerous boards, including as President of the St. Johns Unified School District Board

of Education (2010-2014); Executive Board Member of the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee for the United States Attorney's Office, District of Arizona (1999-2007); Chair of the Apache County Local Emergency Planning Committee (2007-11); and, President of the Northeastern Arizona Police Association (2001), among others.

Zieler has volunteered as a hunter-education instructor for the Arizona Game and Fish Department since 1999 and as a Reserve Police Officer for the St. Johns Police Department since 2008. He also served as Varsity Scout Coach for the Boy Scouts of America (1994-2014) and Youth Football Coach at St. Johns Middle School

He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Safety Administration from Grand Canyon University (2002) and has an Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice from Northland Pioneer College (1999).

Zieler awaits confirmation by the Arizona Senate before joining the commission. His appointment for a five-year term will fill the vacancy created by outgoing Commissioner John W. Harris, whose term is expiring.

ORLANDO

Continued from page 7

location.

ICAST is partnering with FLW to host an industry bass fishing tournament prior to the ICAST On the Water event. Also on Tuesday morning, Florida Sportsman is partnering with ICAST to host a golf tournament of which a portion of the proceeds will go to KeepAmericaFishing.
On Tuesday evening, July 14, after the

New Product Showcase preview reception, ICAST is partnering with WFN: World Fishing Network to host a concert of which a portion of the proceeds will go to support KeepAmericaFishing.

"Last year, we tested the waters with a golf tournament that turned out to be very popular with exhibitors and attendees," said Andres. "Now we have four new events that help to reinforce what ICAST is all about: seeing product and building your business network. If ICAST isn't on your 2015 calendar, it needs to be."

A New ICAST Web Site

To better serve exhibitors and attendees alike, ASA has launched a new, upgraded ICAST Web and mobile site. The new site features streamlined navigation with easyto-find information for exhibitors and attendees alike.

International attendees are going to find the new site much easier to use because the streamlined text makes language translation so much more effective. The mobile version is an even more streamlined version that contains the core content that exhibitors and attendees alike can use pre-show and on the show floor.

Other Show Highlights

New Product Showcase and Preview Reception: Sponsored by Fishing Tackle Retailer, more fishing products are unveiled during the ICAST New Product Showcase than anywhere else in the world. The New Product Showcase is the premier venue where established manufacturers and entrepreneurs alike debut their latest innovations in fishing gear and acces-

Hundreds of new products will make their marketplace debut and compete for Best of Show honors in 24 product categories this year. Industry buyers and media serve as judges to rate the new products and cast their votes

State of the Industry Breakfast: Just before the show floor opens on July 15, ASA will host the traditional State of the Industry Breakfast. Tickets are required.

Chairman's Industry Awards Recep-

tion: On July 15, ICAST will host the Chairman's Industry Awards Reception

where the New Product Showcase "Best of Show" awards are presented. All ICAST and IFTD attendees are welcome to attend the awards reception held at the

Expanded Business Conference Sessions: In order to meet the business needs of our industry, the business sessions are evolving into a "must-attend" part of the trade show. This year's seminars focus on a wide-range of topics, with a particular focus on buyers and the retail sector, but the sessions have a lot of information for all attendees and exhibitors.

The sessions are free to all badged ICAST and IFTD attendees. The sessions are held during show hours – July 14 – 17, in Room 209A, the Orange County Convention Center.

Registration, Housing

Registration and booking housing is available through the ICAST Web site in one easy-to-use process. ASA has arranged special ICAST discounts for attendees with partner hotels that are conveniently located near the Orange County Convention Center. Complimentary shuttle service is provided to and from the convention

Keeping Up On Social Media

ICAST can be found at www.ICAST-

fishing.org, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ICASTfishing, and on Twitter @ICASTShow and #icastshow

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) is the sportfishing industry's trade association committed to representing the interests of the entire sportfishing community. We give the industry a unified voice, speaking out on behalf of sportfishing and boating industries, state and federal natural resource agencies, conservation organizations, angler advocacy groups and outdoor journalists when emerging laws and policies could significantly affect sportfishing

business or sportfishing itself.

ASA invests in long-term ventures to ensure the industry will remain strong and prosperous, as well as safeguard and promote the enduring social, economic and conservation values of sportfishing in

ASA also gives America's 60 million anglers a voice in policy decisions that affect their ability to sustainably fish on our nation's waterways through KeepAmeri-caFishingTM, our angler advocacy campaign. America's anglers generate over \$48 billion in retail sales with a \$115 billion impact on the nation's economy creating employment for more than 828,000 Arizona Game And Fish Issues Notice Of Inten

The notice proposes to sue federal officials over Mexican wolf recovery plan development.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department served a Notice of Intent with the secretary of the Department of Interior and director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The action was taken in an effort to support development of an updated recovery plan for Mexican wolves that utilizes the best available science as legally required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Outdated Plan

Game and Fish has requested an updated recovery plan from the Service on multiple occasions over the past several years because the current recovery plan for Mexican wolves developed in 1982 is so outdated that it no longer provides an adequate framework to guide the recovery ef-



Bald Eagle

BALD EAGLE WORKSHOP

Learn More **About These Majestic Birds**

The Arizona Game and Fish Department will present their annual workshop for the public on bald eagle natural history at the Pinetop regional office at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7

The program is free to the public and will consist of a classroom presentation and discussion of bald eagle life history, behavior patterns and their current population status in Arizona and North America. The presentation will be followed by an optional trip to a local lake to observe eagle behavior first-hand.

Participants are advised to dress appropriately for weather conditions for that day and to bring a set of binoculars or spotting scope for improved observation if they

Please call the Pinetop Game and Fish office at (928) 532-3680 to register. Registration is not required, but is appreciated to ensure proper staffing



Mexican Wolf

fort. That plan also fails to identify the re-covery criteria required by the ESA including downlisting and delisting criteria.

