



Western Outdoor Times

Arizona Boating & Watersports™



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BOATING | CAMPING | FISHING | HUNTING | RVING | WATERSPORTS | WILDLIFE

2016

Launching A New Year



Boating

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Cruising**

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Ring In A Happy New Year

New Powerboat Sales Continue Surge In 2015

Boating Industry To Approach Pre-Recession Levels In 2016

Boats larger than 40 feet, saltwater fishing boats see sales resurgence.

New powerboat sales are on a multi-year rise with pre-recession levels on the horizon in several boat segments as early as 2016. The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), the leading trade association representing the North American recreational boating industry, estimates new powerboat unit sales will be up as much as eight percent in 2015 when the industry tallies its final figures. The NMMA anticipates the industry will continue its growth spurt with an increase in new powerboat sales of six to eight percent in 2016.

Governor Ducey Makes Commission Appointment

Governor Doug Ducey has appointed Eric Slocum Sparks to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

Sparks is an attorney practicing in Tucson since 1987, specializing in debtor bankruptcy law and business reorganizations. Before opening his own firm in 1990, Mr. Sparks served as general counsel to several corporations, such as the Wilson Companies, GHR Energy Corporation, Bayou Asphalt Corp., and corporate counsel to Tenneco Inc. in Houston.

Additionally, Sparks has served as an international advocate for sustainable wildlife and habitat management. He has contributed extensively to conservation and resource projects, boards and committees, including Water for Wildlife Foundation and Safari Club International.

Sparks also has served as Legal Committee Vice Chairman of Safari Club International (1999-2009), the Safari Club International Museum, Boys and Girls Club of Tucson Board of Directors (1994-1999), Golden Eagle Firearms Corporation Board of Directors, and the Water for Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors (1987-1997), among others. His enthusi-

See **APPOINTMENT**, Page 19



EARLY WINTER BOAT SHOW – The San Diego 2016 Sunroad Boat Show, Thursday, Jan. 21- Sunday, Jan. 24 at Sunroad Resort Marina is one of those that marks the start of boat-show season across North America. They are important indicators for sales and buyer trends for the coming year.

“A steadily improving economy and flurry of product innovation have boosted new powerboat sales, which is encouraging to see as we head into the winter boat show season, one of the busiest selling periods of the year,” said Thom Dammrich, NMMA

president. “We anticipate six to eight percent growth in 2016 which would take total new powerboat sales back to pre-recession levels of 250,000 units.”

See **POWERBOAT SALES**, Page 19

Proper Federal Resources Needed To Address Stubborn Burro Issue



FROM KURT R. DAVIS
AZGF COMMISSION
CHAIRMAN

It is the role of the Arizona Game and Fish Department to conserve, protect and manage more than 800 wildlife species within the state’s boundaries – more than any non-coastal state in our nation. To fulfill that promise, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department must stand as a barrier against all threats to our wildlife.

It’s a heavy responsibility carried out by all who serve at the Department, and it’s why we are pressuring the federal government to provide the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with the resources needed to meet its obligations and return the state’s burro populations to appropriate management levels.

Overpopulation Costly

Under the Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971, the state should have no more than 1,316 burros within its borders. Yet surveys estimate the population at 4,411 – more than 235 percent above the appropriate management levels established by Congress and administered by the BLM. Between 2012

and 2014, the BLM has spent more than \$216 million to gather, house and feed excess animals until someone adopts them, yet the sad reality is that the vast majority are never adopted.

Storing and feeding burros does very little to tackle the real threat looming over our wildlife. If the federal government and horse and burro advocates had the resolve to control the overpopulation of burros, imagine how that \$216 million in federal funding could be better spent. It could mean extra dollars to support veteran services, infrastructure needs of our National Parks or programs for our nation’s vulnerable children and the elderly.

Growing Imbalance

Because the problem has gone unabated for decades, we are now in a position where an overabundance of burros, which is a non-native and feral species, now outnumber our native iconic bighorn sheep population in the Black Mountains near Kingman. This growing imbalance is having a direct impact on the state’s native wildlife and that is utterly unacceptable.

As their populations grow by up to 20 percent per year, burros continue to devastate fragile desert ecosystems and compete with sensitive wildlife species for forage and water. That’s in addition to damaging

See **BURRO**, Page 19



ON THE COVER

‘Backbone’ Of America’s Boating Safety, Angling Conservation Re-Authorized

In a victory for boaters and anglers, the recent passage of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act also includes re-authorization of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund through the year 2020.

After significant lobbying by Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) along with other boating and angling organizations, in 1984 Congress passed legislation establishing what was then called the Wallop/Breaux Trust Fund. Now called the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, it continues to serve as the backbone of boating safety, infrastructure, clean water and fisheries conservation funding in the United States.

The practical “user pay, everyone benefits” program uses federal boat fuel and fishing tackle taxes to protect natural aquatic resources, enhance boating safety and provide more recreational fishing and boating opportunities. Since its inception, more than \$7.5 billion has been collected and allocated to the states.

More recently since 2004, over 3.8 billion fish have been stocked, 11,000+ boat ramps and access sites have been created or renovated and over 1,100+ transient boating facilities built, 4.7 million students taught aquatic education, over 63,000 acres of fish habitat protected, and over half a million boaters, sailors and anglers have completed an approved state boating safety education course.

BoatUS, as a longtime champion of the Trust Fund along with other members of the Angling and Boating Alliance (ABA), has worked tirelessly to make certain it continues to be used for key boating and fishing programs.

Said BoatUS President Margaret Podlich, “Some in Washington might have

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Boating

Life-Jacket Exchange A Success

AZGFD swapped approximately 800 old and tattered life jackets with new ones during life jacket exchange events at area lakes this past summer/**Page 4**



Wildlife

Arizona Deer Association Helps Out

Volunteers create walk-in water troughs to help provide a water supply for wildlife/**Page 10**





As we begin a New Year, we once again want to thank all of our advertisers, readers, contributors, staff, family and friends for their support over the past ten (going on eleven) years.

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DOWNSTREAM: January 2016 Events Calendar



**New Years Day
Jan. 1**

BEYOND ARIZONA

ONGOING: FUR AND FEATHER ANIMAL ASSISTANCE, INC. — A permanent residential facility for dogs and cats designed for comfort, well being, and CARE for LIFE. Where Every "One" Deserves a Chance, PO Box 555 Pie Town, NM 87827, e-mail to furandfeatheranimalassistance@gmail.com.

BOATING

15-17 LAKE PLEASANT: 56th 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.arizonayachtclub.org>

2/29/2017 GOAT CRUISE: Sign up now for this family fun goat cruise. Kids are welcome and nannies will be provided. Call Billy for reservations: (619) 523-3091.

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. — in 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 SAILING 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).

2, 16, 23, 30 SUNRISE: CAMPING/RVING/AZ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES: Night Skiing — Sunrise Park Resort, a unique opportunity to ski Sunrise Mountain in the moon light under a blanket of stars, join the Torch Light Parade (a conga line down the Mountain with flares) beginning at 7 p.m. followed by a fireworks salute over the Sunrise Base Area, most Saturdays 4:30-9 p.m., (928) 735-7669 or <http://www.sunriseskipark.com>

22-24 PHOENIX: Becoming an Outdoors Woman — Saguardo 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>

1 STATEWIDE FIRST-DAY HIKES: See story on page 12.

PROTECT-A-PARK: Ongoing — Boaters, anglers, divers needed to adopt Lake Pleasant's shoreline areas and coves for regular litter removal in 2009; (602) 372-7460, ext. 200

CLASSES/SEMINARS

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



COMMUNITY AND SEASONAL

2/6-3/27 ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL & ARTISAN MARKET-PLACE (weekends and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day only); see story on page 15.

24-31 SCOTTSDALE: 45th Annual Barrett-Jackson Classic Car Auction - West-World, largest, most prestigious antique/classic car auction in the world, 700+ American & European classic, sports & racing cars, buyers from around the world, 9 am - 10 pm, 480-421-6694 or <http://www.barrett-jackson.com>

2 PHOENIX: 45th Annual National Bank of Arizona Fiesta Bowl Parade - Central Phoenix, floats, bands, specialty and equestrian units; bleacher seating \$25, reserved disabled seating \$10, 11 am, <http://www.fiestabowl.org>

2 PHOENIX: 27th Annual Motel 6 Cactus Bowl — Chase Field, featuring Pac-12 team vs. Big 12 conference team, football, \$10-50, gates open at 6:30 pm, 8:15 pm, 480-350-0911 or <https://www.fiestabowl.org/>

Through 1/3 FORT VERDE: Fort Verde State Historic Park will be decorated with Victorian decorations; (602) 542-6997 or (602) 228-8518 or email pio@azstategov; see story on page 14.

FISHING

23 LITCHFIELD PARK: Winter Trout Fishing Derby — Tierra Verde Lake Park, fish with 700 lbs of trout stocked in the lake (8-17 inches long), food, prizes and giveaways, license not required 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.litchfield-park.org>

SRT BASS PHOENIX CHAPTER MEETINGS: Ongoing — Shake, Rattle & Troll BASS Club; volunteers needed; new members (boaters and non-boaters), families, children, friends are welcome; (623) 221-7655

HUNTING/SHOOTING/ ARCHERY

30 HUNTING & ANGLING HERITAGE WORKSHOP: see story on page 8.

BEN AVERY CLAY TARGET CENTER: Ongoing — Open seven days a week; (623) 434-8119

SHOWS AND EXPOS

3/10-13 SCOTTSDALE International Sportsmen's Exposition and Arizona Boat Show

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; Saguardo can plan your diving vacation for small groups or just one person. How about Grand Cayman, Curarco, Cozumel, Belize, Roatan, Bonaire, Turks & Caicos Contact Saguardo Diving & Sports, 908 E. Impala Ave., Mesa, AZ 85204; (480) 507-3988 or sales@saguardosports.com

Frozen
13-18 PHOENIX: Disney On Ice presents Frozen — Talking Stick Resort Arena, The heart-warming and Academy Award® winning tale of love and friendship, capturing the incredible dynamic between two royal sisters, Anna and Elsa, has captivated audiences around the world will be told LIVE for the first time in this production, \$25-90, 800-745-3000 or <http://www.usairwayscenter.com/>

Swimming:
9 LAKE HAVASU CITY: 43rd Annual Polar Bear Day - Nautical Beachfront Resort, leap into the lake to earn your Polar Bear patch, ski, tube, wakeboard or air chair behind a boat provided by the Club (skis & other equipment will be provided if necessary), no wet suits allowed! Come in your shorts, swim suits & after warm up by the bonfire and enjoy a pot of hot soup to warm up your insides, \$5-8 swimmers, 12-4 pm,

928-486-0106 or <http://www.golakchavasu.com/events/details/62/>

WILDLIFE/ ANIMAL-RELATED

16 AZGFC AWARDS BANQUET: See story on page 6.

14-17 WILLCOX: 23rd 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 seminars, a crafts and trade show, live animal educational booths, workshops, banquet, silent auction and keynote speaker, \$6-100, 800-200-2272 or <http://www.wingsoverwillcox.com>

1-3/27 TUCSON: Raptor Free Flight - Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, watch from the flight path as native birds of prey fly so close, you can feel the brush of feathers, presentations at 10 am & 2 pm, different raptors fly in each demonstration so plan to spend the day and enjoy both, 520-883-1380 or <http://www.desertmuseum.org>

NO-KILL SHELTER NEEDS HELP: <http://animalsbenefitclub.com/index2.html>

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" — to editor@azbw.com. To guarantee placement, as room allows, items must be received by the tenth (10th) of the month prior to publication. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy, but we assume no responsibility for print errors or omissions. We also reserve the right to edit each item. Please include the name of the event, the date and time, the location, the organization, and contact information.

