



# Western Outdoor Times

FREE

## Arizona Boating & Watersports

TM



April - May 2014

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

# Have Fun On The Water – Safely!



**Tackle & Target**

Pages 7-9

**Western Wildlife**

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**Land Cruising**

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National **SAFE BOATING WEEK** May 17-23



Photo by Bob Brown, Media Director



# Spring Into Safety This Season



## Numbers Tell The Safety Story

### Boating Safety Facts

All figures are from the U.S. Coast Guard's 2012 Recreational Boating Safety Statistics, the latest official record of reported recreational boating accidents. The full report is available online at: [www.USCGBoating.org/statistics/accident\\_statistics.aspx](http://www.USCGBoating.org/statistics/accident_statistics.aspx).

Drowning was reported as the cause

See **NUMBERS** on page 14

### SAFE A LIFE (OR SEVERAL)

## A Message From The Executive Director, National Safe Boating Council

It's tempting not to wear a life jacket while on the water, especially on nice days. You want to get some sun, you think you'll get too hot, or you think you're a strong swimmer. But whether you're going fishing or just enjoying a ride on the boat, there's never an excuse not to wear a life jacket. You can have a great time, while choosing to always wear a life jacket and boating responsibly. K

At the National Safe Boating Council, we believe life jacket wear is the simplest strategy to stay safe while boating, fishing, paddling and more. According to recent U.S. Coast Guard statistics, drowning was the reported cause of death in almost three-fourths of all boating fatalities in 2012. Of those, 85 percent were reported as not wearing their life jackets.

The North American Safe Boating Campaign is a yearlong effort in the U.S. and Canada focused on spreading the message of boating safety and the critical importance of consistent life jacket wear each and every time on the water. In addition to life jacket



Anna Strumillo

wear, the campaign also reminds boaters of the importance of boating safely, including taking a boating safety course and never boating under the influence, knowing navigational rules and having a proper lookout. Simply known as Wear It!, the annual campaign kicks off the weekend before Memorial Day with National Safe Boating Week

and continues throughout the year.

Thank you to all our new and returning partners as we continue in this important mission. We are happy to report that all 50 states have adopted the Wear It! message to promote safe boating. We look forward to

See **MESSAGE** on page 13

## Boating Safety Advocates Remind Boaters to 'Wear It!'



Louis Monier

*Life jacket wear is an effective and simple life-saving strategy for safe recreational boating.*

Boating safety advocates across the U.S. and Canada are teaming up to promote safe and responsible boating, including consistent life jacket wear each and every time boaters are on the water, during National Safe Boating Week, held from May 17-23, 2014.

National Safe Boating Week is the official launch of the 2014 North American Safe Boating Campaign. This yearlong campaign

See **WEAR IT** on page 14



### ON THE COVER

## Congratulations, Lake Havasu Boat Show!

Once again, the Lake Havasu Boat Show has been a great success. In addition to over 50 brands of boats — from fishing to performance sportboats (and all types in between) — special attractions such as the Water Car and the Aqua Lily Pad made this a truly special 2014 event.

Shown on the cover (photo courtesy of Bob Brown, Media Directions) is one of the newest ways to enjoy the water, literally on a portable floating island where you can rest, kick-back, tan, and use for a countless number of your favorite water activities. For more information, email [aqualilypad@yahoo.com](mailto:aqualilypad@yahoo.com).

## Outdoor Enthusiasts To Gather In Prescott

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to be a part of the 2nd Annual Go Outdoors Event, taking place Saturday and Sunday, June 7 and 8 in Prescott, Ariz.

The Go Outdoors! Event and the Yavapai Mile High Classic Archery Shoot have quickly become one of the most exciting interactive and educational events in Arizona.

We are excited to partner with the Gran-

See **PRESCOTT** on page 14

## Fun, Adventure, Great Memories Are Just Ahead

*Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop set for April 25-27.*

Don't miss the fun and adventure of the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) workshop April 25-27 at Friendly Pines Camp in Prescott. Space is limited for this popular all-inclusive women's weekend in the pines, so reserve a spot now. BOW is sponsored by The Arizona Wildlife Federation in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

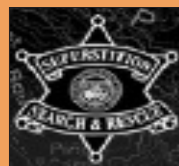
Horsemanship, outdoor photography, birding and hiking are just a few of the classes offered. Learn and practice archery,

fly-fishing, Dutch oven cooking, shotgun, rifle, and pistol shooting. Choose from more than 30 different workshops and classes than range from relaxing to adrenaline-pumping. BOW provides the equipment, so guests can try new sports and skip the expense of buying equipment.

### Learning Is The Goal

The BOW workshop introduces women to outdoors skills in a relaxed, non-threatening

See **WORKSHOP** on page 14



## Safety

### SSAR Has Begun 'Project Blue'

Superstition Search & Rescue's Project Blue is an effort to mark and catalog existing auto wrecks along area highways/Page 11

## Wildlife

### Warm Weather Brings Out The Snakes, Etc!

Residents of the desert should always remember one simple rule when the weather begins to warm: Know where you are placing your hands and feet/Page 10



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# DOWNSTREAM Events Calendar Beginning Mid April

## BEYOND ARIZONA

**YELLOWTAIL DERBY:** May 4-June 7 — See story on page 8.

## BOATING

**NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK:** May 17-23 — See stories starting on page 1.

**LUCAS OIL DRAG BOAT RACES:** May 2-4 — Lucas Oil Drag Boat Races — Rotary Park, three days of fast boats on the beautiful blue waters of Lake Havasu, gates open at 7 am, <http://www.lucasoil-dragboats.com>

**SALT RIVER WHITEWATER RAFTING SEASON:** May 1-31 — Globe; Salt River Whitewater Rafting Season - White Mountain Apache Reservation, (not the tubing section of river), half-day, full-day, and overnight wilderness trips of up to 5 days, <http://www.azroa.org/>