"This Notice of Intent is an effort to en-sure that the Fish and Wildlife Service adheres to its legal obligation to develop a thorough science-based plan that will lead to a successful recovery outcome that recognizes Mexico as pivotal to achieving recovery of the Mexican wolf given that 90 percent of its historical range is there,' said Arizona Game and Fish Department

Need Bi-National Approach

Bi-national recovery plans for endangered species have been successfully established with Mexico for other species including Sonoran pronghorn, Kemp's ridley sea turtles and, most recently, thick-billed parrots. The department asserts that to succeed, Mexican wolf recovery must include an integrated, bi-national approach that incorporates the recovery work already underway in Mexico.
"I fully support the action and I look

forward to working with the department to develop a legal and sound plan for the recovery of the Mexican wolf," said Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich.

The Service is currently in litigation with several parties that are pushing for reestablishment of Mexican wolves in areas that are not part of the subspecies' historical range and requesting a resolution in an unreasonable timeframe. These groups are basing their litigation on a draft report developed by a Mexican Wolf Re-covery Science and Planning Subgroup. The department completed extensive

analysis of the subgroup's recommend tions and found the science used as a basis for the recommendations to be significantly flawed. This misguided approach could jeopardize genetic integrity of the subspecies if the Mexican wolf is permitted to reestablish in close proximity to Northern gray wolves

Since Mid-'80s

Secretary Sally Jewell of the Department of Interior has 60 days to respond to the Notice of Intent. If the secretary fails to respond, the department will pursue civil action. A Notice of Intent is a required precursor to pursuing civil action.

Arizona Game and Fish's involvement in Mexican wolf conservation began in the mid-1980s. Since that time, the department has spent more than \$7 million on wolf recovery in the state and has been the predominant on-the-ground presence working to manage Mexican wolves.

For more information on Mexican wolves, visit www.azgfd.gov/wolf.

Wendell Swank Is Honored And Remembered

management post: the United Nation's ad-

ministration of the wildlife program for the then-emerging nations of Kenya, Uganda

and Tanganyika in Africa. His path subse-

quently led him back to Texas A&M Uni-

Former Arizona Game and Fish Department Director Wendell Swank leaves legacy of science-based wildlife management.

It is with regret that we announce the passing on Jan. 2 of Wendell George Swank, a former Arizona Game and Fish Department director.

Mr. Swank, who worked 15 years for AZGFD and served as director from 1964-68, is perhaps best known for his role in transitioning the department to the use of a science-based wildlife management

A graduate of Texas A&M University, he joined AZGFD as a member of the first group of college graduates hired by the department as game rangers (wildlife managers) in the 1950s. As the agency evolved in the late 1950s and early 1960s, Mr. Swank was in charge of implementing the new wildlife manager program.

He spearheaded the department's

change from an organization comprised primarily of enforcement officers into a college-educated, science-based agency that recruited from higher education institutions nationwide.

He also instituted a protocol where each wildlife manager trainee was exposed to an extensive education and training program, during which each new trainee worked with other department employees

Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, where his Mr. Swank left Arizona Game and Fish in 1968 for the world's largest wildlife time was devoted equally between teach-

ing and research. Mr. Swank was inducted into the Wildlife for Tomorrow Foundation's Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame in 2012.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department offers its deepest sympathies to the Swank family.



The Arizona Game and Fish Department is investigating the poaching of a mule deer buck that occurred in late December on the Kaibab National Forest, 10 miles south of Williams in Game Manage-

The deer was found off Forest Service Road 354, about one mile from the Perkinsville Highway.

Officials investigating this case found

the deer carcass with a bullet wound in the neck and the antlers removed. Officers have limited evidence and are requesting the public's help in solving this poaching

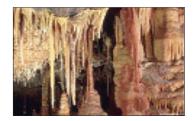
"Poaching is not hunting; it's stealing Arizona's valuable wildlife resources," said AZGFD Wildlife Manager Mike Rice.



See POACHERS, Page 19

_and Cruising 🤏





Come To 'Cave Fest'

At Kartchner Caverns State Park the focus will be on the science of the cave.

Kartchner Caverns State Park will hold the annual "Cave Fest" event on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 14 and 15, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The park will have hourby-hour activities and displays and the cave will be open for tours but should be reserved in advance.

Displays Galore

Some of the activities and displays will include live animal displays, children's activities and crafts, mining history display, caving equipment display, plus a Speleothem cave formation display.

Tour Prices

The park entrance fee for this event is \$6 per vehicle for all of the activities and presentations. Rotunda/Throne Room Cave tours are \$23 for those aged 14 and older, \$13 for those aged 7 to 13 and free for anyone younger than 7.

Big Room tours \$23 for those aged 14 and older and \$13 for those aged 7 to 13. Note: Big Room Tours are not available for children younger than 7 years of age.

The Rotunda/Throne Room Tour is half of a mile in length and takes approximately an hour and a half to complete. The Big Room Tour is half of a mile long and takes an hour and 45 minutes to complete.

Discovery Center

The Discovery Center facility contains exhibits on cave formations, cave life, hydrology and history. In the Tenen-Tufts Theater, a video presentation (15 minutes long) plays twice an hour. The program highlights the discovery aspect of the cave.

Gift Shop, CafeThe Gift Shop offers a wide array of cave related and southwestern themed souvenirs, gifts and practical items to meet the needs of travelers. The Bat Cave Cafe is open daily from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for dining while at the Park.