AYC's Premier Event

Friday through Sunday, Jan. 15-17 are the dates of Arizona Yacht Club's Birthday Regatta (which has been raced continuously for 56 years) & Leukemia Cup, which is the nation's first Leukemia Cup Regatta of the year. For more information, visit www.arizonayachtclub.org/ayc-bdr/





KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Update your boating safety knowledge

Our waterways are ready, but are YOU? Brush up on your boating skills by taking one of the many Boating Safety Education classes or take one online at www.azgfd.gov/boating.

January 2016

Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game & Fish Department	January 9 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Arizona Paddle Sports Education Biscuit Tank at Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	January 16 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game & Fish Headquarters 5000 Carefree Hwy Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	January 16 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility – Green Building 2176 McCulloch Blvd., Suite 8 Lake Haasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219

February 2016

Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game & Fish Department	February 13 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Arizona Paddle Sports Education Biscuit Tank at Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	February 20 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game & Fish Headquarters 5000 Carefree Hwy Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	February 20 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility – Green Building 2176 McCulloch Blvd., Suite 8 Lake Haasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219

Know the Rules: Learn to identify "Navi-Aids"

Arizona law enforcement agencies write many citations for "failure to obey navigation laws." You can help ensure the safety of all on the water by learning to identify these common navigational aids.



Information

Squares indicate where to find food, supplies, repairs, etc. and give directions and other information.



Controlled

Circles indicate a controlled area such as speed limit, no fishing or anchoring, ski only or no skiing, or "slow, no wake."



Exclusion

Crossed diamonds indicate areas off-limits to all vessels such as swimming areas, dams, and spillways.



Danger

Diamonds warn of dangers such as rocks, shoals, construction, dams, or stumps. Always proceed with caution.

Other Non-Lateral Markers
Safe Water Markers are white with red vertical stripes and mark mid-channels or fairways. They may be passed on either side.



Inland Water Obstruction Markers are white with black vertical stripes and indicate an obstruction to navigation. You should not pass between these buoys and nearest shore.

Mooring Buoy

Mooring Buoys are round and white with a blue horizontal band and are found in marinas and other areas where vessels are allowed to anchor.

Note, the following actions are illegal:

- ◆ Willfully damaging, removing, interfering with, or tying up to a navigation buoy not intended for mooring
- ◆ Mooring, anchoring, or fastening to shore for more than 14 consecutive days any vessel on public waters.

Forget a life jacket or need to borrow one?

Boaters at Lake Pleasant, Lake Havasu and Lake Mohave that need a life jacket can borrow one from the stations placed near each lake's boat ramps.

The stations contain jackets for infants to adults. However, boaters are reminded to please return the life jackets to the station once they are done with them so they can be used by other boaters.

Waterfowl hunters encouraged to practice boating safety

Many hunters utilize boats, kayaks and other watercraft to battle through wind, cold, dust, rain or snow to arrive at the "special" hunting spot. To ensure a safe trip, hunters are encouraged to remember these seven following tips:

1. **Leave a float plan** with family and friends, detailing where you're going and when you plan to return.
2. **Don't overload the vessel.** Make sure it can safely transport you, your gear and maybe your dog, if it's coming along.
3. **Distribute weight evenly** inside your vessel.
4. **Use care while loading and while moving around.**

Most boats used during hunting are flat-bottomed and tend to tip over quite easily.

5. **Always wear a life jacket.** Consider placing one on your dog as well, as cold water can cause their muscles to cramp while in the water.

6. **Transport firearms safely** with the action opened, unloaded and cased whenever possible.

7. **Cold-water immersion can be deadly** so dress appropriately and if you fall overboard, climb back into or on top of the boat. If you cannot, stay near the vessel, use decoys, oars or anything floating nearby to help stay afloat.



This information brought to you by: Arizona Game & Fish Department, 5000 W. Carefree Highway Phoenix, AZ 85086 623-236-7219 • www.azgfd.gov

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



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>. You can also renew your registration by mail or in person at any Game and Fish office.

Boating



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Situational Awareness And America's Waterway Watch



BY CAPT. DAVE ESPARZA

As a boater, you know what is normal and what is not. For example, you see someone taking pictures of a dam, and you think to yourself, that's not normal. Well maybe it is and possibly it is not.

That is why the Coast Guard established a public outreach program in 2006 titled "America's Waterway Watch." It is up to us, the avid boaters, to keep an eye out for suspicious activity and report it — similar to a neighborhood watch program.

Have situational awareness at all times; don't forget where you are and who should be there. If you see something out of the usual, don't just ignore it, report it.

Tow boat operators, recreational boaters, marina operators, or those who live on their boats: It is up to you to help keep our waterways safe and secure. Be the eyes and ears of the United States Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies; we can all make a difference.

To report suspicious activity, call 1-877-24Watch.

Seven Boating Tips For A Safe Waterfowl Hunt

Drowning is the leading cause of hunter deaths on the water, life jackets urged.

As many of Arizona's hunters trek into area forests to fill their freezer with meat for the year, waterfowl hunters too are heading outdoors to hop aboard their watercraft for their piece of the action.

A Family Tradition

"Hunting is woven into the fabric of Arizona and for many, it's a family tradition carried on for generations," said Josh Hoffman, Arizona Game and Fish Boating Safety Education program coordinator.

"Hunters already know that firearm safety is paramount every time they go out, but many don't often go the extra distance to wear a life jacket while hunting on the water. Strapping on a life jacket can often mean the difference between life and death, especially when hunting in cold water."

Seven Tips

Many hunters utilize boats, kayaks and other watercraft to battle through wind, cold, dust, rain or snow to arrive at the "special" hunting spot. To ensure a safe trip, hunters are encouraged to remember these seven following tips:

- Leave a float plan with family and friends, detailing where you're going and when you plan to return.
- Don't overload the vessel. Make sure

'Just Wear It' Is Working

Public swaps 800 old life jackets for new in 2015 under AZGFD's Life Jacket Exchange Program.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department swapped approximately 800 old and tattered life jackets with new ones during life jacket exchange events at area lakes this past summer.

During the popular events, the public can swap old, less-effective life jackets for new ones. The department began the life jacket exchange program in 2008 to help save lives and to encourage watercraft users to remain safe on the water.

Most Effective Way

"Wearing a life jacket is the most effective way to prevent against drowning," said Josh Hoffman, AZGFD Boating Safety Education Program coordinator. "However, after a few years in Arizona's hot dry climate, a life jacket's effectiveness is drastically reduced. That's why it's important to replace your life jacket every three to five years to make sure it will not fail when you need it most."



The program began with one exchange event during National Safe Boating Week at Lake Havasu City. Today the department swaps life jackets during multiple events at Lake Pleasant, Lake Havasu, Saguaro Lake and Canyon Lake throughout the year.

The life jacket exchange program is funded through a U.S. Coast Guard grant to purchase new jackets in a variety of sizes.

Drowning: Major Cause Of Death

Drowning was the reported cause of death in 78 percent of the 610 recreational boating fatalities in 2014 nationwide, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. Of those incidents, 84 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

"As important as having a life jacket, people need to make sure it's the right size," Hoffman said. "A life jacket won't be of much help if it's the wrong size."

Keep In Mind

Users should refer to the manufacturer's label on the life jacket, which should include a recommendation for the user's size and weight. To make sure the life jacket is worn properly, keep in mind —

- A life jacket should fit snugly.
- It shouldn't rise more than 1.5 inches when lifting it up on a child.



• Raise both arms straight up and if the life jacket hits your chin or ears, it may be too big or the straps may be too loose.

• You should also be able to fit your fingers in the back of the life jacket on a child. If you can't, then it's likely too tight.

All boats in Arizona must have a life jacket aboard for every passenger and those 12 years old and younger must wear a life jacket at all times, under state law.

For more information on boating in Arizona, to sign up for a safety course and for a video on properly fitting a life jacket, visit www.azgfd.gov/boating or <https://kalkomey.wistia.com/medias/kjxtbvga0n>.

Watercraft Registrations, Accidents Increased In 2015

People flock to the water in higher numbers as AZGFD encourages safety.

Ending nearly a 10-year decline, watercraft registrations in Arizona rebounded this year, bringing more people to the state's waterways and likely contributing to an increase in watercraft-related accidents.

Two Increases

To date this year, there were 127,796 watercraft registered in Arizona, which is a 2.7-percent increase from the 124,425 registered in the state in 2014. With the increase in registrations, law enforcement officers statewide recorded a 13-percent jump in watercraft-related accidents this year.

Enjoy Safely

"It was clear that Arizona's lakes and waterways were teeming with activity this summer," said Tim Baumgarten, Arizona Game and Fish boating law administrator. "AZGFD officers and our law enforcement partners around the state each reported more traffic on area waterways. While we encourage people to enjoy time outdoors with family and friends, we want everyone to do so safely."

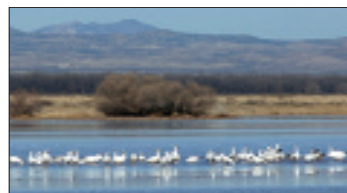
Between January and Oct. 31, law enforcement responded to 113 accidents, which resulted in 76 injuries and six deaths, according to Arizona Game and Fish Department figures. Throughout 2014, boaters were involved in 100 reportable accidents, resulting in 66 injuries and seven fatalities.



Gas Prices Affect Use

Dropping summer and fall gas prices and our hot, dry weather also likely helped to entice more people to flock to the state's lakes and rivers to escape the heat. The recent uptick in boating-related accidents followed a near-\$1 drop in gasoline prices nationwide over the same period last year.

"A day on the water is now significantly cheaper than it was a year ago and people are eager to spend some time on the water," Baumgarten said. "While we want everyone to have a great time, all boaters, passengers and watercraft users must remain vigilant. When they are navigating in such congested waters, it's important for operators to slow down. Speed may create thrills, but as we've seen time and again, tragedy can result in a split second."



it can safely transport you, your gear and maybe your dog, if it's coming along.

- Distribute weight evenly inside your vessel.
- Use care while loading and while moving around. Most boats used during hunting are flat-bottomed and tend to tip over quite easily.
- Always wear a life jacket. Consider placing one on your dog as well, as cold water can cause their muscles to cramp while in the water.
- Transport firearms safely with the action opened, unloaded and cased whenever possible.
- Cold-water immersion can be deadly so dress appropriately and if you fall overboard, climb back into or on top of the boat. If you cannot, stay near the vessel, use decoys, oars or anything floating

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See **REGISTRATIONS**, Page 5

Boating

On-Water American National Standards Established For Recreational-Boating Instruction

The U.S. Coast Guard's National On-Water Standards (NOWS) grant management team and American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) is pleased to announce the approval and publication *EDU-1 On-Water Power Standard* which is the first of three proposed skills-based American National Standards (ANS) for On-Water instruction in recreational boating safety. The Standard gained formal approval on Nov. 12.

Course designers using the *EDU-1 On-Water Power Standard* and *NASBLA's standard ANSI/NASBLA 103-2016: Basic Boating Knowledge — Power* now have the full spectrum of skills and knowledge re: boating standards available to integrate into safe recreational boating-education programs. The *EDU-1 On-Water Power*

Standard is available for free download from ABYC's store www.abycinc.org.

Raising The Standards

As part of the US Coast Guard's goal to raise the overall quality, availability and consistency of On-Water skills-based instruction, the NOWS Project team of Subject Matter Experts — working in partnership with ABYC, using its ANSI-approved process, and hundreds of volunteers across the country — completed the development of the POWER domain standard in just over four years. The standard was developed on paper and then

field-tested at six different venues across the country.

Functioning as an American National Standard, the POWER standard identifies the fundamental skills that entry-level recreational powerboat operators should be able to demonstrate after receiving instruction. The standard is freely available for voluntary application by organizations providing recreational boating safety instructional programs. Also under development are national standards for On-Water Skills-based instruction in HUMAN-propelled craft and Sailboat operation. More information about the

Standards can be found at: www.abycinc.org or www.onwaterstandards.org.