**LAKE HAVASU OPEN OF WATERCROSS:** June 21-22 — Championship PWC racing returns to Lake Havasu. IJSBA-sanctioned event with some of the best PWC racers from the Western U.S. and Canada compete for points. Two days of closed-course racing. Location: Lake Havasu State Park, Lot 4 (formerly Windsor 4) Admission: Free to spectators. Contact: Ross Wallach; 310-318-4012; [rpmracingent@yahoo.com](mailto:rpmracingent@yahoo.com); [www.rpmracingent.com](http://www.rpmracingent.com). Direct URL: <http://www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/1705/lake-havasu-open-of-watercross/>

**KEN SMITH MEMORIAL DRAG BOAT NATIONALS (LUCAS OIL DRAG BOAT RACES):** May 2-4, 9 a.m. — Lucas Oil's famous professional drag boat race series returns to Lake Havasu. Racers anticipate some of the fastest runs ever, especially in the Top Fuel Hydro category where speeds have already surpassed the 260 MPH mark in 3.3 seconds. Rotary Community Park; 1400 S. Smoke-tree Ave. Admission: Friday \$10; Saturday \$20; Sunday \$20; Weekend Pass \$40; Teens \$5 off; Pre-Teen Free with Paid Adult, Todd Taylor 928-230-1769; [taylor@lucasoil-dragboats.com](mailto:taylor@lucasoil-dragboats.com); [www.lucasoil-dragboats.com](http://www.lucasoil-dragboats.com); [www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/1249/ken-smith-memorial-drag-boat-nationals-lucas-oil-drag-boat-races/](http://www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/1249/ken-smith-memorial-drag-boat-nationals-lucas-oil-drag-boat-races/)

**LAKE HAVASU CITY:** April 23-26 — 16th Annual Desert Storm Poker Run & Shootout — Thompson Bay, see some of the fastest, most impressive boats to grace the waves, events include a show and shine on Main Street on Thursday where you can view the boats up close, take a look at the massive motors putting out thousands of horsepower and talk to the drivers, 602-578-5975 or <http://www.lakeracerllc.com> or <http://www.golakehavasu.com>

**TUCSON SAILING CLUB'S CABO REGATTA:** May 13-15

**GLOBE:** Through May 31 — Salt River Whitewater Rafting Season - White Mountain Apache Reservation, (not the tubing section of river), half-day, full-day, and overnight wilderness trips of up to 5 days, <http://www.azroa.org/>



## CAMPING/RVING/ AZ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

**2ND ANNUAL GO OUTDOORS EVENT:** Saturday and Sunday, June 7 and 8 — in Prescott, Ariz.; see story this issue  
**PRESCOTT:** April 25-27 — Becoming an Outdoors Woman - Camp Friendly Pines, 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, \$235 includes meals, lodging and classes, 480-644-0077 or <http://www.azwildlife.org>

**PHOENIX: CHIHULY:** into May 2014 — Desert Botanical Garden, the exhibition will feature multiple installations and artworks on view throughout the Garden's trails by artist Dale Chihuly, Chihuly is credited with revolutionizing the Studio Glass movement and elevating the perception of the glass medium from the realm of craft to fine art, <http://www.dbg.org/>



## CLASSES/SEMINARS

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

## COMMUNITY

**TEMPE COMMUNITY MARKET:** Sundays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. until June — 620 N. Mill Ave. (under the freeway); free

**FLAGSTAFF EARTH DAY 2014:** Flagstaff Earth Day 2014: April 19 — City Hall South Lawn, live bands, local food, vendors and exhibitors, free, 11:30 am — 4 pm, 928-213-2154 or [www.flagstaff.az.gov/index.aspx?nid=1439](http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/index.aspx?nid=1439)

## FISHING

**31ST ANNUAL WESTERN OUTDOOR NEWS LAKE HAVASU STRIPER DERBY:** May 17-18 — Nautical Inn Resort, 2/person teams, \$100,000 in prizes, the largest of its kind anywhere in the west, perfect for novice and family teams, entry includes event shirt & hat, team goodie bag, Sat. BBQ & beach part and Sunday awards ceremony, 949-366-0030 ext. 2 or [www.golakehavasu.com](http://www.golakehavasu.com) or <http://www.wonews.com>

**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

**CALENDAR OF OUTDOOR EVENTS:** Ongoing — [www.azgfd.gov/OutdoorSkills](http://www.azgfd.gov/OutdoorSkills) Google calendar.

**FRIENDS OF NRA EAST VALLEY BANQUET AND AUCTION:** May 3, 5 p.m. — Windemere Hotel and Conference Center, 5750 E. Main St., Mesa, Ariz.

**2ND ANNUAL GO OUTDOORS EVENT:** May 7-8 — Prescott, Ariz.; Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, (928) 777-0532; Fax (928) 515-7534; [ahudson@ypit.com](mailto:ahudson@ypit.com); [www.Frontier-Village.com](http://www.Frontier-Village.com)

**NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY:** Sept. 27 — See story on page 9

## WATERSPORTS

### Diving:

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

### Swimming:

**13TH ANNUAL TEMPE INTERNATIONAL TRIATHLON:** May 18 — Tempe Town Lake, the oldest triathlon at Tempe Town Lake and is an Arizona Classic, offers a completely shaded transition area, a beach start, custom finisher medals and women's specific sized tech T-shirts, swim 1500 meters, bike 24.9 miles, run 10 km; or swim ¼ mile, bike 10 miles, run 3.1 miles, 6:30 am, <http://www.trifind.net>