Hiking Trails Too

There are hiking trails for the beginner to advanced hiker and a large, modern campground adjacent to the Whetstone

Reservations for camping or cave tours can be made 24-hours a day at AZS-tateParks.com or by calling (520) 586-2283 between 8am and 5pm (Mountain Standard Time) seven days per week. Reservations are highly recommended for all cave tours. Cave Tour tickets must be picked up AT LEAST 1 hour prior to your scheduled tour time. Kartchner Caverns State Park is located on Highway 90, nine miles south of I-10 near Benson, Arizona,

Amateur Astronomers Are Invited

Come see the dark skies at Catalina State Park on Feb. 21

If you have a sense of curiosity about those twinkling lights in the night sky, come to Catalina State Park for the next Star Party. As news evolves everyday from the many probes into our universe, everyone seems to be more fascinated about night skies including details like the rings around Saturn and tracking down glitter-

A galaxy can be only 21/2 million lightyears away and you can see it with the naked eye. Now imagine what you can see with the 10 big telescopes that these astronomers will have at Catalina State Park. Telescopes can get you to those ghostly nebulae, star clusters, the moon's cratered landscapes, and Venus' crescent phases, but a good pair of binoculars can help you

It's A Star Party!
Catalina State Park will host a Star Party on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. The evening starts with with an event introduction by Jim O'Connor with excerpts from his book, Native American Night Sky Stories, which features creation stories from the Tohono O'odham Nation and Navajo people.

After the introduction, see planets,



stars, comets, galaxies, and much more through Astronomers telescopes

The event is supported by the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association. Astronomers will be onsite to answer questions and discuss the elements of the night sky as darkness descends. Visitors should meet at the main trailhead parking lot.

When the night sky arrives, astronomers will volunteer their expertise and telescopes for visitors to view an assortment of night sky attractions including star clusters, galaxies and nebulae. Visitors should bring water, snacks, a red light (to protect everyone's night vision), sweater or jacket.

For More Information

Catalina State Park's Entrance Fee is \$7

per vehicle (up to four adults). Primitive to full hookup camping sites are available at a fee of \$15 to \$30 depending on the type of camping site needed. Catalina State Park is located on State Highway 77 (Oracle Road) at mile marker 81, just nine miles north of Tucson and six miles north of Ina Road.

For information about all 28 Arizona State Parks, the Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Programs and State Historic Preservation Office call (602) 542-4174 or visit AZStateParks.com. Campsite reservations can be made online at AZStateParks.com or by calling the Reservation Call Center at (520) 586-2283. Open 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to p.m. MST. Follow AZStateParks on Twitter and Facebook

Buffalo Soldiers Provide Living History

Presentations slated for Valentine's Day at Fort Verde State Historic Park.



Join the Buffalo Soldiers, as they provide living history presentations at Fort Verde State Historic Park on Saturday, Feb.14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bring your special someone or all of your loved ones to Fort Verde State Historic Park and learn about history with the Buffalo Soldiers. There will also be flag raising and lowering ceremonies, and presentations about the history of the Buffalo



Replica Uniforms

At Fort Verde, the Buffalo Soldiers will be dressed in period replica uniforms and equipment issued by the US Army during the 1870s Indian War period. The first Buffalo Soldiers troop serving at Fort Verde was Troop I, 10th Cavalry of the Buffalo Soldiers. It was organized in 1866 and came to Fort Verde in 1885, following a distinguished record of military service during the Indian Wars of the Western



Buffalo Soldiers originally were members of the US 10th Cavalry Regiment of the US Army, formed on Sept. 21, 1866 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. This nickname was given to the "Negro Cavalry" by the Native American tribes they fought. The term eventually became synonymous with all of the African-American regiments formed in 1866.

Regiment Formed In 1866

Buffalo Soldiers originally were members of the US 10th Cavalry Regiment of the US Army, formed on Sept. 21, 1866 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. This nickname was given to the "Negro Cavalry" by the Native American tribes they fought. The term eventually became synonymous with all of the African-American regiments formed in 1866.

For more information about the activities at Fort Verde State Historic Park call





(928) 567-3275. Fort Verde State Historic Park is located in downtown Camp Verde, Arizona. Take I-17, Turn Right onto Hwy 260 (east), Turn left onto Finnie Flat Road, which becomes Main St, Turn left onto Holloman St. to 125 E. Holloman St. The main entrance is two blocks on the right

The Park Entrance Fee is \$5 per person for children and adults aged 14 and older. Youths aged 7 to 13 years of age are charged \$2 per person. There is no charge for children 6 years of age or younger. earn more about our Veteran Discount Program at AZStateParks.com.

RV/Land Cruising

Come to Oracle State Park Throughout The Winter

Enjoy a stargazing event, hikes, talks and tour the Kannally ranch house.

Oracle State Park, Center for Environmental Education, is open on weekends in 2015 and will present events throughout the winter including a Stargazing Event to celebrate the Park recognition as a "Dark Sky Park," guided hikes, walks and is open to tours of the Kannally Ranch House. See the schedule below.

On weekdays, the park has school programs by reservation by calling (520) 896-2425 and on weekends is open for hiking, offers tours of the Kannally Ranch House and holds events.

Group facilities are also available for weddings and other group gatherings. The Park Entrance Fee is \$7 per vehicle for up to four adults. For more information about Oracle State Park call (520) 896-2425 or visit AZStateParks.com/parks/ORAC.

Winter Events

Saturday, Jan. 24 starting at 3 p.m.: Winter Evening Stargazing Event – following live music and guest speaker. Help celebrate the accomplishment of the Oracle Dark Skies Committee in bringing recognition and attention to Oracle State Park's dark sky resource in need of protection! From 3 to 5 p.m. enjoy live music in the living room by Oracle's own "Drumension.

They will introduce world ambient electronica, or "electronic dreamscapes" and put us in an introspective mood before the evening Star Party. At 5 p.m., Arizona Humanities Council guest speaker, Ken Zoll, will offer a presentation on "Ancient Native American Astronomical Practice.'

Then stick around after dark for stargazing with telescopes. Stay warm by the indoor fire, outdoor heater and upper patio fire pit, and sip hot cider and hot chocolate. Free with park entrance fee. No reservation needed. The speaker and live music is sponsored by the Friends of Ora-

Saturday, Jan. 31 starting at 8:30 a.m.: Guided 'Manzanita to Mariposa' Loop Hike (six miles). Participants should meet at the Kannally Ranch House. Hike Nature Trail to Manzanita Trail, Arizona Trail to Windmill, on two-track Arizona Trail all the way to Cherry Valley Wash, to Mariposa Trail back to Ranch House.