The National On-Water Standards (NOWS) Project

This effort is part of the US Coast Guard's (USCG) vision of a National System of Standards for Recreational Boat Operation, one that will organize both in-classroom knowledge and On-Water skills standards within a comprehensive system of recreational boating education.

US Sailing, the grantee, has hired an impartial professional facilitator to spear-

See **INSTRUCTION**, Page 6

REGISTRATIONS

Continued from page 4

State And Local Coordination

To combat such incidents the department regularly coordinates with state and local law enforcement agencies to patrol waterways to ensure everyone is operating lawfully and safely. Officers routinely conduct saturation patrols looking for those operating under the influence (OUI), while the department's boating safety and education staff provide water users with materials needed to have a safe and fun time on the water.

"Our main goal is to ensure that everyone that goes on our waterways is doing so safely," said Josh Hoffman, Arizona Game and Fish Boating Safety Education coordinator. "Nobody ever expects the worst when they leave for a day on the lake, but the unexpected does happen. That is why everyone should be prepared at all times by wearing a life jacket and by taking a boating safety course."

At All Times

All boats in Arizona must have a life jacket aboard for every passenger and those 12 years old and younger must wear a life jacket at all times, under state law. Users should also check to make sure a life jacket fits properly by ensuring there is no excess room above the openings of the jacket and that it does not ride up over the chin or face.

For more information on boating in Arizona or to sign up for a safety course, visit www.azgfd.gov/boating.

WATERFOUL

Continued from page 4

nearby to help stay afloat.

Nationwide last year, 37 hunter-involved watercraft accidents resulted in 13 deaths and 22 injuries, according to U.S. Coast Guard figures. Drowning was the leading cause of death in 78 percent of the 610 total recreational boating fatalities in 2014 nationwide. Of these incidents, 84 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

Most Common Accidents

"Falling overboard and capsizing are most often the most common types of fatal boating accidents for hunters," Hoffman said. "Simply wearing a life jacket and following Arizona's boating laws can prevent tragedy and ensure everyone goes home safely."

Life jackets aren't just a good idea for adult hunters on the water; they are required by state law for anybody 12 years and younger when the boat is underway. Even after the boat has become a camouflaged duck-blind, there must be a life jacket aboard for every passenger.

For more information on boating in Arizona, to sign up for a safety course and for a video on properly fitting a life jacket, visit www.azgfd.gov/boating. To purchase a hunting license, visit <https://license.azgfd.gov/home.xhtml>.



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Sailing's Best Of 2015 Shortlisted

US Sailing's Rolex Yachtsman & Yachtswoman of the Year awards recognize the best.

The most significant sailing performances of the year are being heralded by US Sailing with the announcement of the 12 men and six women who have been shortlisted for the 2015 Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year awards.

The nominees will be reviewed by a panel of noted sailing journalists who discuss the merits of each sailor's racing results before voting to determine US Sailing's 2015 Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year. The winners will be announced in mid-January and honored on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016, during a luncheon at the New York Yacht Club in Manhattan, when they will be presented with specially-engraved Rolex timepieces.

Nominees shortlisted for US Sailing's 2015 Rolex Yachtsman of the Year award: Lightning World Champion Geoff Becker (Annapolis, Md.); distance racing record-breaker Ryan Breymaier (Annapolis, Md.); Etechells North American Champion Steve Benjamin (Norwalk, Conn.); J/70 World Champion Bill Hardesty (San Diego, Calif.); Etechells World Champion Skip Dieball (Toledo, Ohio); Rolex Farr 40 World Champion John Demourkas (Santa Barbara, Calif.); Rolex Maxi 72 World Champion Hap Fauth (Minneapolis, Minn.); 470 European Champion Dave Hughes (Miami, Fla.); Melges 20 World Champion John Kilroy (San Fran-

cisco, Calif.); 470 European Champion Stu McNay (Providence, R.I.); distance racing record breaker Lloyd Thornburg (Santa Fe, N.M.); and J/24 North American Champion Will Welles (Portsmouth, R.I.).

Nominees shortlisted for US Sailing's 2015 Rolex Yachtswoman of the Year award: U.S. Women's Match Racing Champion Nicole Breault (San Francisco, Calif.); Aquece Rio International Sailing Regatta (Olympic Test Event) 470 Women's Champion Anne Haeger (Lake Forest, Ill.); Pan Am Games Laser Radial Gold Medalist Paige Railey (Clearwater, Fla.); Aquece Rio International Sailing Regatta (Olympic Test Event) 470 Women's Champion Briana Provancha (San Diego, Calif.); Buddy Melges Challenge winner Stephanie Roble (East Troy, Wis.); and Lightning North American Champion Jody Starck (Buffalo, N.Y.).

Established In 1961

Established in 1961 by US Sailing and sponsored by Rolex Watch, U.S.A. since 1980, the annual presentation of US Sailing's Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year awards are considered the sport's ultimate recognition of an individual's outstanding on-the-water achievements for the calendar year.

Over its history the coveted award has been presented to 43 men and 34 women, including these distinguished sailors who have claimed the honor multiple times: Ed Adams, Betsy Alison, Sally Barkow, Dave Curtis, Dennis Conner, JJ Fetter, Allison Jolly, John Kostecki, Buddy Melges, Lowell North, Jan O'Malley, Jane Pegel, Ken Read, Cory Sertl, Lynne Shore, Jody Starck, Anna Tunnicliffe and Ted Turner.

For highlights from the year's racing results for each nominee, please visit: <http://rolex.ussailing.org>

AZGF Commission Awards Banquet Set For Jan. 16

The annual Arizona Game and Fish Commission Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016, at the Arizona Grand Resort, 8000 S. Arizona Grand Parkway, Phoenix, Arizona 85044. The event will honor the recipients of the 2015 Commission Awards that were selected at the Commission's September 4, 2015 meeting (see below). The purpose of these awards is to recognize Arizonans who have contributed significantly to the conservation of the state's wildlife, its outdoor heritage, and the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

The social hour begins at 5 p.m. followed by dinner and the awards ceremony. The cost is \$65 per individual.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission held its first annual awards banquet on Jan. 12, 1991. Since then, a total of 344 recipients have been recognized with Commission awards. The awards banquet gives the Commission an opportunity to recognize individual and organizational award recipients for their contributions to Arizona's wildlife resources.

All of the costs associated with the awards banquet must be paid for by ticket sales and sponsorship donations, including the complimentary tickets for award recipients and their spouse or guest. Table Sponsorships for organizations are available in several categories

and include a table in the organization's name, logo advertisement in the event program, recognition in the introductory PowerPoint presentation and event press release, and banquet tickets.

2015 Award Recipients

Award of Excellence: Hildy Angius
Award of Excellence: Mark Brnovich
Youth Environmentalist of the Year: KJ Aldridge

Outdoor Writer of the Year: Margaret Anderson

Media of the Year: Rosie Romero Jr.
Conservation Organization of the Year: Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary

Conservationist of the Year: Steve Clark

Natural Resource Professional of the Year: Ray Suazo

Volunteer of the Year: Chad Villamor
Educator of the Year: Melanie Engstrom

Mentor of the Year: Richard Williams
Advocate of the Year - State: David Gowan Sr., Speaker of the House

Advocate of the Year - Federal: Senator John McCain

Buck Appleby Hunter Education Instructor of the Year: Patrick Headington
Wildlife Habitat Steward of the Year: Spider Ranch

North American Model Commissioners Award: Carol Lynde

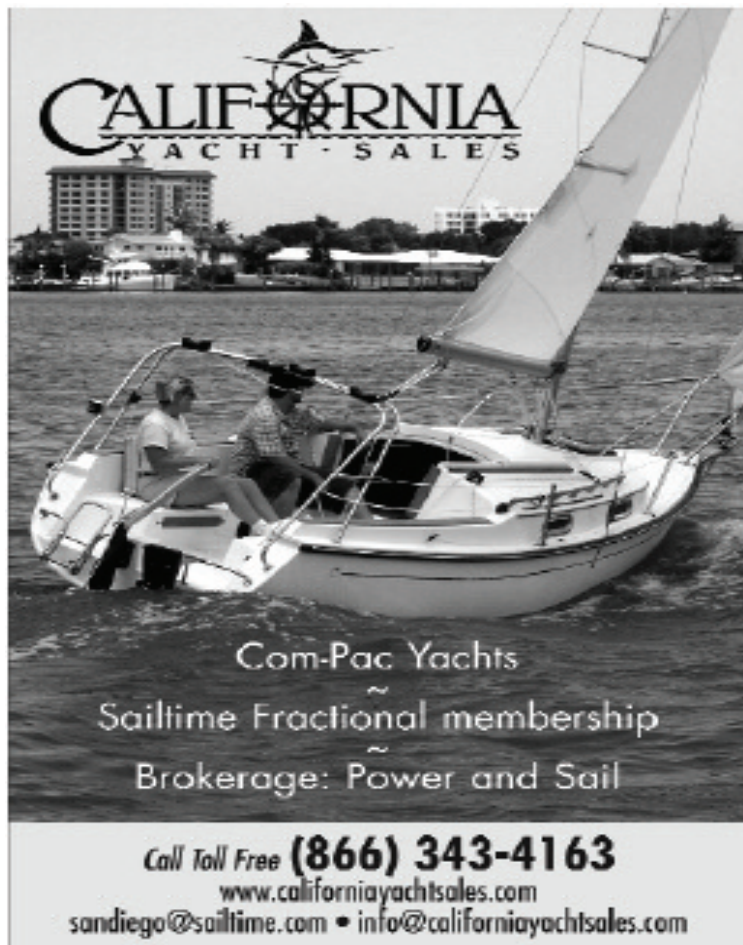
INSTRUCTION

Continued from page 5

head the project so that all recreational boating constituencies are equally represented in the organization of this system. A core team of 43 Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) is developing On-Water Standards for SAIL, POWER and HUMAN-propelled domains of recreational boating.

More Information

More information can be found at www.onwaterstandards.org and that related to the On-Water Standards Grant, the SME Team members, their role in the program, and other details about the National On-Water Standards project, please contact National On-Water Skills Standards Facilitator K. Brian Dorval at grantfacilitator@gmail.com.



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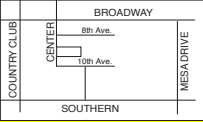
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FAIR CHASE

Hunt Hard, Hunt Fair

Fair Chase is the ethical, sportsman-like and lawful pursuit and take of free-range wildlife in a manner that does not give a hunter or an angler improper or unfair advantage over such wildlife.

Fair Chase has been embraced as the proper conduct of a sportsman/sports-woman in the field and has been taught to new hunters for more than a century. It pays respect to the traditions of hunting and angling by emphasizing the development of an individual's skills rather than reliance on practices or technologies that overwhelm the quarry's ability to elude detection or take.

Technology and Fair Chase

New technology developments impact almost every aspect of life, and sportsmen may wonder how hunting is affected as new equipment hits the market. Advances in technology are inevitable, and there always will be a better way to craft a bow, firearm or ammunition.

However, in terms of Fair Chase, the line is drawn when that advancement becomes unlawful or provides sportsmen with an improper or unfair advantage. As examples, three recent technological advances have been the smart rifle, drones, and exploding arrow tips.

Hunters in Arizona should be aware that —

- The smart rifle is unlawful for take by nature of its laser-supported sighting system;
- Unmanned aerial vehicles — drones — are aircraft and subject to the same rules as other aircraft;
- The exploding arrow tip or similar items may not be used in an archery or muzzleloader season because they are considered "explosive devices."