**INCARE SPLASH & DASH:** May 15 — Tempe Town Lake; Presented by Triple Sports, Splash 750m or 1500m/Dash 5km; **Swim Only** 750m or 1500m, a unique event with a relaxed atmosphere that is suitable for all levels of athlete, \$35-40, 6 pm, <http://www.4peaksracing.com/>

**ESPIRIT DE SHE TRIATHLON:** May 4 — Tempe Beach Park, women only triathlon, swim 750 meters, bike 12.4 miles, run 3.1 miles, Esprit de She Super Sprint Triathlon: women only, triathlon: swim 23 miles, bike 6.64 miles, run 1.69 miles, 6:30 am, [www.trifind.com/az.html](http://www.trifind.com/az.html)

**IRONCARE SPLASH & DASH:** May 1 — Ironcare Splash & Dash + Swim Only — Race 3 — Tempe Town Lake, presented by Triple Sports, Splash 750m or 1500m/Dash 5km; **Swim Only** 750m or 1500m, a unique event with a relaxed atmosphere that is suitable for all levels of athlete, \$35-40, 6 pm, <http://www.4peakracing.com>

**THE BUCKET LIST TRIATHLON:** May 10, 6:30-9:30 a.m. — Novice to experienced triathletes compete in and around the Bridgewater Channel — **Swim/Bike/Run.** London Bridge Beach: Beachcomb Blvd. on the Island; free to spectators; see website for prices to run the triathlon; Jonathan Grinder 928-453-3444; [racedirector@tucsonracing.com](mailto:racedirector@tucsonracing.com); [www.tucsonracing.com/Bucket%20List.htm](http://www.tucsonracing.com/Bucket%20List.htm); [www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/643/the-bucket-list-triathlon/](http://www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/643/the-bucket-list-triathlon/)

**ROCKHOPPER TRIATHLON AT IRONCARE SPLASH & DASH + SWIM ONLY — RACE 2:** April 19 — Tempe Town Lake, presented by Triple Sports, swim 1000m, 12 mile mt bike and 5K trail run; **Swim Only** 1000m or 2000m or 4000m, bring along your mt bike and trail shoes for this one or enjoy a swim only option, \$35-40, 7:30 am, <http://www.4peaksracing.com/>

## WILDLIFE-RELATED

**HUMMINGBIRD BANDING AT SAN PEDRO HOUSE:** May 3, 10 and 18 — Hummingbird Banding at San Pedro House, Sierra Vista — get a close-up look at these tiny travelers as staff and volunteers from the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory capture, band, measure, and release them as part of long-term studies of the bird life of this internationally important migration route, free, 4-6 pm, 520-417-6960 or 520-432-1388 or <http://www.visitsierravista.com/> or <http://www.sabo.org>

**INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY CELEBRATION:** May 10 — Wickenburg - Hassayampa River Preserve; Join for an early celebration of the journey of migratory birds between their

wintering grounds to the south and their breeding grounds in North America, do-cent led bird walk, bird banding demonstrations, presentation by Rich Glinski author of Raptors of Arizona, \$5 fee includes trail access all day, 12 and under free, 8 am — noon, 928-684-2772 or <http://www.nature.org/arizona/preserves>

**20TH ANNUAL PAYSON WILDLIFE FAIR:** May 10 — 20th Annual Payson Wildlife Fair — Green Valley Park, wildlife-based activities, parents and kids can fish, play games and get a close-up look at wildlife, coop between the Arizona Game and Fish Dept., Mogollon Sporting Assn, US Forest Service & Parks & Rec., free, 9 am — 6 pm, 928-947-5242 ext 7 or <http://www.paysonparks.com> or <http://www.paysonrimcountry.com>

**SOUTHWEST WINGS SPRING FLING:** May 7-10 — Sierra Vista; Southwest Wings Spring Fling - a series of workshops and outings for serious birders who want an intensive birding experience, focuses on birds in the area present during the spring nesting season, birders may see species like the Elegant Trogon, Violet Crowned Hummingbird and up to 5 species of owls, guided trips to some of the most famous birding spots in the U.S. including the San Pedro River, Garden, Sawmill, Sheelite, Huachuca, Ramsey, Carr, Miller, Madera and Ash Canyons, California Gulch, Patagonia and the Chiricahuas, <http://www.swwings.org>

**SPRING BUTTERFLY EXHIBIT:** May 1-11 — Phoenix - Desert Botanical Garden; visitors can expect to see hundreds of butterflies housed in a spacious 36-by-80-foot flight enclosed lush garden that recreates a habitat most appealing to these fragile fliers, 9:30 am — 5 pm, 480-941-1225 or <http://www.dbg.org>

**14TH ANNUAL FIESTA DE LAS AVES:** May 1-3 — Sierra Vista; annual birding festival held in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day, includes birding tours in Southeastern Arizona and Northern Sonora, Mexico, hummingbird banding and river walks, 520-432-1388 or <http://www.sabo.org>

**SANTA CRUZ NATURE & HERITAGE FESTIVAL:** May 1-4 — Rio Rico-Espendor Resort; birding trips to Mexico and trips in the Southern Arizona region, a walking tour of Ambos Nogales (both sides of the border) and a visit to the new Art Museum in Nogales, Sonora, <http://www.santacruznatureheritage.org/>

**COTTONWOOD:** April 24-27 — 14th Annual Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival - Dead Horse Ranch State Park, field trips, local tours, workshops & seminars, educational activities for kids, exhibits, key-note speaker, entertainment, \$, 928-282-2202 or [www.BirdyVerde.org](http://www.BirdyVerde.org)

*Editor's Note: Please submit announcements for AZBW/IWOT's calendar of events — "Downstream" — to [editor@azbw.com](mailto:editor@azbw.com). To guarantee placement, as room allows, items must be received by the 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.*