Reservations are required by the day prior at 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30. Call the guide, Gaston Meloche, at (520) 638-5404. The hike is free with park entrance fee or for annual pass holders. A minimum of four hikers is required for a hike to take

Saturday, Jan. 31 at noon: Arizona Trail Virtual Tour. Join Sirena Dufault, Gateway Community Liaison for the Arizona Trail Association, for a talk and slide show in the living room of the Kannally Ranch House. Whether you are a hiker, mountain biker, equestrian, or Arizona visitor wishing to see more of the diverse landscape of our state, this Arizona Trail Virtual Tour will share views along the National Scenic Arizona Trail.

The Arizona Trail is an 800-mile stretch that passes through the entire length of Arizona, beginning just south of the Mexican border, passing through Oracle State Park, and ending north of the Grand



Kannally Ranch House

Canyon into Utah. Free with park entrance fee, reservation is suggested by calling (520) 896-2425.

Saturday, Feb. 14 starting at 8:30 a.m.: Guided Hike, Granite Overlook to Cherry Valley Wash Loop (six miles). Participants should meet at Kannally Ranch House parking lot. Reservations are required by the day prior at 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 13. Call the guide, Gaston Meloche, at (520) 638-5404. Free with park entrance fee or for annual pass holders. A minimum of four hikers is required for a hike to take

Saturday, Feb. 21 at 11 a.m.: Maynard Dixon Art Talk, with Jacqueline Feller. The talk takes place in the Kannally Ranch House Living Room. More details will be announced at a later date. Please call for a reservation at (520) 896-2425.

Saturday, Feb. 28 at 8:30 a.m.: Guided Arizona Trail Loop Hike (six miles). Participants should meet at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot. Hike the Wildlife Corridor Trail to the Arizona Trail, and return via the Manzanita Trail. Reservations are required the day prior, Friday, February 27, by 4pm, by calling Guide, Gaston Meloche, directly at (520) 638-5404. Free with park entrance fee or display an AZ State Parks Annual Pass. A minimum of four hikers is required for a hike to take place.

Saturday, March 14 at noon: Presentation - Gathering and Preparation Techniques of Traditional Apache Foods. The presentation takes place in the Kannally Ranch House living room, with Herb Stevens, San Carlos Apache and Cultural Center Director.

Join us as we celebrate March as Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Awareness Month! The talk will highlight the use of acorn powder and acorn soup, and using sumac berries to make "Apache Kool-aid. Oracle State Park, located in the high desert oak-grassland foothills at 4,500 feet elevation, has a variety of useful plant resources that continue to be collected and used traditionally by native people of the region for medicine and food.

Some examples include the edible acorns from the Emory Oak and Arizona White Oak, and also the lemonade sumac bush, mesquite pods and annual wildflowers. This is a family-friendly event that is free with the park entrance fee of \$7 per vehicle. Reservations are suggested by calling (520) 896-2425.

Saturday, March 21: Going for the Gold Dark Sky Celebration. Oracle State Park has recently been designated the 20th in the world "International Dark Sky Park". More details to come on this all-day-into-evening celebratory special



An International Dark Sky Park

Historic Kannally Ranch House Tours

Tours are offered at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on weekends. Participants should check-in at the Office/Gift Shop. Reservations are not required. The tour lasts about 45-minutes and is free with park admission. On the tour, visitors will learn the stories behind its hand-carved corbels, stenciled walls, hand-formed fireplace, French case-

ment windows and cozy ranch kitchen.

The Kannally Ranch House is a fourlevel pueblo-revival adobe home with Moorish and Mediterranean influences It was built by the Kannally ranching family and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The displays include family photos, furnishings and several paintings by "self-taught" cowboy artist Lee Kannally. Picnicking on the patios is wel-

Environmental Education Field Trip Programs

Environmental education programs for school children, first through sixth grades, are scheduled by reservation on weekdays by calling (520) 896-2425. Thousands of students have learned important environ-mental principles in these ranger/volunteer-led programs over the last two decades

Hiking

The Park is open on the weekends for hiking on your own. Oracle State Park has trails that offer varying degrees of diffi-culty including a four-mile section of the Arizona Trail that transects the park. Bring camera, binoculars, notebook. sketchbook, birdbook and leash for your

About Oracle State Park

Oracle State Park is located northeast of Tucson in the northern foothills of the Catalina Mountains. The Park is a 4,000acre wildlife refuge, environmental education center and day-use recreation park.
The Park features a diversity of ani-

mals, plant species and rock formations. There are also oak tree-shaded washes, mesquite scrub habitats and riparian woodlands with manzanita and beargrass.



1,400 RV AND TENT CAMPSITES THROUGHOUT ARIZONA



Seek Solitude In The Superstitions

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

One of our favorite things to do is take day drives in Arizona. Recently we decided to head east for a change, since every road we take off the highway going north seems to be closed to shooting. We wanted to do a little target practice, so we headed down Highway 60 toward Supe-

At first we tried Mineral Mountain Road which goes south off 60 just a few miles past Florence Junction, but that road also had "No Shooting" signs. This time, for State Trust Land. According to my map, it changes to BLM land a ways down the road, but there were dozens of ATV trailers parked everywhere, and it seemed a bit busy for our taste.

Exploring Begins

We got back on Highway 60 and headed back toward Florence Junction, and we took the Queen Valley turnoff. We really had no idea where we were headed; we were just looking for a place to shoot. The map told me that the Tonto National Forest wasn't too far away, so after a cou-ple of miles on the Queen Creek road, we took Hewitt Station Road (357) to the



ALWAYS AWESOME — The sight of these saguaros hugging the hillsides of the Superstitions never loses its "Ah!" factor.