AZGFC's Consideration Of Fair-Chase Issues

The Commission recognizes that development of new or improved technol-



ogies and practices can provide benefits to hunters and anglers by improving competency or increasing participation. However, it also believes that the pursuit and taking of wildlife should be managed to conform with the ethical

standards of Fair Chase.

The Commission will monitor and give careful consideration to the Fair Chase implications of an emerging or evolving

See HUNT, Page 9

NRA Grant Helps Fund Improvements At Northern Arizona Shooting Range

Benefits include more public access to trap shooting, registered trap shoots.

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — A bigger and better trap range awaits recreational shooters at the Northern Arizona Shooting Range, one of 10 public shooting facilities managed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

With a public-range-fund grant awarded by the National Rifle Association (NRA), the department achieved its project goal of providing more public access to trap shooting and the opportunity for the Northern Arizona Shooting Foundation to conduct registered trap-shooting events.

The \$22,650 grant helped to fund the construction of two additional trap fields, including trap houses and concrete field and sidewalks, as well as the purchase of two new trap machines, two new voice-release systems, a new propane generator

and additional equipment necessary to operate the trap fields.

"We would like to thank the NRA for its continued support through the Public Range Grant Program," said Mike Raum, statewide shooting range administrator for Game and Fish. "The completion of the trap and skeet fields at the Northern Arizona Shooting Range provides vast opportunities to expand trap shooting during Arizona's hot summer months in a cool, scenic setting."

The Northern Arizona Shooting Range, a 160-acre facility located 20 miles east of Flagstaff (south of Interstate 40), conducted its first registered Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA) event in September, drawing 42 registered participants. A full season of events is scheduled to begin in early 2016.



The NRA Public Range Fund was created in 2009 as a matching grant program to encourage city and county governments, and state or federal agencies, to work with the NRA to build and improve public ranges across the U.S.

The Northern Arizona Shooting Range opened in 2012 and is operated by the Northern Arizona Shooting Foundation through a license agreement with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

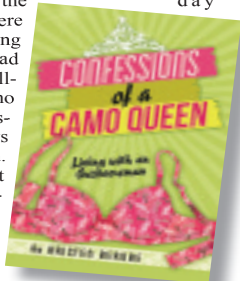
For more information about Northern Arizona Shooting Range, including directions and hours of operation, visit www.northernarizonashootingrange.org. A list of statewide shooting ranges is available on the department's website at <https://azgfdportal.az.gov/Shooting/Ranges>.

Who Knew Life With An Outdoorsman Was This Funny

"The day I came home to find a deer head boiling in my favorite Calphalon stockpot was the day

I realized there was no going back — I had become a full-fledged Camo Queen," Kristen Berube says with a laugh. "Before I met my hunting-crazed husband, I had a normal life — I thought bugling involved music lessons and Cabela's was an Italian restaurant."

Berube's laugh-out-loud, sometimes sassy sense of humor shines in her first book, *Confessions of a Camo Queen: Living with an Outdoorsman* (Farcoun-



Kristen Berube, Author

try Press, 2015). With chapters on Truck Lust, Camouflage Lingerie, Primal Home Décor, and more, the book promises belly laughs for any woman who knows an avid outdoorsman.

Berube's stories draw on personal experience from her life with her husband, Remi. "This is a guy who wears camo every day of the week," she says. "Even at work, under his dress slacks, he's wearing camo undies. And, if it involves chasing critters, searing fish, shooting guns, or tromping through the woods,

he's all over it."

Berube says, "Most of my gal friends have boyfriends or husbands — and fathers and brothers — who hunt and fish. "We share all our whacky stories about our camo guys and their misadventures."

Confessions of a Camo Queen is an extension of those stories. "I wrote it because there are a lot of women out there who know exactly what it feels like to

See FUNNY LIFE, Page 9



HWFA Grows From Three To Twelve

FROM HUNTING WORKS FOR AMERICA

We're excited to announce that Hunting Works For America has expanded its reach once again. What started as three states in 2010 has expanded to 12 with the 2015 launches of Hunting Works For Maine and Hunting Works For Washington.

Hunting and shooting sports face more and more challenges every day, and we're happy that Hunting Works For America continues to grow to weigh in and support hunting and shooting sports across the nation.

Our partners have a story to tell about the important economic chain involving hunting and shooting sports that supports many jobs, both rural and urban, across the country.

We couldn't be any more excited about the addition of these new chapters, and we look forward to seeing how these new advocates can help further strengthen the time-honored tradition of hunting in America.



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Looking Through Water Now Available

Bob Rich presents life lessons and compassion; proceeds go to Project Healing Waters helping injured soldiers.

Bob Rich is a storyteller. Many people know this about Rich through his nearly three decades-old friendships made in the course of fishing across the globe and through his books. As a gentleman angler, a competitor, guest lecturer, fly-fishing partner, a sponsor, an IGFA board member, a benefactor for numerous causes, a multi-event host or sharing a drink and humor with him dockside, Rich can weave a story.

The author of four popular non-fiction books, he now takes on the role of a raconteur in his first novel *Looking Through Water*, which debuted internationally in book stores this fall. "I'm pretty excited about it," said Rich. "I've always wanted to do a novel. When I started *Looking Through Water*, I found the best way to begin was to set it against backdrops I've always loved; fishing, Manhattan, the Adirondacks and the Florida Keys."

The narrative centers on William McKay who finds himself reliving his past to help his troubled grandson, Kyle, deal with the present. The old man wants desperately to discover what is troubling the brooding boy and hopes against hope that sharing his own tortuous journey to self-discovery will lift him from his dark place.

William's story starts on an Adirondacks lake and wends its way through Manhattan to the Florida Keys. Interesting characters from the old man's past come to life to help him tell an unforgettable story full of surprises and suspense.



Bob Rich, Author

"It's a love story and an adventure story, filled with conflict, emotion and healing. It's a great coming-of-age tale. And it has guns, shooting, dying and of course, since it's the Florida Keys, fishing too. It has all the elements for a good story," Rich said.

"The cover artwork is by John Swan," he added. "And the chapter pages are pen and ink drawings sketched by Craig Regor. I had great fun inventing colorful characters and plot twists and have enjoyed reader's reactions," the affable Rich said with a smile.

Looking Through Water is available on Amazon.com, BN.com, and at BobRichBooks.com.

Always the philanthropist, Bob Rich said proceeds will benefit the Project Healing Waters, dedicated to helping injured veterans and active duty military heal from physical and emotional wounds through fishing. Along with helping many other non-profit charities, the author has raised millions for the Redbone and a cure for cystic fibrosis for his annual BassEye fishing tournaments in Buffalo,



N.Y. and Golden Isles Red*Trout events on St. Simons Island, Ga.

For more on *Looking Through Water* plus videos of Bob giving insights into the novel, please go to BobRichBooks.com.

About Bob Rich

Whether it's fishing for trout or tarpon, bass, bonefish or billfish (*International Angler* recently documented his catch-and-release of a grander black marlin in Australia), marathon swimming or long-distance cycling, they're all favorites of author, entrepreneur, respected global business leader and philanthropist Bob Rich.

As chairman of family owned Rich Products Corporation, Rich has grown the Buffalo, N.Y.-based food and seafood (SeaPak) companies to 100 locations worldwide. For nearly three decades

See **BOOK**, Page 15

Tempe Town Lake Project Update

FROM AZGFD

Recently a story surfaced in the local news that the Department had lifted all fishing regulations at Tempe Town Lake and that anglers were free to take whatever they wanted. We want to ensure anglers have facts:

First, the Department has agreed to cease all fish stockings in Tempe Town Lake until the project has been completed, and the lake has been refilled.

Second, the Department has *not* lifted all fishing regulations for Tempe Town Lake, but we are evaluating options that could include a proposed rule change. We will have more discussions with the City of Tempe to determine what can be done so that anglers can maximize harvest of sportfish prior to the lake drawdown.

We will provide further guidance to anglers in this bulletin once that has been decided.

TAKE THE CHALLENGE

Go Explore Arizona's Trout Waters

AZGFD launches Trout Challenge Program aimed at getting anglers out for trout.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is launching a new program to encourage anglers to learn more about trout fishing in Arizona.

The Arizona Trout Challenge Program is an incentive program that highlights the state's unique species, waters, and fishing



See **TROUT WATERS**, Page 9

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Hunting & Angling Heritage Workshop To Meet In January

FROM DOUG BURT

HUNTING AND SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM MANAGER
ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

The annual Winter HAHWG meeting will be Saturday, Jan. 30. It will be a one-day meeting format as last year, here at the Game and Fish office, at the Archery Center at the north end of the BASF property — outdoors.

We will once again have a big cowboy breakfast before the meeting, as well as a hot lunch. If anyone is interested in sponsoring the meals, please let me know. Friday night overnight dispersed camping is available and we will have a small social and campfire that night.

RSVP and agenda items can be emailed to me at dburt@azgfd.gov.

Top-Five Arizona Winter Fishing Holes Keep Reels Humming

FROM AZGFD

In Arizona, winter doesn't have to mean sending boats and rods and reels into hibernation. While outdoor recreation opportunities across many U.S. states shut down during the season of freeze, Arizona rolls on with trout stockings and water temperatures just warm enough to convince fish to bite during the holidays.

Although fishing tends to slow a tad this time of the year, there are some spots that are winter-friendly. Here, then, in no particular order, are the Arizona Game and Fish Department's top-five fishing holes for this winter:



1. Lake Havasu: This giant, shallow, solunar bowl in the desert heats up quickly during a warm winter sun and has a large variety for sport-fish.

There are also some monster redear sunfish here (and Topock Gorge) to be had. The "West Coast of Arizona" hardly experiences winter.



2. Lower Salt River: Anglers get the unique experience of stream fishing for trout in the desert. And this month, AZGFD will begin bonus stockings of trout that were supposed to be dropped into the Tempe Town Lake. The Lower Salt, just minutes from some of the Valley of the Sun's population centers, offers good shoreline fishing options as well. A Tonto Pass is required.

Try nightcrawlers, small spinners, Kastmasters and flies. You might be able to catch some bass or sunfish in the deeper holes.

HUNT

Continued from page 7

technology or practice.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate whether or not a new technology or practice is a Fair Chase issue:

- A technology or practice that allows a hunter or angler to locate or take wildlife without acquiring necessary hunting and angling skills or competency.

- A technology or practice that allows a hunter or angler to pursue or take wildlife without being physically present and pursuing wildlife in the field.

- A technology or practice that makes harvesting wildlife almost certain, and/or the technology or practice prevents wildlife from eluding detection and/or take.

FUNNY LIFE

Continued from page 7

bounce down a rough, dirt road in a stinky truck full of dog hair while the guy tries to drive and spot deer at the same time," Berube says. "And he thinks that's a 'fun date.' What can you do? You gotta laugh."

What does it take to be a Camo Queen? As Berube says, "You might be a Camo Queen if that first date ended with a big, wet kiss . . . from his black Lab. You're probably a Camo Queen if you're no longer amused by gifts of camouflage panties. And you're most definitely a Camo Queen if you can survive a week of eating camp food with only four tiny squares of toilet paper.

"Really, being able to laugh at the predicaments of life with an outdoorsman is



3. Lees Ferry: Winter is traditionally the spawning period for this world-class wild rainbow trout fishery in northern Arizona that provides the awe-inspiring gateway to the Grand Canyon. Catching trout in the rushing Colorado River along the spectacular red sandstone cliffs of the Marble Canyon Gorge is an experience beyond compare.



4. Patagonia Lake: This 260-acre lake south of Tucson at times can provide some nice winter crappie fishing. The AZGFD also stocks trout in this picturesque lake located in prime Mearns' quail territory (a pretty good winter birding area as well).

A super fishery to experience with its iconic arched footbridge, Patagonia Lake

Commission consideration of whether a given technology or practice should be limited or prohibited in the interests of preserving Fair Chase will be carefully weighed in an open public process.