## IN MEMORY

Howard Hardy  
Oct. 20, 1926-  
April 6, 2013



# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## Update your boating safety knowledge

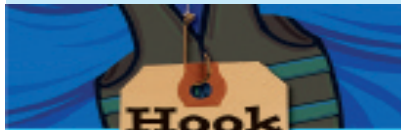
**Arizona Game and Fish: Boaters must "Clean, Drain and Dry"**

**Citations issued to stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species**

PHOENIX – To protect Arizona lakes, rivers and streams from the devastating effects of invasive species, Arizona Game and Fish laws require boaters and anglers to "Clean, Drain and Dry" their boats and pull the boat plug when leaving any affected waterway. **Failure to do so may result in a citation for the boat owner and possible fines.**

Game and Fish has stepped up enforcement because invasive species have found their way into several Arizona lakes and rivers after being transported from one body of water to another. Inattention by boaters has already introduced invasive species such as quagga mussels, New Zealand mudsnails, didymo, giant salvinia, apple snails, whirling disease and Largemouth Bass Virus throughout the state.

To help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species, it is illegal for boaters and anglers to transport water, live fish or fish body parts from one body of water to another. Law enforcement officers will cite boaters who fail to wipe down their boat, pull the plug, and drain all water whenever leaving an AIS-affected water.



**Hook Up**  
With the Right Gear



- Boat registration
- Life jackets for all
- Throwable PFD
- Fire extinguisher (B-1)
- Horn, whistle or bell
- Navigation lights

Visit [www.azgfd.gov/boating](http://www.azgfd.gov/boating) for additional boating tips and details on free boating safety courses in your area.

## Is your boat ready for summer? Are YOU? Brush up on your boating skills at one of our Statewide Boating Safety Education Classes.

April 2014				
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game and Fish Department	April 2 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.	Arizona Game and Fish Department HQ 5000 W. Carefree Hwy Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Coast Guard Auxiliary	April 12 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Marine Max 1840 E Broadway Road Tempe	\$20	(602) 555-8655
US Power Squadron	April 12 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	US Power Squadron 6102 Lago Grande Drive Fort Mohave	\$30	(928) 768-1522 bar1@citilink.net
Arizona Game and Fish Department	April 19 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Paddle Class)	Arizona Game and Fish Department HQ 5000 W. Carefree Hwy Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Coast Guard Auxiliary	April 19 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Bass Pro Shop 1133 N Dobson Rd. Mesa	\$30	(602) 490-8076
Arizona Game and Fish Department	April 19 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility 2176 McCulloch Blvd., Suite 8 Lake Havasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Coast Guard Auxiliary	April 19 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Cabela's 9380 W Glendale Ave. Glendale	\$25	(623) 293-1637
Arizona Game and Fish Department	April 26 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game and Fish Department HQ 5000 W. Carefree Hwy Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Coast Guard Auxiliary	April 26 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Cabela's 9380 W Glendale Ave. Glendale	\$25	(623) 293-1637

May 2014				
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game and Fish Department	May 7 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.	Arizona Game and Fish Department HQ 5000 W. Carefree Hwy Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Coast Guard Auxiliary	May 10 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Marine Max 1840 E Broadway Road Tempe	\$20	(602) 555-8655
Chandler	May 10 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Environmental Education Center 4050 Chandler Heights Rd. Chandler	\$3 for Residents \$5 Others	(480) 782-2894 Chandleraz.gov/registration

## Renew Online. It's Easy!

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

### Follow us on Facebook!



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

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





# Western Outdoor Times

## Arizona Boating & Watersports



### THE CREW

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We sincerely thank the Arizona Game & Fish Department for another wonderful Outdoor Expo, March 29 and 30. Also, our congratulations go out to those who, once again, put on two excellent events: The Lake Havasu Boat Show on April 11 through 13 and San Diego's Day at the Docks on April 13.

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# 'Blue Ridge' Reservoir Is A Favorite For Paddlers

### C.C. Cragin Reservoir reopens after boating-access construction.

The long wait for the reopening of the C.C. Cragin (Blue Ridge) Reservoir is finally over. The Arizona Game and Fish Department, in cooperation with the Coconino National Forest, has completed a boating-access improvement project and vehicular access to the lake on Forest Road 751 is once again available.

The lake and the main road were closed

in October to allow major construction to widen the existing boat ramp, install rock-fall protection netting, improve the road to the upper parking lot and several other safety features.

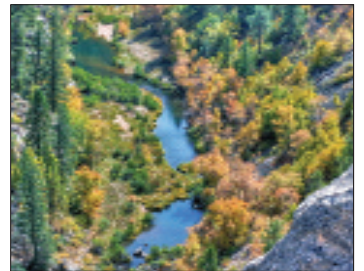
Popular for fishing and paddlecraft, the reservoir is located on the Mogollon Rim east of Clint's Well, approximately 2 miles east of State Route 87 near Rock Crossing Campground.

Because of this winter's construction project, Game and Fish did not stock fish in the lake last year, and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission authorized unlimited bag and possession limits for trout.

That authorization may be removed as the lake is refilled.

"Boaters and anglers will appreciate the changes made to parking and access at Blue Ridge Reservoir," said Ron Christofferson, boating facilities program manager for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "Arizona boaters and anglers made all these improvements possible when they purchased their boats, fishing licenses, fishing equipment and fuel for their boats."

For more information on C.C Cragin Reservoir, visit [www.srpnet.com/water/dams/cragin.aspx](http://www.srpnet.com/water/dams/cragin.aspx).