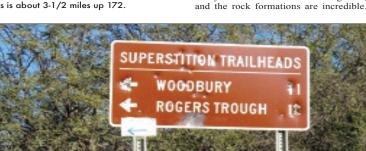
SHEEP SPOT - This is where the sheep were. This is about 3-1/2 miles up 172.

right. Approximately four miles later, we took FR 172 north.

A Side Note About Behavior

At first, there seemed to be a lot of people around, most of them recreational shooters. I'm sad to say that there were a lot of places where shooters had left their trash and targets — also lots of bullet holes in signs. That's the type of behavior that causes areas to be closed to shooting, and I hate to see that. There lots of quads in this area, too - and this was on a weekday! But, we kept on going, and the farther we went, the fewer people we saw

Around three miles up FR 172, we took a right turn onto FR 252 and drove around



 ${f UNACCEPTABLE}-{f This}$ kind of destruction to the sign (by the turnoff to 172 from 357) is unacceptable to sincere outdoor enthusiasts.

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This is the southeast part of the Superstitions and the country is indescribably beautiful. There are cliffs, canyons, hoodoos, holes through the rocks, and an arch that looks like an elephant!

An Elephant? Really?

SEE YOU!

watched these bighorn sheep from a distance, they were aware that the sheep were watching them too.

a bit. We finally did find a place to shoot,

and it was lovely. By the way, we not only policed our brass; we also picked up trash

The day was still young, so we decided to see what was down FR 172. What a

treat! The scenery was gorgeous – I've rarely seen such thick stands of saguaros,

that was there when we got there.

Gorgeous Scenery

We didn't even know about Elephant Arch. We had stopped on the side of the road in a canyon area because John spotted some bighorn sheep on the rocks. I have no idea how he saw them – they were 250 yards away! But we got out so we could see them and shoot some photos.

While we were stopped, the rancher came by from the north and he paused to talk to us. He had his range-finding binoculars and we were all chatting and looking at the sheep. The sheep, by the way, never moved. They just stood there and stared at us. No doubt they felt quite safe being that

While we talked to the rancher, a truck came up from behind us and a young man and his girlfriend got out to see what we were looking at. We helped them find the sheep and then the boy mentioned that he and his girl were out to take a look at Elephant Arch. What??? The rancher said yes, it looks like the head of a mammoth and it's right up the road on the left side.

Yes, You'll See It

You'll get almost to the top of a little rise, and if you look to the left, you'll see it. There's a pull-out with just about room enough for one car to park. Well, that was a treat. We let the young people go ahead of us, and sure enough – we saw an arch not too far from the road, and it did indeed look like an elephant's head. As close as I can figure, the Elephant Arch is just under four miles from the junction of 357 and

We dawdled quite a bit, stopping to take photos, give the dog some water, and look around. I hadn't planned on any hiking so I didn't bring my GPS. Mental note

RV/Land Cruising

Continued from page 12

to self: Bring GPS even when not hiking. My phone didn't pick up any signals back in the mountains, so I can't be more precise about distances. Sorry.

More Wandering

If you take 172 for 8 miles, you will come to a split where it divides into 172 A and 172 B. The left fork, 172 B, goes to the Woodbury trailhead. If you take 172A to the right, you will come to The Roger's Trough Trailhead, from which you can access the Rogers Canyon Trail.

This is definitely a hike I will come back for. Getting to it takes at least an hour in a 4WD vehicle, so odds are you won't run into anyone else on the trail.

At the trailhead, follow Reavis Valley Trail 109 for about a mile and a half until you come to the junction with trail 110,

Rogers Canyon Trail.

Take the left fork. This trail mainly follake the left fork. It is trail mainly fol-lows Rogers Creek, and if you keep your eyes open, you will see some very-well-preserved cliff dwellings on your right. They are protected, so please do not climb on them or take or destroy anything. To get to the ruins is an 8-mile round trip, mostly downhill on the way out, but uphill on the way back.

Many Trails

There are a lot of trails that intersect the trail accessed by the two trailheads. There is an excellent map online here: http://www.superstition-sar.org/downloads/iron_mountain.pdf. This is from Superstition Search and Rescue.

The Tonto National Forest Maps from

the Forest Service also show some of these trails, but in a much smaller scale. You can also buy a detailed quadrant map at a good map store. The USGS topo map quadrant name is Iron Mountain.

Need To Know Where You Are; Inform Others Too

On this kind of hike you absolutely need to know where you are and where you are going at all times. Even these days,





PLACE THE PACHYDERM - Here is the hidden Elephant Arch. Do you see it?

plenty of people die in the Superstitions, so be careful. Take a lot of water, and don't do these hikes in the summer. Even in early January, the temperature was 84 degrees the day we were there.

Roads 357 and 172 are dirt roads, and

172 in particular often gets washed out. A 4WD vehicle is needed. We saw a lot more quads on the road than trucks and Jeeps Our 4WD Rav4 had no trouble at all, but there are some steep rocky areas on the road, plus it crosses Queen Creek a number of times, and if there has been rain, the creek may be running, or it may have run strong and washed the road out.

Cell service is spotty, so be prepared and make sure you let someone know where you are going and when you can be expected back. The Superstitions are al-ways an adventure: their beauty, the leg-ends, the wildlife and the strange rock formations - they'll keep you coming back time after time, even if you don't believe in the Dutchman's Mine!

Information From The **Tonto National Forest**

To get to the trailheads: A 4WD vehicle is needed, and horse trailers are not recommended. Drive east on Highway 60 from Florence Junction to the Queen Valley Road (approx 2 miles). Follow this road (paved) to Hewitt Station Road 357 branches to the right.

About 3 miles down this road you will see the turn off for 172 to the left. Keep going for a little over 9 miles (bear left at



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Some 'Stars' Of The Superstitions

PHOTOS BY MARGIE ANDERSON

When exploring the beauty of the Superstitions, even if you don't have a 4WD vehicle, you can get off the main highway and see a lot of things that you would never

If you take the Queen Valley turn-off and stay on 357 without turning north onto 72, you will be on a very good gravel road that makes a sort of triangle to the north before rejoining US 60.