The Importance Of Fair Chase

Public support of Fair Chase and ethical hunting is important to the survival of hunting and angling. These pursuits are the cornerstones of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and are the primary source of funding for conservation efforts in North America. The support of Fair Chase and respect for the traditions of hunting and angling are every sportsmen's responsibility. So remember, Hunt Hard, Hunt Fair.

the only requirement for membership in the sisterhood of the Camo Queens."

Confessions of a Camo Queen (ISBN: 978-1-56037-628-6, \$12.95, Farcountry Press, 2015) is available at local bookstores and gift shops, through online retailers, or from Farcountry Press at 1-800-821-3874, www.farcountrypress.com.

About The Author

Kristen Berube lives a crazy, laughter-filled life with her outdoorsman husband Remi and their three camo-clad children in Missoula, Mont. A graduate of Montana State University and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, she loves being a mom and enjoys hiking, fishing, and camping almost as much as a romantic dinner at a fancy restaurant. *Confessions of a Camo Queen* is her first book.

State Park is also in the heart of Arizona's wine country. There are excellent camping options.

5. Silver Creek: Near Show Low, Silver Creek will have open water all winter. It is a spring creek that comes out of the ground at a constant temperature and does not freeze during the winter.

Current regulations are catch-and-release only through March 31. No trout may be kept, and it is artificial fly and lure only, single barbless hooks only. Dark-colored bunny leaches, semi seals, and buggers, San Juan worms in red, purple



and natural colors, midge nymphs, as well as egg patterns have been working well.

TROUT WATERS

Continued from page 8

opportunities. Any angler completing the Challenge will receive a certificate featuring the species caught along with the date and location. In addition, the first group of anglers to complete the Challenge will receive other items that may include a sweatshirt, hat, and/or water bottle.

As a part of the program, there are two different ways to complete the Challenge. The first is the Wild Trout Challenge, focusing on waters with naturally reproducing Gila, Apache, brown, brook, or rainbow trout.

The second is the Arizona Trout Challenge, which includes unique species such as cutthroat trout, tiger trout, and grayling, as well as hatchery-reared trout. The lists of eligible waters for each of the Challenges are found on the Trout challenge website at www.azgfd.gov/troutchallenge.

There is no deadline to complete these challenges.



Some waters may not be included on each list, but are potentially still eligible for completing the Challenge. In order to qualify, go to the Trout Challenge home

page and download an application form, and submit photos and locations of where you caught each species.

For questions regarding the program, please contact Mike Anderson at mmanderson@azgfd.gov.

Did You Know?

Did you know? Arizona has the greatest wildlife diversity of any inland state in the nation. Only California and Texas – which both have coastlines abounding with different wildlife species – have greater wildlife diversities than we do right here in Arizona.



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WALK-IN WATER TROUGHS

Who, What, When, Where, Why, How They Came To Be

BY JOHN ("JK") KOLESZAR
SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR

Each year the Arizona Deer Association works with the Arizona Game & Fish Department Development Branch on worthwhile projects designed to help all wildlife but in particular, deer. The photos that you see are really the culmination of years of activity prior to the actual production of this walk-in water trough.

For those who are not familiar with it, this article is a primer on how things get done.

Every year HPC (Habitat Partnership Committee) groups meet all across the state. Water happens to be a key component, one that is in fairly short supply all across Arizona. These groups meet with the single purpose of determining how we can improve habitat and water sources for wildlife all across Arizona.



Tanks In Ground

corresponding state or federal agencies for appropriate clearances. Those clearances include such things as Endangered Species, historical archeological sites and a host of other items on the checklist.

Once the clearances are all obtained, the projects are submitted each September to the Arizona Game & Fish Department for review. Monies for these projects are raised through the various tags that are auctioned or raffled each year by the conservation groups. Last year alone, we managed to raise almost \$2 million dollars for projects.

Pecking Order Established

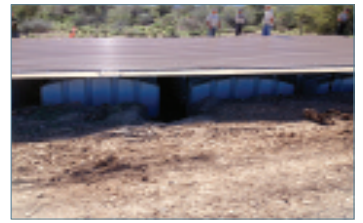
The projects submitted to the Arizona



Underwork

Projects Proposed

With the help of ranchers, concerned citizens, conservation groups, wildlife managers from the Arizona Game & Fish Department and anyone else interested, a number of projects are proposed. These projects then have to be reviewed by the



Finished Apron

and accepted by the groups all across the table.

Once the final approval has been established, the list is turned over to the Development Branch of the Arizona Game & Fish Department and scheduled for implementation. Some of the projects that I have worked on have been as long as five years in the process. Once the projects are scheduled, the conservation groups work in conjunction with the Development



Production Of Apron

Game & Fish Department are then reviewed and given a pecking order of importance by region. That list is then sent to all of the conservation groups for their review and rankings. Finally, in January of each year, a meeting is held whereby the monies are allocated for those lucky projects that have been deemed ready

Branch for coordinated work on many of these projects.

Put Into Motion

The last thing that happens is work projects are put into motion. Whether

See TROUGHS, Page 19

When you display the Arizona Conservation Wildlife license plate

You are helping conserve and restore wildlife habitat in Arizona! Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation manages grant funds raised through the sales of the conservation plates. Grants are awarded for wildlife habitat restoration, hunting & angling retention and recruitment, and wildlife education projects. These projects and events are managed by a variety of non-profit organizations

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Support Arizona's Wildlife!

Updated Rules Governing Live Wildlife In Arizona Now In Effect

The Arizona Game and Fish Department, as part of its regular five-year review rulemaking process, has updated its Article 4 (Live Wildlife) rules. The new provisions became effective Dec. 5. The updated rules were recently approved by the Governor's Regulatory Review Council. The new provisions include some notable changes including the following:

- Removal of hedgehogs from the restricted live wildlife list to allow them as pets.
- Prohibitions on possession of any non-human primate species (including orangutans, chimpanzees, gorillas, macaques and spider monkeys) by private individuals without a special license, in an effort to protect public health and safety.
- Prohibiting a person from allowing

native desert tortoises to reproduce in captivity in an effort to reduce the number of unwanted captive desert tortoises,

- Improved consistency between federal and state rules, for example, listing all birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as restricted live wildlife,
- Inclusion of red shiner, certain species of tilapia, paddlefish, sturgeon, Chinese mystery snail, and false dark mussel as restricted live wildlife as all are non-native to Arizona and pose significant threat to native species,
- Clarification of definitions and language, consolidation of some rules, and updating of references.

For more detailed information on the Article 4 changes, visit <https://azgfdportal.az.gov/Agency/Rulemaking>.

Outdoor Recreationists Asked To Protect Bald Eagles

Each year, as part of its highly successful program to manage and conserve bald eagles in the state, the Arizona Game and Fish Department asks outdoor recreationists, aircraft pilots, drone operators and motorized paragliders to help this magnificent bird in Arizona. These groups are asked to honor the closure of 23 areas across the state that are important bald eagle breeding sites.

Various land and wildlife management agencies close the breeding areas during the birds' breeding season to protect the state's 59 breeding pairs of bald eagles. Some of the closure areas are located near popular recreation sites.

Cooperation Is Vital

"Cooperation from outdoor recreationists has been a major reason that the bald eagle population continues to grow, and now we're working to create more awareness among aircraft pilots, drone operators and motorized paragliders. Pilots should maintain the FAA-recommended 2,000-foot above ground level advisory when flying over bald eagle habitat, and drones and paragliders are asked to avoid the areas completely," says Kenneth Jacobson, head of the Arizona Game and Fish Department Bald Eagle Management Program.

Bald eagles are sensitive to even short durations of low-flying aircraft activity near their nests and just a few minutes of disturbance can lead to a nesting failure.

December Is Nest-Building Time

In December, Arizona bald eagles begin rebuilding nests in preparation for laying eggs. The birds nest, forage and roost at the rivers and lakes that have become some of Arizona's most popular recreation spots, and this time of year can be challenging for the birds.

Game and Fish's bald eagle management efforts are supported by the Heritage Fund, an initiative passed more than 20 years ago to provide for wildlife education and conservation through Arizona lottery ticket sales.

Statewide Airspace Advisory

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has established a 2000-foot above ground level (AGL) advisory along the Salt and Verde river drainages. When traveling in these drainages or near riparian habitat statewide, aircraft should maintain a minimum of 2000-foot AGL to ensure compliance with state and federal law.

Seasonal Closures Verde River

A closure for the *Verde River below Sycamore Canyon* Wilderness is not planned this year unless the eagle pair resumes nesting. Contact Coconino National Forest, Sedona Ranger District for updates, (928) 282-4119.

Verde River near Chasm Creek is closed to foot and vehicle entry from Dec. 1 to June 15. Floating through is allowed. Contact Prescott National Forest, Verde Ranger District, (928) 567-4121.

Verde River near Cold Water Creek, allows watercraft to float through but no stopping on the river or landing is allowed Dec. 1 to June 30. Contact Prescott National Forest, Verde Ranger District, (928) 567-4121.

Verde River upstream of the East Verde confluence is closed to vehicle and foot entry from Dec. 1 to June 30. Floating through is allowed, but no stopping in the river or landing is permitted. Contact Tonto National Forest, Cave Creek Ranger District, (480) 595-3300.



Verde River near Mule Shoe Bend, allows watercraft to float through but no stopping in the river or landing is allowed from Dec. 1 to June 30. Contact Tonto National Forest, Cave Creek Ranger District, (480) 595-3300.

Verde River below Horseshoe Dam is closed to vehicle or foot entry on the southwest side of the river from Dec. 1 to June 30. Floating through is allowed, but no stopping in the river or landing on the southwest side of the river is allowed. Contact Tonto National Forest, Cave Creek Ranger District, (480) 595-3300.

Verde River below Bartlett Dam is closed to foot or vehicle entry from Dec. 1 to June 30. Floating through is allowed, but no stopping in the river or landing is

permitted. Contact Tonto National Forest, Cave Creek Ranger District, (480)595-3300.

Verde River at the Needle Rock Recreation area is closed to foot and vehicle entry on the east side of the river from Dec. 1 to June 30. Floating through is allowed, but no stopping in the river or landing on east side of river is allowed. A small area on the west side may also be closed depending on nesting locations. Contact Tonto National Forest, Cave Creek Ranger District, (480) 595-3300.

Tonto Creek

Tonto Creek from Gisela to 76 Ranch is closed to vehicle, foot entry, and floating through from Dec. 1 to June 30. Contact Tonto National Forest, Tonto Basin Ranger District (928) 467-3200.

Tonto Creek inlet to Roosevelt Lake is closed to vehicle and foot entry within 1000 feet of the nest on land, and to watercraft within 300 feet on water from Dec. 1 to June 30. Contact Tonto National Forest, Tonto Basin Ranger District (928) 467-3200.

Salt River

Salt River from Horseshoe Bend to Redmond Flat allows watercraft to float through, but no stopping in the river or landing is allowed from Dec. 1 to June 30. Contact Tonto National Forest, Globe Ranger District, (928) 402-6200.

Salt River near Meddler Point is closed to vehicle and foot entry within 1000 feet of the nest on land, and to watercraft within 300 feet on water from Dec. 1 to June 30. Contact Tonto National Forest, Tonto Basin Ranger District (928) 467-3200.

Salt River below Stewart Mountain Dam is closed to vehicle or foot entry on the south side of the river from Dec. 1 to June 30. Floating through is allowed.



Contact the Tonto National Forest, Mesa Ranger District, (480) 610-3300.

Salt River near Goldfield-Kerr Fire Station is closed to foot and vehicle entry on the north side of the river from Dec. 1 to June 30. Floating through is allowed. Contact Tonto National Forest, Mesa Ranger District, (480) 610-3300.