Blue Ridge Reservoir

# Arivaca Lake Reopens To Vehicles After Construction

Renovation has been completed on the boat ramp and facilities at Arivaca Lake, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) says the lake is once again open to vehicular traffic. However, the newly remodeled boat ramp is currently unusable as it is completely out of the water due to below-normal rainfall in the

area. Several feet of lake water will be required to return Arivaca Lake to its normal levels, with more rainfall being the most critical factor, but the lake shore is open to pedestrian access on unimproved trails. While boating is still difficult, there are reports that fishing has been great.



Arivaca Lake

"We've seen some good-sized lunker largemouths taken lately," said AZGFD Boating Facilities Program Manager Ron Christofferson. "Water levels are low, so until we get a good amount of rainfall, there's no place for the big fish to hide."

Improvements at the lake include a new boat ramp and boat courtesy dock, new sidewalks and boat trailer parking spaces designed to provide barrier-free access to the new features. Christofferson said this project used state and federal boating access funds specifically set aside for the improvement of boating facilities.

"Arizona boaters and anglers made all these improvements possible when they purchased fishing licenses, fishing equipment, fuel for their boat and even the boat itself," said Christofferson. "Boaters will be able to use the new ramp to full advantage as soon as we get some good rain."

# AZGFD Outdoor Expo/Youth Day Draw Record 48,000

Records set with 41,000 attending the weekend Expo, and 7,000 attending Friday Youth Day.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's 2014 Outdoor Expo and Friday Youth Day drew a combined 48,000 attendees, the highest three-day total in the event's history.

The weekend Outdoor Expo, held March 29-30 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix, was attended by 41,000 people. Sunday's attendance of 20,700 was a record for an Expo Sunday.

The Friday Youth Day, geared toward school children, teachers and chaperones who preregistered, was attended by 7,000, another record. The Youth Day was held at the Ben Avery facility.

"We're thrilled with the public's interest in the Expo," said Game and Fish Deputy Director Ty Gray. "We hold this event to give people exposure to wildlife-related and other outdoor recreation activities. Despite many other events in the

See EXPO on page 13



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# Words Of Wisdom, The Value Of Free Sticker



By Captain  
David Esparza

It's getting nicer outside every day and boating season is upon us. Many of you in the marine industry and boating world know me; my name is

David Esparza, and I have been a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary for 19 years and a volunteer with the Arizona Game and Fish Department as boating safety instructor for 20 years. I have now worked at West Marine in Tempe for almost three years.

One of the first things that I wanted to talk to you about is National Safe Boating Week May 17-23. National Safe Boating week is an annual event that kicks off of a year's worth of promoting safety on the water. It takes place the week before Memorial Day weekend. This year's slogan is "Ready Set Wear It".

On Friday, May 16 wear your life jacket to work. Why would you do such a thing? Because when you do, you are leading the way towards a safer day on the water. Set the example for others to follow, your fellow boaters, your children or your guest upon your boat. Boating accidents can be horrible and deadly; approximately 800 people a year drown across the country just because they are not wearing a life jacket, a personal flotation device (PFD). It's time for you to step up and be a leader by wearing your

life jacket; your lead could save a life — yours or someone's that you care about.

The other item that I would like to discuss is the value of a free sticker. The sticker is called a "Vessel Safety Check" sticker; bring your trailerable boat by West Marine, 1628 E Broadway, Tempe the NW corner of McClintock and Southern on Mondays, and I, as a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and certified vessel examiner will give you a courtesy vessel safety check.

We go over all the safety aspects of your boat, including your trailer. We will teach you how to be a leader in boating safety; we will talk to you about boating-safety classes, and we will teach you how to get insurance discounts by taking a class and getting your boat inspected.

Now, with all of these things that I have stated, what value do you put on a

free sticker? Once your boat is examined and passes the inspection, you will receive an official vessel —safety-check sticker that will be displayed proudly on your vessel.

And, if there is anything that you need for your boat, there will be an additional discount for any items that you would need on that day through West Marine. Let's all work together to make our Arizona State waterways safer.

Remember to be a leader; your lead could save a life, Boat Smart from the Start, always wear a life jacket and take a boating class.

For more information call the Coast Guard Auxiliary at 480-822-7855. Stop by the store and visit.

Hope to see you in a class and on the water — safe boating to you all.

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## Nominations Sought For Arizona Outdoor Hall Of Fame

The deadline to submit nominations is April 25.

The Wildlife for Tomorrow Foundation is soliciting nominations for this year's inductees into the Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame.

Every year the Outdoor Hall of Fame recognizes individuals and organizations that have made significant and lasting contributions toward Arizona's wildlife, the welfare of its natural resources, and the state's outdoor heritage.

To submit a nomination, download a nomination form (PDF and MS Word versions of this form can also be downloaded from [www.azgfd.gov/w\\_c/ArizonaOutdoorHallofFame.shtml](http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/ArizonaOutdoorHallofFame.shtml)), fill it out, and return the completed form and all supplemental materials by April 25 to —

Wildlife for Tomorrow Foundation  
c/o Arizona Game and Fish Department

Attn: James Paxon, DOHQ  
5000 W. Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Nominations may also be submitted by e-mail to [JPaxon@azgfd.gov](mailto:JPaxon@azgfd.gov) or faxed to (623) 236-7299. For further information call (623) 236-7226.

Past Outdoor Hall of Fame inductees have been individuals with backgrounds in wildlife volunteerism, corporate leadership, politics, wildlife art, and the media, including Ben Avery, Barry Goldwater, Morris K. Udall, Bill Quimby and Tom Woods, as well as groups and organizations such as Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center Volunteers, Rio Salado Sportsman's Club, Arizona Public Service and Salt River Project.

The Outdoor Hall of Fame was established in 1998 by the Wildlife for Tomorrow Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to enhance the management, protection and enjoyment of Arizona's fish and wildlife resources. Wildlife for Tomorrow provides additional support for projects and education activities where traditional resources are not adequate.