Since gravel roads slow you down, you have a chance to notice a lot more. These are some of the bird photos that were taken on 357.



White-Crowned Sparrow



Verdin

A CHANCE TO NOTICE - Even if you A CHANCE TO NOTICE — Even if you don't have a 4WD vehicle, you can get off the main highway and see a lot of things that you would never notice otherwise. If you take the Queen Valley turn-off and stay on 357 without turning north onto 172, you will be on a very good gravel road that makes a sort of triangle to the north before rejoining US 60. Since gravel roads slow you down, you have a chance to notice a lot more. All the bird photos were taken on 357.



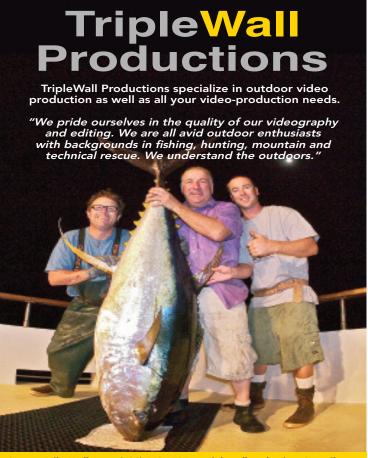
Female Cardinal

the junction of 172 A and B. There will be a road off to the right, and a very short distance down this road is the Woodbury trailhead.

From here you can get to JF Trail 106 and Woodbury Trail 114. The east part of Woodbury trail is an old mining road, and the west part gives you access to Fraser Canyon and the Coffee Flat Trail 108.

For the Rogers Trough TH, bear right and follow 172A (about 8 miles up 172). From Rogers Trough TH you can get to Reavis Valley Trail 109, West Pinto Trail 212, and Roger's Canyon Trail 110 – the one with the ruins.

Since this trail follows the creek, there are trees and the trail is shaded some of the time, depending on when you are there.



Contact Mike Wallace at (480) 442-1731 or triplewallproductions@gmail.com



RV/Land Cruising

Sedona Suggests Top Five Hidden Treasures To Explore In 2015

At the New Year, it is customary to reflect and aspire to do better in the coming year, often through the traditions of New Year's resolutions. In 2015, Sedona welcomes those who resolve to travel more offering its vast red rock landscape as the backdrop to next year's memories.

Before planning the next trip to this desert oasis, the city offers the top five secret sights to see while adventuring in the city. Here, then, are the city's top five (in ascending order) hidden treasures to create the most memorable moments in 2015.

5. The Hog Trails

The Hog Trails are Sedona's newest trail system, completed in May 2014. The

Lake Mary Road Fully Reopened

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. County Public Works crews cleared a previously closed seven-mile stretch of Lake Mary Road southeast of Flagstaff and the roadway has fully reopened.

County snowplows were deployed throughout the County to aid in keeping major roadways open and passible during the New Year's snow storm that dumped between 2 to 18 inches of snow on the region by Thursday.

Because of the snowfall, Lake Mary Road, which is also known as Forest Highway 3 (FH3), was closed at the north entrance of Mormon Lake (near the scenic overlook) to the south entrance of Mormon Lake, about 35 miles southeast of Flagstaff. The closure was strategically done to allow Public Works crews to redirect resources to other areas for snow removal and cindering operations.

While the road has reopened, motorists are asked to travel with caution as some icy areas may still exist.

trails' loops and turns provide a new and exciting view around every turn, from the enchantment of the Chapel of the Holy Cross, to other illustrious trails.

4. Petroglyphs

Evidence that Sedona was discovered centuries before Columbus is still visible in the many ruins and petroglyphs, fascinating thousands of modern explorers drawn to this area each year. An experience not to be missed is that of the ancient, Native American Palatki Heritage Site, the Honanki Heritage Site and the V-Bar-V Heritage Site.

3. Wine And Dine Like A Local Just in the last few years, the Verde Val-



Petroglyphs

ley has been rediscovered by vintners who have come to appreciate its climate and soil. Along with its esteemed wine community, the farm-to-table movement has produced some of the most delectable dishes Sedona has to offer. Don't miss out on the local favorites

2. Bed And Breakfast Paradise

Sedona could very well be the bed and breakfast capital of Arizona. Something about the beautiful setting inspires innkeepers to create little masterpieces of lodging in and around the hills and creeks.

1. Catching The Sedona Sun

Finding a picturesque spot to capture the essence of the Sedona sunrises and sunsets is an easy feat in Sedona. Whether it's at the peak of Capitol Butte or at the base of Oak Creek Canvon, there are plenty of hidden paths and hikes to make sure you capture the perfect sun-kissed

Tonto National Forest Announces 2015 Fee-Free Days

The first fee-free day is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Mon. Jan 19.

Tonto National Forest joins other federal agencies in offering fee-free days on public lands in 2015, beginning Jan. 19 in conjunction with Martin Luther King Jr.

Day.
The 2015 fee-free days honored by national forests are the following:

- Jan. 19 Martin Luther King, Jr Day
 Feb. 16 President's Day
 June 13 National Get Outdoors
- Day
- Sept. 26 National Public Lands

Day
Nov. 8-11— In honor of Veterans Day Encouraging use of public lands sup-ports the goals of America's Great Outdoors, an effort with a premise that the protection of the nation's natural heritage is a non-partisan objective shared by all

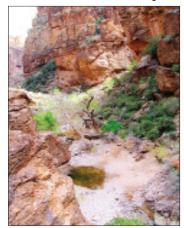
America's Great Outdoors turns to communities for local, grassroots conservation initiatives and seeks to rework inefficient policies and to make the federal government a better partner with states, tribes and local communities.

Traditionally, fees are not charged on 98 percent of national forests and grasslands, and approximately two-thirds of developed recreation sites in national forests and grasslands can be used for free. This includes opportunities such as camping and picnicking.