Crescent Lake

A portion of the entrance road may be restricted to a "no stopping zone" and a portion of land near the parking area may be closed to foot entry from April 1 through July 30. Contact the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest, Springerville Ranger District, (928) 333-4372.

Greer Lakes

A portion of the lake may be closed to

watercraft and a portion of the shoreline may be closed to foot entry from March 1 through July 31. Contact the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest, Springerville Ranger District, (928) 333-4372.

Lake Pleasant

No vehicle, watercraft, or foot entry is allowed into the Lower Agua Fria Arm from Dec. 15 to June 15. Contact Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, (928) 501-1710.

Lower Lake Mary

This closure will not be enacted unless the eagle pair moves nesting locations. Contact the Coconino National Forest, Mormon Lake Ranger District for updates, (928) 774-1147.

Luna Lake

The north side of Luna Lake is closed to vehicle and foot traffic from Jan. 1 to June 30. The area adjacent to the nesting closure on the upper end of the lake is closed for nesting waterfowl from Feb. 15 to July 31. Contact Apache National Forest, Alpine Ranger District, (928) 339-4384.

Lynx Lake

This closure will not be enacted unless the eagle pair moves nesting locations. Contact Prescott National Forest, Bradshaw Ranger District for updates, (928) 443-8000.

Show Low Lake

A portion of the lake may be closed to watercraft and a portion of the shoreline may be closed to foot entry from approximately March 1 through July 31. Contact the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest, Lakeside Ranger District, (928) 368-2100.

Whitehorse Lake

A portion of the shoreline may be closed to foot entry from March 1 to Aug. 31. Contact the Kaibab National Forest, Williams Ranger District (928) 635-5600.

Woods Canyon Lake

A portion of the lake may be closed to watercraft and a portion of the shoreline is



closed to foot entry from April 1 through Aug. 31. Contact the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest, Black Mesa Ranger District, (928) 535-7300.

Tips For Visiting Eagle Areas Visitors

If you are visiting bald eagle country, an advance call to the local land management agency (U.S. Forest Service district, etc.) or the Arizona Game and Fish Department may help you plan your trip to avoid disturbing bald eagles. By following these simple guidelines, we can all help ensure that our living wildlife legacy will last for generations to come:

Enjoy bald eagles from outside the closures, which are marked with signs and/or buoys. Watch from a distance using a spotting scope, binoculars or telephoto camera lens.

Anyone approached by a nestwatcher and asked to cease an activity or leave a closed area should comply. A few good places to see bald eagles without disturbing them (during December and January) are at Lake Mary and Mormon Lake near Flagstaff or on the Verde Canyon Train in Clarkdale.

Bald eagles protecting an active nest will let you know if you are too close. If a bald eagle is vocalizing and circling the area frantically, you are too close and need to leave the area quickly. Bald eagles incubating eggs or brooding small young should never be off the nest for more than 15 minutes.

Pilots

Pilots should maintain the FAA-recommended 2,000-foot AGL advisory when flying over bald eagle habitat such as along the riparian areas of the Salt and Verde Rivers and Lakes such as Lake Pleasant, Roosevelt lake, and Alamo Lake. These areas are designated on the Phoenix Sectional Aeronautical Map. Special brochures for pilots regarding this advisory can be obtained by calling the Arizona Department of Transportation or the Arizona Game and Fish Department at (623) 236-7506.

Anglers

Help from anglers is especially needed. Fishing line and tackle have killed two nestlings and been found in two-thirds of all bald eagle nests in the state. Every year biologists remove these lethal hazards from nests and/or entangled nestlings. Discard any fishing line properly in specially-marked recycling containers or at fishing stores. Also, use fresh line that isn't old and brittle. Use the correct test line for the fish you are trying to catch. Also, do not cut the line when an undesirable fish is caught and return it to the water with the hook and line attached.

You can help bald eagle research and recovery efforts by reporting any harassment or shooting of bald eagles. Call the Arizona Game and Fish Operation Game Thief Hotline at (800) 352-0700 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement at (480) 967-7900.

RV Land Cruising



START WITH NEW YEARS DAY HIKES

Then, Make A Resolution To Visit All Of Arizona's State Parks In 2016

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

The State Parks in Arizona are offering guided hikes for New Years Day as part of a program called 1st Day Hikes. Guided hikes are great, even if you are an experienced hiker, because the guides will have lots of information about the area that you might not have known.

The State Parks are great places to visit at any time, and the opportunity for a free guided hike is a bonus. Generally, the weather is cool on New Years Day, but at higher altitudes, you should add layers. Also, bring your own water and wear sturdy boots or hiking shoes. You should also bring binoculars and a camera.

At **Alamo Lake State Park** near Wenden there will be a one-mile hike where Ranger Ron Logan will show and tell about the plants and animals at the park. Alamo is a beautiful lake and you're almost sure to see wild burros and lots of beautiful birds. This hike is recommended for ages 10 and up and starts at 9 am.

A Boyce Thompson Factoid

There are three events offered at **Boyce Thompson Arboretum**. If you have never been to this park, you are totally missing out. It is absolutely gorgeous, nestled in the mountains near Superior. There are awesome trails here — one of my favorites takes you past a pond. You'll see lots of plants from all over the world here.

Here's a factoid about Boyce Thompson: It was named after a wealthy miner, William Boyce Thompson, whose great



Boyce Thompson

nephew happened to be Bill Thompson, better known as Wallace of the *Wallace and Ladmo Show*.

The three New Years Day events are a bird walk at 9:30, a guided walk on the Main Trail (1-1/2 miles) at 10 a.m., and a Native American Style Sage Smoke Blessing and concert. Leashed dogs are welcome at Boyce Thompson.

Learn As You Hike

At the **Buckskin Mountain State Park** near Parker you can join Rocky



Lagoon At Deadhorse Ranch

Ringtail, the park mascot, for a 2-hour, 1-1/2-mile hike. They say this hike is moderately difficult, but it's open to all ages. Your dog is welcome, but it must be on a leash.

Catalina State Park near Tucson offers an amazing seven-mile hike on the 50-Year Trail loop starting at 8 a.m. It's long, but there's only a 450 foot elevation gain so it's pretty easy going.

Cattail Cove hike starts at 10 a.m. at the ramp and it's a 2-3-mile hike that will take about three hours. You'll learn about the history, plants, and animals of the area from Bill and Betty Noble.

Deadhorse Ranch near Cottonwood is one of my favorite State Parks. There are several pretty ponds and lots of birds. Meet at 9 a.m. at the West Lagoon parking lot and hike the riparian area of the Verde river and along the lagoons. You never know what kinds of cool birds and critters you'll see here. Plan on an hour and a half or two hours for this hike.



Verde River Riparian Area

History In Many Forms

At **Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area** at Showlow, the park admission is waived for 1st Day hikers. Meet at 10 am at the Bluebird Ramada for a hike just under a mile and a half along the lake.

The hike at **Homolovi State Park** near Winslow doesn't start until 1 p.m. Hike with a Park Ranger to Diné Point on the Tsu'vö trail. You'll see petroglyphs on this two-mile hike.

At **Kartchner Caverns State Park** near Benson there is a nature walk and scavenger hunt from 1-3 pm. The Foot-hills Trail Loop is about 2-1/2 miles and you'll learn about the plants and their uses.

Lake Havasu State Park offers a ranger-led hike along Sunset Trail starting at 10 am. Meet at the trailhead in the main lot.

Lost Dutchman State Park is another of my favorites. The Superstitions are so beautiful, and have so much folklore and history! We did our New Years Day hike here last year and loved it.

For the 1st Day hike here, meet at 9 a.m. at the Saguaro day-use area for a hike on the Treasure Loop Trail where you'll learn about the plants and animals and the rich history of the Superstitions and the Lost Dutchman Mine. The hike is about 2-1/2 miles and will take a couple of hours.

One Of The Favorites

I know I keep saying this, but **Lyman Lake** is another of my favorite State Parks. We love to go up here and stay in one of the lakeside cabins for a few days, hike the trails, fish, and visit the little museum in St. John.



Petroglyphs At Lyman Lake

The 1st Day hike here is an all-day event where you just show up whenever and guide yourself along the Petroglyph Trail. We've hiked this trail many times and it takes you up a hill that has petroglyphs scattered all over.

There is even a small tunnel that my grandkids still love, and a glorious view from the summit. The Rangers have photographed ten petroglyphs, and you can pick up a scavenger hunt sheet from them before you hit the trail. Use your camera or cell phone to photograph those 10 petroglyphs then show them to the ranger when you get back.

Passes for a cabin, electric site, and day passes will be awarded to those who find the most petroglyphs. This one sounds particularly awesome, right?

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RV/Land Cruising

Grand Canyon's North Rim Closed Until May 15, 2016

The Arizona Department of Transportation has closed State Route 67 between Jacob Lake and the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. The North Rim is now closed to vehicle traffic for the winter. State Route 67 and all services on the North Rim are expected to re-open for the 2016 season on Sunday May 15, 2016.

The North Rim campground and yurt will still be available for winter camping and are accessible via inner canyon trails from the South Rim or by hiking, cross-country skiing, or snowshoeing 45 miles from Jacob Lake. To camp at the North Rim during the winter months, visitors need a backcountry permit, which can be obtained from the South Rim's Backcountry Information Center. Permit requests can be faxed year-round to 928-638-2125.

Backcountry permits for North Rim winter camping are also available at Pipe Springs National Monument west of Fredonia, Arizona and at the Bureau of Land Management Interagency Visitor Center in St. George, Utah.

For additional information on North Rim winter camping, please call the Backcountry Information Center at 928-638-7875 weekdays between 1 pm and 5 pm MST or visit the Park's backcountry web page at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/backcountry.htm>.

The South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park is open year-round. Additional Park information can be obtained by calling 928-638-7888 or by visiting the park website at www.nps.gov/grca.



Rock Tunnel On Petroglyph Hill Trail, Lyman Lake

STATE PARKS

Continued from page 12

More History:

Manmade And Natural

Another hike with petroglyphs is at **Patagonia Lake State Park** near Patagonia. Meet at 9 am at the Visitor Center, and hike the Petroglyph Site trail for about a 3-mile round trip. You'll see beautiful views of the lake, but you'll need to scramble up Petroglyph Hill. It's a moderately difficult hike.

At **Picacho Peak**, meet at the Harrington Loop at 9 am for a hike along the Calloway Trail with amazing views of the desert. It's about an hour hike and a little less than a mile and a half. It doesn't go to the summit, and it's rated for six-years-old and above. Picacho is the site of the western-most battle of the Civil War and is an amazing place for wildflowers in spring.

Join a naturalist at **Red Rock State Park** near Sedona for a one and a half hour walk starting at 10 am. You can learn about the natural history, archeology and geology of the Red Rock area. Maybe



Roper Lake

even learn about the vortexes!

Roper Lake State Park near Safford is another favorite of mine. Meet at the Dankworth Pond parking lot at 10 am for a moderate 2-hour hike that will let you explore the pond and the ancient village. It's a fun hike.

At **Slide Rock State Park** near Sedona you'll meet at 10 am at the parking lot for a two-hour hike where you'll learn about the homestead as well as the animals and plants.

Hikes Dependent On Weather

Tonto Natural Bridge State Park is a fantastic place any time of year. Our granddaughters never get tired of visiting this amazing place. There are several wonderful trails here, so after you join the guided hike, stick around and do the rest of the trails. You'll love them all, and you always have a really good chance of seeing javelina here.

Meet at 10 and hike down the Gowan Trail to the observation deck. This trail is a bit steep and has some stairs. The hikes are limited to 30 people so you need to register by calling 928-476-4202.