This year's Outdoor Hall of Fame inductees will be honored on Aug. 23 at the foundation's annual banquet in Scottsdale.

For more information, visit [www.azgfd.gov/w\\_c/ArizonaOutdoorHallofFame.shtml](http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/ArizonaOutdoorHallofFame.shtml) or call (623) 236-7334.

## Tutoring, Editing, Writing

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

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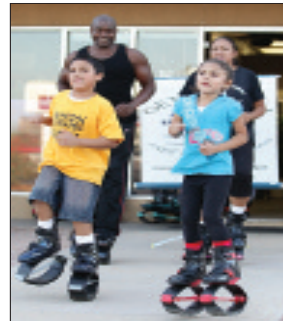
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Bartlett Lake

## DAY ON THE LAKE Barrows And Bartlett Arrange Special Days

The Day on the Lake program is the only adapted watersports program for those with physical and neurological disabilities offered in Arizona.

Summer 2012 marked our 16th year of helping people who suffer from a neurological disability ride the waves at one of the most accessible waterside facilities in Arizona — Bartlett Lake Marina. Day on the Lake 2014 will be held on the following dates:

- Thursday, May 15 through Saturday, May 17
- Thursday, June 12 (open only to children and teens) and Friday, June 13 (open to all)
- Thursday, Sept. 11 (open to all) and Friday, September 12th (open only to veterans of the United States Armed Forces)

All are welcome to come out and watch the day's events and activities.

### Cost

Registration is \$45. Scholarships are available.

### How To Sign Up

Please call the Resource Link at 1-877-602-4111 to register or to sponsor a participant. Contact the Barrow Connection at (602) 406-6280 with any questions.

### Many Activities

Day on the Lake provides instruction and participation in the following activities:

- Waterskiing
- Jet-ski rides
- Fishing
- Kayaking
- Boat rides

### Participants

The Day on the Lake program is offered to —

- Children ages 3-8 (fishing and boat rides only)
- Children and adults 8 years and older (all activities)
- Those with physical and/or neurological challenges who are at least one year post-injury

### Sponsors

Thank you to our 2012 "Hit It" Day on the Lake sponsors!

- Bartlett Lake Marina
- Hanger Prosthetic & Orthotic
- Southwest Medical



# Tackle & Target



## LAKE POWELL FISHING REPORT

### Spring Fishing Is At Its Best Right Now

By Wayne Gustavson  
<http://www.wayneswords.com>

Lake level remains fairly constant with a slight drop to 3574 MSL. We hope spring runoff holds off for another few weeks as the Castle Rock Cut deepening project will continue until the last week of April.

The best news is that the Cut will be deepened down to 3575 MSL, meaning that the lake only has to come up 5 feet or so from the present level to allow boats to take the shortcut. That will save much time, fuel and aggravation with rough waters in the main channel detour. My guess is the cut will be passable before Memorial Day.

#### Time To Go Fishing!

Warm weather is here and fish are responding accordingly. It is time to go fishing! Bass are moving up to feel that warm surface layer. Fishing is not hot yet for bass but much improved over the last 3 weeks. Remember that colored water warms faster than clear water and target the warmest water available to find willing bass.

#### Walleye At 12-20 Feet

Walleye fishing is improving for the same reasons. Plastic bass lures (tubes and grubs) are beginning to draw interest but they work much better when tipped with a piece of live worm. The best depth for finding walleye is 12-20 feet.

If trolling is your favorite technique, then troll over long rocky points that jut out into the main channel. Allow the lure to touch bottom a couple of times as it bounces across the point. Walleye really



Gustavson

**DAD MUST BE PROUD** — Austin Benson and Hunter Allan trolled up some nice strippers in the back of Halls Creek while fishing with Dad Ty Allan. Fishing is getting much better as water warms.

like lures to be close to the bottom. Slow-trolling bottom bouncers with live worm or plastic worm imitations work on flat bottom structure under a wind-caused mudline in the afternoon breeze.

#### Stripers Active Now

Stripers are the most active fish right now. Schools of adult stripers have followed gizzard shad schools into the backs

of canyons and coves. Similar reports have come from 7mile canyon, Lake Canyon, Iceberg and a few San Juan canyons. Stripers are hitting crankbaits cast into very shallow water. Some fish are even boiling on 5-inch shad and surface lures. White lures with a chartreuse stripe seem to mimic the gizzard shad well.

See **SPRING FISHING** on page 17



### Rosie Gets Monster Bass Roosevelt Lake fishery could receive monster boost with stockings.

Anglers who love to fish Roosevelt Lake located in central Arizona's Tonto National Forest have a future hope for the fishery — monster bass.

To help boost fishing opportunities at the 13,000-acre lake, the Arizona Game and Fish Department is partnering with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) through April to stock up to 500,000 fry of Florida-strain largemouth bass, which have been known to eventually attain sizes up to 20 pounds.

The FWC will be donating the bass fry in cooler-contained sacks via FedEx. The first shipment arrived April 8 at the Arizona Game and Fish Department regional office in Mesa. Department biologists then dumped about 275,000 fry into the lake. There will likely be one to two additional stockings.

"We hope that within the next 5-10 years anglers can enjoy higher numbers of

See **MONSTER BASS** on page 17

### Spring Fishing Has Arrived In Northern Arizona

Now is the time to get the tackle box ready, grab the fishing rods, and explore northern Arizona for some spring fishing!

A particularly warm and dry spring has arrived, and unfortunately it followed a mild winter. What does this mean for the fishing? It means that the Arizona Game and Fish Department is stocking northern Arizona lakes and anticipates that by late May or early June, as temperatures warm up and lake levels drop, water quality will diminish and conditions will be unsuitable for stocking fish.

It is a good idea to check the fishing report for up-to-date stockings.