The fee-free program is in cooperation with other federal land management agencies under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Day-use fees will be waived at all standard amenity fee sites operated by the forest for these listed dates. Camping and campground fees are not waived.

During all other times, the Tonto Pass





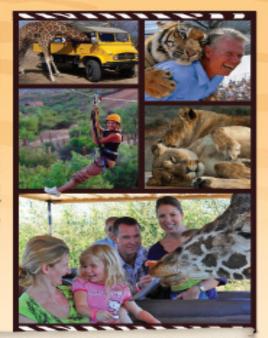
Dry Wash In Tonto National Forest

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Coyotes Curling Club, Tempe, Ariz

KUDOS TO THE COYOTES!

'Freeze It And They Will Come'

After 11 years of teaching Valley residents and visitors how to curl, hosting tournaments, and offering all types of leagues, the Coyotes Curling Club relocated this past April from their Scottsdale, Ariz., "home" to their very own dedicated curling facility in Tempe, Ariz. Since the move and the creation of Ari-

zona's first dedicated curling facility, the Coyotes Curling Club have been a beacon for curlers and non-curlers alike who want the opportunity to curl in the desert. The saying, "Freeze it and they will come" has

never been more apt. Having a world-class facility located in Arizona has caught the eye of the US Paralympic Curling Team who earlier in Jan-uary escaped the snow-packed parts of the United States such as Wisconsin, New York, and Connecticut to practice in sunny Tempe. The team had to cancel — due to weather delays — last year's practice around the same time when they held it in Madison, Wis.

The team, consisting of Penny Greely, James Joseph, Steve Emt, and Patrick Mc-Donald (US Army Veteran), along with Coach Steve Brown, were at the Coyotes Curling Club from Jan. 7 to Jan. 11. The team was in Tempe, training for the World Championships that will be held in Lohja, Finland, Feb. 6-13.

For more information on Team USA or curling in Arizona, please contact the following:

Steve Brown - Coach steve@stevescurling.com (c) 608-222-1691

Darryl Horsman - Coyotes Curling Club

(c) 602-300-4808 theskip@coyotescurling.com

TONTO

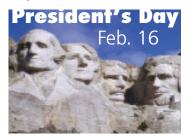
Continued from page 14

is required at more than 50 recreation sites including Salt and Verde river locations, boat-launch ramps, swimming areas, dayuse areas, and campgrounds.

Tonto Pass vendor locations are available at the Tonto National Forest Web site, www.fs.usda.gov/tonto, or call the Tonto National Forest at (602) 225-5200. The mission of the U.S. Forest Service,

part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

For more information, contact Carrie Templin at (602) 225-5290.



OUR FAVORITE 'FROZEN WATERSPORT'

Coyotes Curling Club 'Rocks'!

AZCURLINGNEWS@ COYOTESCURLING.COM

The Coyotes Curling Club is a "howling" Arizona success story. All one has to do to see that the group is a busy and dedicated sport club is to view a few examples of their ongoing activities. You will see that this club "rocks"!

Winter Leagues

Winter Leagues have started but we still have a couple of openings left to fill. The open spots left are Tuesday, three individual spots; Thursday, four individual spots, and Friday, one individual spot. If you would like to play in one of these leagues, please contact the club at (602) 300-4808

Playdowns

Friday to Monday, Jan. 16 to 19, the Coyotes Curling Club will be hosting the MoPac region's Club National Playdowns. Everyone is invited to come out and watch and support our local teams. For a list of teams and the schedule, visit www.coyotescurling.com.



We have a few bonspiels coming up Canada Week: Feb 13 to 15 istration is still open

USWCA All-American Bonspiel: Feb 28 to March 1 - More details and registration to come soon.

Spring Training Bonspiel: March 12 - This is a baseball-themed bonspiel. Only seven spots remain at press

For more information on these bonspiels, contact the club at (602) 300-4808.

Lessons

There are several lessons to help you improve your game:

- 1) Curling etiquette
- Speed-up slow play
- 3) Safe curling
- 4) Rules (moving stones and sweeping)
- 5) Improve your game6) Team responsibilities
- 7) Improve your brushing
- 8) Skip's signals
- 9) Strategy

If you are interested in any or all of these lessons, please visit www.coyotescurlingc.com.

Our Dedicated Facility Is Open!

You are invited to visit us at 2202 W Medtronic Way #101, Tempe, AZ 85281. However, just to be sure, please call first (602) 300-4808.





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EXPO

Continued from page 1

ing, hunting, archery, shooting sports, camping, off-highway vehicle recreation, and boating recreation. Many activities are kid-friendly.

In addition to the hands-on activities, more than 170 exhibitors were on hand in 2014, including sportsmen's and conservation organizations, government agencies, and commercial vendors of outdoor products and services. At the 2014 event,

41,000 attended the weekend festivities.

If you weren't able to attend the 2014

Outdoor Expo, be sure to put the 2015 version on your calendar: March 28-29 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix. More information will be posted on this Web page as it becomes available. http://www.azgfd.gov/outdoor_recreation/showcase.shtml

We hope to see you there!

ACTIVITIES

Continued from page 1

is the Arizona Renaissance Festival, Feb. 7 through March 29. This trip back in time is another way to enjoy the outdoors, but in a different sense. Still, those who visit the annual faire find it another venue "to escape the everyday world" and perhaps reminisce about a different kind of "wild life" from a very different era.

BLOG

Continued from page 1

Last year's introduction of the Arizona Boat Show was a giant success, and ISE is ready for another great year. With more marine dealers and accessories scheduled to exhibit, this is your best opportunity to research and buy your next fishing, wakeboarding or pontoon boat.

ISE Phoenix is Arizona's number-one sportmen's show, and 2015 will be no exception. Hundreds and hundreds of exhibitors will help you with everything you need to be successful in the outdoors.