The hikes are all dependent on weather, and if it rains, they may be canceled. You can visit the State Parks Web page at azstateparks.com to download maps, get

directions to the parks, and find out more about them. You can also find out if pets are allowed and if the trail is handicapped accessible.

State Parks Scattered All Over Arizona

There are State Parks scattered all over Arizona, so no doubt you can find one within a couple hours of where you live. What better way to start the year? You might even be inspired to make a resolution to visit ALL of Arizona's State Parks in 2016! Here's a list of all the State Parks to get you started:

- **Western Region:** Alamo Lake, Buckskin Mountain, Cattail Cove, Lake Havasu, River Island, Yuma Quartermaster Depot, Yuma Territorial Prison
- **Northern Region:** Dead Horse Ranch, Fort Verde, Homolovi, Jerome, Red Rock, Riordan Mansion, Slide Rock, Verde River Greenway
- **Eastern Region:** Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Catalina, Fool Hollow Lake, Lost Dutchman, Lyman Lake, McFarland, Oracle, Tonto Natural Bridge
- **Southern Region:** Kartchner Caverns, Patagonia Lake, Picacho Peak, Roper Lake, San Rafael Ranch, Sonoita Creek, Tombstone Courthouse, Tubac Presidio

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Did You Get An OHV Over The Holidays?

Here are six items all riders need (plus some safety tips) before hopping behind the steering wheel or handlebars.

FROM AZGFD

Another year has passed and either you or someone you know somehow landed on Santa's "nice list" and may have received a new off-highway vehicle (OHV) during the holidays. But before jumping behind the steering wheel or handlebars to hit the trail, here's some equipment you'll need.

A helmet — Whether riding in a side-by-side utility-type vehicle (UTV), all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or dirt bike, all riders younger than 18 years old are legally required to wear a Department of Transportation-approved helmet. Helmets are strongly recommended for all riders older than 18.

Eye protection, such as riding goggles, is legally required for all riders if the OHV is not equipped with a windshield.

Riding gloves should be worn at all times to protect your hands while riding and enhance your grip while driving.

Wear proper clothing, including a long-sleeve shirt, pants and over-the-ankle boots.

Register your OHV and purchase an OHV Decal. All vehicles designed primarily for travel on unimproved terrain and weighing less than 1,800 pounds are required to have a \$25 OHV Decal to operate on public and state lands. License plates and decals are available at any Arizona Motor Vehicle Division location or at www.servicearizona.com.

Take a safety course. Safety courses teach new and veteran riders the techniques needed to safely operate and ride an OHV, including the importance of shifting their weight, maintaining control of the machine, evasive breaking and maneuvers. For information on where to take a course or to take one online, visit <https://azgfdportal.az.gov/Education/OHV>.

Always remember to **supervise children** under 16 years old and check to ensure your child is riding an age-appropriate vehicle. Machines may be too large and powerful for a child to safely operate. Parents are ultimately responsible for their children's safety.



Riders should **only carry the number of passengers** for which the machine is designed. One of the biggest causes of OHV-related injuries is riding with more than the recommended number of passengers. Proper riding techniques require operators to shift their weight and change position to keep control of the machine. Carrying a passenger can make riding difficult and change how the vehicle responds.

For additional OHV safety information, visit www.azgfd.gov/ohv.



Off-Highway Vehicle Renewal Notices Available Through Email

To increase customer service, the Arizona Game and Fish Department encourages off-highway vehicle (OHV) owners to sign up to receive their yearly OHV decal-renewal reminder through e-mail.

The decal program began in 2009 and requires all OHVs, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), side-by-sides and dirt bikes, to have a sticker if the vehicle is designed primarily for travel on unimproved roadways or trails. The sticker, which is placed on the upper left-hand corner of the license plate, is issued by the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division and is required to operate an OHV on public and state lands.

To ensure owners receive timely notice that their decal is about to expire, they can sign up to receive a reminder through e-mail, mail or both by visiting www.azgfd.gov/ohv and clicking "OHV Decal Requirements."

There are approximately 112,000 vehicles issued OHV decals within the state. By encouraging OHV owners to receive renewal reminders online, the department hopes to save on the approximately \$120,000 spent to print and mail notices each year.

Each sticker costs \$25. Thirty percent of the funds collected go into the state's Highway User Revenue Fund, which is distributed to counties and cities for road and highway maintenance. The remaining funds are split as follows:

- 60 percent to Arizona State Parks for grants and agreements, trail construction, development and maintenance, signage and maps.
- 35 percent to the Arizona Game and Fish Department for law enforcement, education and outreach.
- 5 percent to the Arizona State Land Department for mitigation, signage and enforcement.

For more information about the Arizona Game and Fish OHV program and on safety courses, visit www.azgfd.gov/ohv.

Boat Tours, Bird Walks Resume At Patagonia Lake State Park

The Visitor Center at Patagonia Lake State Park has opened for the season and will be open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. five days a week (Thursdays through Mondays) through March 2016. During the season, the Park offers programming that features boat tours and bird walks open to the public.

Bird walks are held on Fridays at 9 a.m. and are held at the Birding Kiosk at the east end of the campground. Bird walks are free with the regular park entrance fee or an Arizona State Parks Annual Pass.

Pre-registration is not required. Walks generally last about two to three hours and follow the birding trail at the east end of the lake, including the mesquite bosque and the cottonwood-willow riparian area along Sonoita Creek.

The popular Pontoon Boat tours are held on weekends during the season. The Avian Boat tours are held at 8:45 a.m. and 10 a.m., the Lake Discovery Tour is at 11:15 a.m., and the Twilight Boat Tour is also available but the time varies. The boat tours do not operate on select dates so visitors should call the park to confirm.



Patagonia Lake

The cost for each one-hour boat trip is \$5 per person, in addition to the park entrance fee. Reservations are required for boat tours and can be made by calling (520) 287-2791. If you are going on a boat trip, plan to arrive at the Visitor Center 15 minutes prior to departure.

For more information about the boat tours or walks call the Visitor Center at (520) 287-2791 or visit AZStateParks.com/parks/PALA. Patagonia Lake State Park is located in southeastern Arizona at 400 Patagonia Lake Road in Patagonia. The park entrance fee starts at \$10 for vehicles with up to 4 adults. The camping fees are \$17 to \$25 depending on the camping site needed.

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Receives National Park Foundation Transportation Grant

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is one of 113 national parks selected to receive a 2015 field-trip grant from the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks. Grant funds are being used towards providing transportation by boat for approximately 200 local fourth grade students through Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to visit Rainbow Bridge National Monument.

The project is being completed through partnerships between Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Desert View Elementary, Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas, and the Glen Canyon Natural History Association.

Boat Ride Finale

The boat ride to Rainbow Bridge Na-

tional Monument will serve as the grand finale of a year-long educational partnership between Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Desert View Elementary School, entitled "Bridging the Gap." Fourth grade students will participate in ranger-led, classroom-based activities throughout the 2015-2016 school year in order to prepare for the field trip.

The majority of students in this Title I school are members of the Native American tribes that consider Rainbow Bridge to be a sacred site. They will have the opportunity to explore their cultural connections through participation in hands-on natural and cultural resource-based learning activities. Rangers have already begun presenting the first of several classroom-based activities for the students.



Favorite 'Customers' — Kids

"We serve many people but our favorite customers are kids, especially those in our neighborhood. We are excited to provide this opportunity to local students who might not otherwise be able to visit

See **GRANT**, Page 18



Fort Verde State Historic Park Victorian Decorations Will Remain Through Jan. 3

Through Jan. 3, 2016, Fort Verde State Historic Park will be decorated with Victorian decorations for the holidays. Visitors can glance into the past and see how those who once resided at Fort Verde celebrated Christmas on the frontier. Christmas trees and fireplace mantels will be adorned with unique Victorian decorations, while wreaths and garlands help spread the holiday cheer.

Fort Verde State Historic Park is the best-preserved example of an Indian Wars-period fort in Arizona. Spanning from 1865 through 1890 Camp Lincoln, Camp Verde and finally, Fort Verde were home to officers, doctors, families, enlisted men and scouts.

Today, visitors can experience three historic homes, the Commanding Officer's Quarters, Bachelors' Quarters and Doctor's Quarters on Officer's row, all furnished in the 1880s period and holiday grace. These Arizona treasures are currently listed on the National and State Register of Historic Places due to their unique architectural and historic significance. In the former Administration building, the Park offers visitors interpretive exhibits with period artifacts on military life, Indian Scouts and Indian Wars history.

For more information call (928) 567-3275 or visit AZStateParks.com/parks/FOVE. Fort Verde State Historic Park is located at 125 E. Holloman Street in Camp Verde. Park Entrance Fee is \$5 per person for those aged 14 and older, \$2 for children aged 6 to 13 and children younger than 6 are free.

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You'll Have A Friend For Life

Dog adoption and cat adoption saves lives. Adopt a dog or adopt a cat and you'll have a friend for life. Contact us, or contact another local humane society, animal shelter or the SPCA.

Lost Our Home Pet Foundation serves the state of Arizona with issues involving pets and families facing eviction or foreclosure due to the current housing crisis. We offer help in finding temporary housing for pets of families in this situation, as well as fostering and adoption for pets abandoned due to their families being displaced.

Please visit our Web site at www.lostourhome.org for further information.

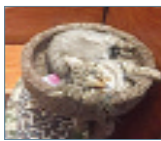
"Our mission is to rescue, foster, heal, adopt and advocate for dogs or cats who have been abandoned or left behind due to foreclosure or eviction. To provide options for families to keep their pets. To be a source for real estate professionals when they encounter a pet in need, while inspiring community action on their behalf."

We have adoptable dogs and cats at our shelter —

2323 S. Hardy Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282
Tues.-Fri., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

We also have adoptable cats everyday at Petsmart at Priest and Elliot and various other adoption venues each weekend.

Lost Our Home Pet Foundation does require each potential adopter to fill out an application and submit to a home visit



Ally, Domestic Medium-Hair, Female, Adult



Suzee, Rat Terrier, Female



Chuckle Dukes, Domestic Shorthair, Male, Adult



Vader, German Shepherd, Male, Adult

prior to adoption from us. We also ask our adopters to sign an adoption contract and pay an adoption fee at the time of adoption.

These requirements help us to ensure a positive outcome for everyone involved, including our pets, as well as to continue to help other needy pets. We will also do periodic follow-ups and offer help with any post-adoption issues that might arise.

What is the difference between adopting a dog, adopting a cat, adopting a kitten or adopting a puppy versus getting dogs for sale, cats for sale, puppies for sale or

FUR AND FEATHER

Those Who Help Need Your Help

It's cold in the winter in Pie Town, N.M., and this animal sanctuary badly needs your help. Please go online to help those who help so many of our four-legged friends.

Fur and Feather Animal Assistance is a permanent residential facility for dogs and cats designed for comfort, well-being, and CARE FOR LIFE. Their no-kill sanctuary is located in rural western New Mexico.

Established in the fall of 2003, Fur and Feather's mission is rescuing lost, abandoned, or unwanted animals in Catron County and the surrounding New Mexico communities.

Fur and Feather provides a loving and stable environment at our sanctuary for these animals to live in. We care for each animal through the adoption process or through old age. Fur and Feather has provided homes to pets whose owners can no longer take care of them due to illness,

death in the family, or financial crisis.

We are also part of a network of shelters that provides a safe haven for the pets of victims of domestic violence. Our residents include disabled and elderly dogs, plus many healthy, abandoned and relinquished dogs of all sizes, types, and personalities.

Every dog and cat that passes through our hands is spayed or neutered. To date, we've been able to spay or neuter over 1,500 pets.

OUR MISSION: To alleviate animal suffering by providing sanctuary from abuse, neglect, and homelessness; to end the killing of healthy animals as a method of population control; to teach that animals are intrinsically valuable, worthy of respect, compassion and care. Fur and Feather Animal Assistance, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For more information, contact <http://furandfeather.org/>

kittens for sale from a dog breeder or a cat breeder? When someone is breeding puppies or breeding kittens, they are creating new dogs and cats who need homes.