Ashurst Lake, Lower Lake Mary, Frances Short Pond, and Kaibab Lake are local waters that have received fish from Page Springs and Tonto Creek Hatcheries, two of the fish hatcheries owned and operated by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Frances Short Pond is located just northwest of downtown Flagstaff and is a great place to walk or ride a bike to and try your luck. Lower Lake Mary is about 8 miles from Flagstaff on Forest Road 3, and Ashurst is farther down the road about 12 miles. Kaibab Lake is near Williams and off Highway 64, just north of Interstate 40.

"Even with the lack of winter snow, fishing should be good for trout during April and May on most of our lakes," said Chuck Benedict, an AZGFD fish biologist. Benedict added: "People like to visit Flagstaff and Williams in the summer and want to trout fish, but in reality, the bass, pike, catfish, and crappie fishing are the best during the summer, now is the ideal time for trout fishing."

#### Some Tips To Remember Before Heading Out To Fish

License fees have changed. The new



Willow Springs Trout

Fishing License now includes trout and two-pole privileges (no separate stamps needed) and costs \$37 for residents and \$55 for nonresidents. The license is now valid for one year from the day you buy it, not just for the calendar year.

Anyone 10 years and older will need a fishing license. Youth licenses now only cost \$5 and are available for youth ages 10-17.

Review the 2014 Arizona Fishing Regulations; they are available online or at most license dealers as a booklet that you can throw in your tackle box. The regulations have all the information you need to fish in Arizona.

Some lakes have special restrictions or regulations: catch-and-release only, daily limits, or the type of bait allowed.

Do not transport live fish or bait. Illegal stocking is a big problem and impacts the department's efforts to manage the state's fisheries. In some cases, fish like northern pike and bass have been illegally stocked and have had detrimental impacts to trout fishing and native fish populations.

See **TIPS** on page 17



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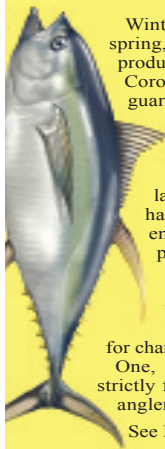
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# Tackle & Target

## AZ ANGLERS ARE INVITED Yellowtail Derby Is Coming Soon



Winter, about to be spring, fishing has already produced yellowtail in the Coronado Islands. Home guard yellowtail, white seabass and California halibut are here year around. Who will catch the largest yellowtail and have his or her name engraved on the perpetual trophy for this year's Yellowtail Derby, May 4-June 7.

The anglers asked for changes. One, make the contest strictly for only recreational anglers; guides or com-

See **DERBY** on page 19

### ATTENTION ANGLERS

## Tagged Trout To Be Stocked Into East Verde River

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is implanting radio tags into a small percentage of hatchery-raised trout that will be stocked into the East Verde River in order to examine stocked trout movement and fate. These stockings are in April and coincide with the summer trout-stocking schedule.

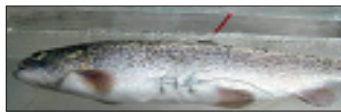
If you catch a trout with external tags (as pictured) you may keep or release the fish. These fish are safe for human consumption. If you catch a tagged fish, please call the number on the colored tag (623-236-7538) with the following information.

- Location of the caught trout
- Identification number on the colored external tag
- Date the fish was caught

Tagged fish include a colored external tag, a radio tag with its incision, and a colored external tag with identification number (top) and phone number.

If you choose to keep a trout, please return the internal radio tag to any Arizona Game and Fish Department office or employee. You may consume the fish.

Currently, the Department can estimate



Tagged fish include a colored external tag (top) and radio tag with its incision (bottom).

catch rates (the number of fish anglers catch and keep). However, we cannot answer important questions such as the following: How long do trout live after being stocked? Do stocked trout move to a different area of the stream after being stocked? If they do move, do they move upstream or downstream?

These are important questions the Department will answer by using radio telemetry, which will help develop better stocking practices for improved angler use and satisfaction. So how does it work?

Each fish will have a unique identification number, which is printed on the colored tag and the implanted radio tag (see pictures). Each radio tag emits a beep,



Colored external tag has identification number (top) and phone number.



Fish has this radio tag.

every two seconds, on a specific radio frequency. With a special receiver tuned to each specific radio frequency, we can locate each individually tagged trout. The signal can be transmitted about one kilometer.

As we get closer to the tag, the signal, or beep, will get louder. With this equipment, the Department can locate exactly where each tagged fish is and determine how far the fish has moved, if and when the fish died, or if it was caught and removed from the stream. This allows us to study the fish, and anglers to enjoy catching and consuming them.

So remember, if you are fishing along the East Verde River and catch a trout with these tags, you may keep and eat the fish. Just call 623-236-7538 to report the catch, and please return the radio tag to any Department office or employee.

### EXCERPTS FROM AZGFD FISHING REPORT

## April Is One Of The Best Months To Fish

April and October can be the best months of the year to fish in Arizona. The water temperatures are ideal for waves of spawns. Access to high country lakes has opened the way for lunker holdovers. The flathead frenzy hardly left.

The buffet is laid out — bass are spawning, especially with the April full moon; crappie should be spawning; flathead catfish are making camera lenses struggle to keep fish in frame; trout are being stocked all across the high country and anglers are catching holdovers as well as tasty stockers; channel catfish are abundant in the Community Fishing Program lakes.

### Tip Of The Week

For something different, head to Lynx Lake, where some anglers reportedly are having some decent action catching brown trout. Here's the tip: Try fishing a No. 18 or 20 with wooly bugger about 4 feet under a float with a 4-pound test leader.