Location: University of Phoenix Stadium. 1 Cardinals Drive. Glendale, AZ 85305

Hours:

Thursday — 10 a.m-7 p.m. Friday — 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday — 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday — 10:00 a.m.-5 p.m.

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FESTIVAL

Continued from page 1

European-Style Country Fair

This festival transports visitors to an European-style country fair filled with an agreeable rabble of knights, rogues, royalty and craftsmen, all roaming throughout a 30-acre village filled with delectable sights and sounds tantalizing the senses. Explore 200 charming craft shops, 13 stages of non-stop entertainment, an arena for full-contact armored jousting, a living fountain, kitchens, pubs, and people powered games and rides.

All the festival is a stage with a cast featuring more than 2,000 brightly costumed actors, dancers, acrobats and musicians. These are the amazing people who populate this bustling event to ensure a good time for the 260,000 visitors who mingle into the endlessly wacky and unpredictable merriment and mayhem. At the Renaissance Festival, the audience is a

special guest in another place and time

Meeting, Interacting, Savoring

The Renaissance Festival experience is meeting and interacting with a variety of colorful characters, shopping for unique arts and crafts, and taking in a selection of over 150 shows every event day. There is a great variety of food for feasting, and a bevy of beverages including Medieval Margaritas, Da Vinci Coladas, Dukes of Daiquiri, wine, honey mead, beers and ales, along with soft drinks and lemonade.

A popular attraction at the Festival are the live jousting tournaments held three times daily in the 5,000 seat arena, complete with knights on charging horses, clanging weapons and a great deal of braggadocio

The 16th century Festival is home to many popular traditions, including chomping down on a giant roasted turkey leg. adding to your collection of drinking vessels or hair adornments as well as battling

wits with the village idiot. Create your own tradition at this annual event.

Unique Shopping

The Faire features demonstrations of time honored crafts such as weaving, jewelry making, glass blowing, blacksmithing and pottery throwing. Shopping is fun and if you are looking for a unique gift; you shall surely find it at this bustling market-

A most special event within this giant event is The Pleasure Feast. This is a one and a half hour, five-course medieval feast with live music and comedy entertainment, all you can eat and drink, plus festival souvenir. With limited seating twice daily, advance feast reservations are recommended.

Don't miss this time travel experi--see thee at the Faire. Huzzah!

When You Go -

What: The 27th Annual Arizona Renaissance Festival

Where: East of Apache Junction on US Highway 60, near the Superstition

When: Eight consecutive weekends (Saturdays, Sundays, and Presidents' Day Monday) from February 7 through March 28, 2015.

The Festival runs from 10a.m. until 6:00 p.m., rain or shine.

Tickets: Advanced discount tickets available for purchase and print at home on-line www.RenFestInfo.com or at Fry's are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids ages 5-12, children under 5 are always

Tickets purchased at the Festival Box Office are \$2 more. Discounts tickets for seniors (60 and older) are \$19, only available at the Festival Box Office. Parking is free, courtesy of Fry's

For more information, www.Ren-FestInfo.com (520)-463-2700

HATCHERY

Continued from page 8

1,700 jobs and generates \$75 million in economic activity. The endless opportunities for outdoor recreation are among the most unique aspects of life in Arizona.3

Threat Five Years Ago

Infrastructure problems at the hatchery began nearly five years ago, when broken pipelines and low water levels threatened trout production at the facility. The loss of the trout stocking would continue to have a devastating economic effect on the communities in Mohave County, Arizona. The state's sport fishing industry relies on the national hatchery system for more than 97 percent of sport fish stocked in Arizona

"Without the Commission stepping up to provide the funding for the repair, it is unknown when the trout stocking mitigation program along the lower Colorado River would have resumed," said Game and Fish's Chief of Fisheries Chris Cantrell.

Partnership Into Next Decade

The agreement approved by the Commission will, if executed, commit the Department to share the costs of repairs, and institutionalize a recreational fishing partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service into the next decade.

It calls for the Service to annually provide 2 million fertilized triploid rainbow trout eggs from Ennis National Fish Hatchery, 160,000 fertilized Apache trout eggs from Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery and 150,000 catchable 11-inch rainbow trout stocked annually into Willow Beach and below Davis Dam.

"We are proud to approve the motion for our director to finalize a cooperative agreement providing vital assistance to an important industry in Arizona, and grateful to Senator McCain for his staunch support of returning trout propagation to Willow Beach," said Commission Chairman Robert Mansell. "With the execution of this agreement. Arizona will retain its reputation as one of the finest sport fishing destinations in North America.

HUNT DRAW

Continued from page 8

dates on your license to make sure your license is valid as of the deadline day for the

Also remember that you'll need to have a valid license when you are in the field for your hunt. Licenses can be purchased online, at Arizona Game and Fish Department offices, or at more than 300 authorized license dealers around the state. They can also be purchased through the draw process when you are applying for the

For more information on the pronghorn/elk draw, see the 2015 Pronghorn Antelope and Elk Hunt Draw Information booklet or visit www.azgfd.gov/draw

POACHERS

Continued from page 9

'Without help from the public, we have lit-

tle information or evidence to go on."
Rice added, "It's probable that the deer was shot from the road. This was a blatant violation of laws in place to protect Arizona's wildlife."

Anyone with information regarding this case can call the department's Operation Game Thief Hotline toll free at (800) 352-0700 or use the online form at www.azgfd.gov/thief. Callers should provide case number 14-003912. All calls may remain confidential upon request. A reward of up to \$500 may be available for information leading to the arrest of the vi-

To learn more about Operation Game Thief, visit www.azgfd.gov/thief.

Martin Luther King Day: February 19

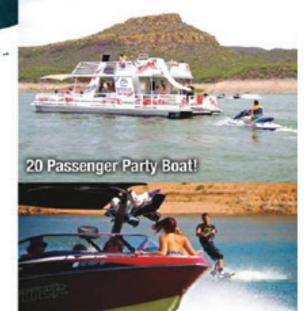




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