Some people are interested in a very specific breed of dog, cat, puppy or kitten and they think the only way to find that specific breed is to buy a dog for sale or buy a cat for sale from a puppy breeder or a kitten breeder. Yet, animal shelters are filled with dogs and cats who

must find homes.

So, rather than buying a dog or puppy for sale from a dog breeder or buying a cat or kitten for sale from a cat breeder, we encourage people to adopt a dog, adopt a cat, adopt a puppy or adopt a kitten at their local animal shelter, SPCA, humane society or pet-rescue group.

For more information, call (602) 445-7387 or email adoptions@lostourhome.org.

A SALUTE TO THE STARS

Arizona Aqua Stars Swim To Success

Since 1983, the Arizona Aqua Stars Team has been developing girls and women into nationally accomplished athletes in the sport of synchronized swimming. The past 10 years have seen the AAS team becoming a national force in synchronized swimming. The team has been represented at seven National Age Group Championship Titles and 10 placements on USA National Teams.

The AAS philosophy is that all swimmers, young or mature, develop to their full potential and nurture a lifelong love for the sport and wellness in general.

Becky Thompson, coach, says, "The Masters Team continues to grow and has gone from a nine-person team up to 13 in the last month. We are always looking for women to join our team. You don't have

to have any prior synchronized swimming experience although basic swimming skills and feeling comfortable in deep water without floatation device are necessary.

"Plan to come, get a great workout and make new friends. The AAS's program is open to girls and women ages 6 through 60+."

For more information about the Arizona Aqua Stars Adult Masters Team and the programs AAS offers, contact Head Coach Katie LaBounty at klabounty22@gmail.com or 602-753-7368. Club information is also available on the AAS website at www.azaquastars.org or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ArizonaAquaStars>.

THE BEGINNING OF JOUSTING

Come See The Classical Sport At The Ren Faire

The origins of jousting are believed to be in classical Rome, but the "sport" rose to its greatest popularity in Europe by the 1400s. It all evolved from mock battles in which knights on horseback, assisted by foot soldiers, formed into teams and charged at each other in some wide meadow.

The result was a "melee" (the word hasn't changed in a millennium) of shattered lances, clanging swords, flailing arms and legs — astride and afoot — that went on all day and into the night. The earliest recorded melee was in 1066 A.D., though mock combat had probably been around for at least a century by then.

His four other books include three on fishing: *The Right Angle*; *The Fishing Club: Brothers and Sisters of the Angle*; and *Fish Fights: A Hall of Fame Quest*; plus a motivational book (co-authored with Scott Friedman) *Secrets From the Delphi Café: Unlocking the Code to Happiness*.



BOOK

Continued from page 8

he's been an active participant, sponsor and host of numerous Redbone Celebrity Fishing Tournaments raising millions of dollars to find a cure for cystic fibrosis, along with many other meaningful non-profit charities.

At first, the battles served more to hone fighting skills than to provide popular diversion. But in peaceful times, a knight needed a way to retain his skills. The Jousts were great money-makers for the victors; instead of claiming mere points, the winning team held the losers for ransom, often accepting their horses and armor as payment.

The many deaths which resulted from such "sport" let Popes and English kings to ban jousting tournaments, though English subjects often persisted and were repeatedly excommunicated. The tournaments had become a featured attraction at any kind of market faire or other significant gathering. At the height of their popularity, jousts rivaled a state fair, Super Bowl, rock concert and Oktoberfest all rolled into one.

By the middle 1200s, the joust emerged as the favored way to prove which of two (or more) knights was better. Most contests were a "Joust a Plaisir" (for pleasure) in which a winner was declared on the basis of points scored, though some were still conducted "a l'Outrance" (to the death). In the sporting version, the knights' swords were dulled and their lances tipped with "coronals" (little crowns) to prevent their penetrating a joint in the armor. Some authorities believe that the lances were deliberately weakened, a precaution still in effect today.

Annually, jousting is celebrated with daily tournaments at the Arizona Renaissance Festival & Artisan Marketplace, Feb. 6-March 27, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., weekends and Presidents' Day.

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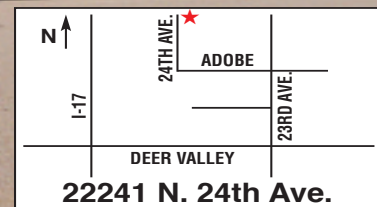
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GRANT

Continued from page 14

Rainbow Bridge National Monument," said Acting Glen Canyon Superintendent, Billy Shott.

The project would not be possible without the generous support of local partners Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas and the Glen Canyon Natural History Association. Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas is graciously providing their tour boats and crew at a greatly reduced rate for the field trip. The Glen Canyon Natural History Association is providing additional financial and logistical support.

Partnering

"We are delighted to partner with the National Park Foundation on the Bridging the Gap program to provide over 200 local fourth graders with an opportunity to experience the wonder of Lake Powell and Rainbow Bridge," said Scott Meginn, vice president of operations for Lake

Powell Resorts and Marinas. "We firmly believe in the importance of educating children about the history of our national parks and want to encourage them to experience all our parks have to offer."

"Connecting America's youth to the historical assets on our public lands is inspiring work," said Glen Canyon Natural History Association Director, Karen Dallett. "Glen Canyon NHA sees this program as an important piece of our mission."

'Open Outdoors For Kids'

As part of the National Park Foundation's Open Outdoors for Kids program, this grant (funded in part by Disney) provides funding for materials and logistics to make national park field trips, citizen science projects, Junior Ranger activities, experiential learning opportunities, and more possible.

Including this year's grantees, National Park Foundation grants have made it possible for more than 300,000 students

to visit national parks.

"Through programs like Open Outdoors for Kids and the Find Your Park/ Encuentra Tu Parque movement, we are creating the next generation of park stewards, connecting youth across the country to these special places and inspiring their natural curiosity and love for them," said Will Shafroth, president and CEO of the National Park Foundation.

Building Future Stewards

"By sharing parks with kids at such a young age, we're building a strong generation of park stewards who will care for and protect these treasured places into the next 100 years," said Jonathan B. Jarvis, director of the National Park Service. "Thanks to our philanthropic partner, the National Park Foundation, we're able to strengthen and enrich our parks through the lasting bond these experiences foster."

For the full list of park grantees, and their projects, visit www.nationalparks.org/ticket-adventure.

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APPOINTMENT

Continued from page 1

asm for year-round outdoors activities is shared by his friends and family.

Sparks is a member of the Pima County Bar Association, the State Bar of Arizona, the State Bar of Texas and the American Bar Association. He has received numerous awards and recognition for his community service, including a Special Recognition from the State Bar of Arizona and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for pro bono services in consumer cases (2008), and was named Pima County Bar Asso-

BURRO

Continued from page 1

critical wildlife habitat, crowding existing native species and fouling waterholes relied upon by native bighorn sheep, mule deer, Gambel's quail and migratory songbirds.

Desert wildlife species typically consume only those parts of plants that easily grow back. However, burros eat the bark and remove entire limbs from trees and consume native grasses down to the roots, preventing them from returning. In some cases, habitat damage by burros is so severe that native wildlife has been displaced from their home territories throughout western and central Arizona.

Too Much At Stake

As the agency responsible for conserving and protecting Arizona's wildlife, there's too much at stake for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department to sit idly by.

Our federal leaders and Congress must realize that this is a very serious issue that negatively affects Arizona wildlife and habitat. Unless action is taken soon, it may take a lifetime to reverse the damage burros continue to cause to Arizona's critical wildlife habitat.

Unfortunately, it may take legal action by the Game and Fish Commission to help our federal agencies to wake up and Congress to fulfill their obligations to Arizona's habitat and wildlife.



ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

MANAGING TODAY FOR WILDLIFE TOMORROW

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ciation's Outstanding Pro Bono Attorney (2005). A popular public speaker, this appointee has taught classes and made presentations on various aspects of the legal profession.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Sparks earned his Juris Doctor degree from John Marshall Law School in 1972, ranking eighth in his class. He also re-

ceived a Certificate of Completion from Harvard Business School in Government Policy and Management.

Sparks has been appointed for a five-year term, effective Jan. 18, 2016, to replace outgoing Commissioner Robert Mansell, whose term is expiring. His appointment requires confirmation by the Arizona Senate.

POWERBOAT SALES

Continued from page 1

All These Are 'Powerboats'

The powerboat category is comprised of outboard boats, wake sport boats, inboard cruisers, sterndrive boats and jet boats, as well as personal watercraft, which includes such brands as Sea-Doo, WaveRunner and Jet Ski. Most powerboat categories experienced year-over-year growth through the second quarter of 2015, including: jet boats, up 18.1 percent; wake sport boats, up 12.1 percent; deck boats, up 11.3 percent; personal watercraft, up 8.2 percent; pontoon boats, up 6.6 percent; and, bass boats, up 5.3 percent.

Other fiberglass outboard boats (including center console boats, sportfishing boats, and flats boats) were up 11.1 percent, and other aluminum outboard boats (including all-purpose fishing boats and jon boats) were up 5.8 percent.

Saltwater Sales Up Too

Sales of larger boats, particularly those equipped for offshore fishing, are on the rise following a sharp decline during the recession. Sales of new powerboats 40 feet and above were up 9.4 percent through June.

Noted Dammrich, "The saltwater category is hot and has seen double-digit growth for three years, likely given growing popularity of the sport coupled with the trend to make what used to be exclu-

sively fishing boats into more versatile family day boats that can also be used for hardcore fishing.

The innovations we're seeing in this category are bringing out buyers who want the best of both worlds — an eventful day of fishing and a relaxing day cruising with friends and family."

Winter Boats Shows Begin

Dammrich added, "Sales are up in most segments and with larger boats on the move, it's helping to lift the industry and support thousands of marine industry jobs nationwide — numerous people are employed when just one large boat or yacht is built given how precise and vast these craft are, so when multiple boats are sold you can imagine the jobs this sustains, and smaller, entry-level boats were the first to return post-recession, so it's encouraging to see sales up across nearly all boat categories as we look to the winter boat show selling season and year ahead."

January marks the start of boat show season across North America. Outdoor enthusiasts can expect new model and product launches from marine manufacturers, as they unveil the latest boats, engines and accessories. All boats, products and gear are for sale at winter shows, in order for buyers to be ready to launch in time for the spring boating season.

Winter boat shows are a leading sales venue for the boating industry and are among several indicators for sales and buyer trends for the coming year.

BACKBONE

Continued from page 1

viewed these boater and angler tax dollars as a way to solve their own budget problems. BoatUS along with the ABA made certain this reauthorization ensures that the money boaters and anglers pay stays intact for the intended use: saving lives, keeping our fish stocks healthy and making it easier to enjoy the water."

Podlich went on to state, "We appreciate the leadership of the multiple House and Senate Committees that included the Trust Fund in the FAST Act. Congressman Bill Shuster, Senator James Inhofe, Congressman Peter DeFazio, Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator John Thune and Senator Bill Nelson are all to be commended for their continuing support of America's boaters and anglers."

TROUGHS

Continued from page 10

they are controlled burns, tree thinning or water tanks, the projects need help for completion.

The pictures here are from the Twin Buttes Catchment that was installed in the spring of 2014. The catchment is located north of Roosevelt Lake and was deemed critical to mule deer, javelina, bear and various other species.

Water does not magically stay in Arizona without human intervention. This water happened to be critical for an abundance of wildlife and the Arizona Deer Association was happy to be a part of this process.

Dedication Of Volunteers

The next time you see one of these creations out in the middle of a forest, you can understand the complexity of the process and the dedication of the volunteers who made it happen.

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