See **APRIL** on page 19

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# Tackle & Target

## WOMEN'S WILDERNESS ESCAPE

# It's For All Women From All Walks Of Life

The National Rifle Association (NRA) Women's Wilderness Escape provides women 18 and older with an eight-day getaway opportunity to experience the softer side of firearm education with exposure to a wide variety of shooting sports activities and an array of enticing hunting and outdoor related activities.

Whether you are a novice or a seasoned outdoor enthusiast, it's an experience that will prepare you for your next adventure.

No experience is necessary, and all firearms and ammunition are provided for you. You'll learn to shoot small bore rifle



silhouette, scoped/tactical carbine, long range high power rifle, conventional and tactical pistol, historic firearms and shotgun (five-stand).

Upon completion of training in the pistol, shotgun and rifle disciplines, attendees earn the NRA First Steps Firearm Certificates.

Attendees will also learn archery, tree stand safety and participate in a mock hunt. Completion of these three events will earn

participants the Bow Hunter Education Certificate. Successful completion of a recognized bow hunter education course is often required in addition to your hunting license in many states and provinces. This also applies to special designated bow hunting areas, and some federal lands and urban bow hunting areas.

Other activities may include survival training, game calling and laser shot. Your adventure at the NRA Whittington Center



will also include a wine social to benefit the NRA Women's Wilderness Escape Events!

### NRA's Whittington Center

Attendees will be guided by some of the most skilled firearms instructors and outdoor specialists in the country. And, it all happens at the NRA Whittington Center in Raton, NM.

See **WOMEN** on page 19

## Elk, Antelope Draw Results Available

The draw results for Arizona's 2014 elk and pronghorn antelope big game hunts are now available by visiting <https://az.gov/app/huntdraw/home.xhtml> and scrolling down to the "View results and bonus points" link. Applicants can also find out if they were drawn by calling (602) 942-3000 and selecting option two.

There were more than 140,000 applicants for this year's elk/pronghorn antelope draw for hunts or bonus points, and 26,041 tags were issued. The total number of applications, including those submitted on paper and online, was approximately 109,440.

Hunt permit-tags for successful applicants, and refunds for unsuccessful or rejected applicants/applications (less application fees), are expected to be mailed out by April 18, pursuant to Arizona Game and Fish Department Hunting and Trapping Regulations.

There are about 121 leftover elk tags, available on a first-come first-served basis by mail (beginning April 21) or in person (beginning April 28). These leftover tags are a good option for hunters who missed the draw deadline or were not drawn for the hunt(s) for which they applied. A list of leftover tags is available online at [www.azgfd.gov/draw](http://www.azgfd.gov/draw) and will be available for purchase as follows:

- By mail — Applications submitted by mail will be accepted by the department beginning April 21 and must be mailed to Arizona Game and Fish Department, Attn: Draw/First Come, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086. Please do not mail applications to any PO Box.

- In person — Beginning at 8 a.m., April 28, hunters may purchase leftover tags and submit their applications in person at any of

See **ELK** on page 19



Bull Elk



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# Western Wildlife



Gambel's Quail Adult With Chicks

## Leave Baby Wildlife Alone

Public should resist urge to "help" or "rescue" juvenile wildlife perceived to be in need.

Rising temperatures and longer days mean spring is here and newborn wildlife will become increasingly visible.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department understands people's desire to help seemingly abandoned animals such as baby birds and bunnies, but reminds the public that "helping" or "rescuing" baby wildlife can have unintended negative consequences.

"The public's intentions to care for wildlife are admirable, but removing baby wildlife from the wild often results in their death," said Mike Demlong, wildlife education program manager with Game and Fish.

### Reduced Chance Of Survival

"Although it may seem humane to 'help' or 'rescue' baby animals perceived to be in need, wildlife reared in captivity by humans — without the benefit of learning from their parents — have a greatly reduced chance of survival when they are released back into the wild."

Demlong explained that young wildlife found in your yard or in the field is rarely abandoned. Typically, once the perceived predator (you, or your cat or dog) leaves the area, one or both parents will return and continue to care for the young.

### Baby Birds

Baby birds are the most common wildlife species encountered by the public and removed from the wild, said Demlong. Fledglings (fully feathered baby birds that are just learning to fly) may appear distressed because they are not capable of full flight, but should be left alone and moved only if they are at an immediate risk of injury.

See **BABIES** on page 13

## Venom Begins To Flow As Weather Warms

Snakes and more 'critters' are ready to emerge.

Residents of the desert should always remember one simple rule when the weather begins to warm: know where you are placing your hands and feet.

"That one rule can help people avoid the majority of potentially dangerous encounters," said Tom Jones, amphibians and reptiles program manager for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "People shouldn't fear snakes and other reptiles, and only need to use caution and common sense to coexist with them."

Critters such as snakes, scorpions, spiders, and lizards are going to become increasingly active as the weather warms. During the hottest days of summer, most rattlesnakes will be more active during the evening and seek shelter during the day.

### Rattlesnakes

While there are many snake species within Arizona, rattlesnakes are synonymous with the state. Although new species of rattlesnakes continue to be discovered, there are currently about 16 species in the United States, 13 of which occur in Arizona. The most commonly encountered is the western diamondback, but species vary depending on the habitat.

If bitten, people should forget everything they've seen in old movies and heard



Western Diamondback Rattlesnake

as common myths about how to treat the bite. The best and only course of action is to seek medical attention immediately, and a cell phone is the most important piece of first aid equipment.

While the Mohave rattlesnake is widely accepted as having the most potent venom, the diamondback accounts for the most bites. Snakebite deaths are extremely rare in Arizona.

### Spiders, Scorpions

While less common within city limits, rattlesnakes can be found in urban environments, as can spiders and scorpions. There are two spiders considered a threat to humans in Arizona: the black widow and brown spider.

Most spider and scorpion bites will not require medical attention, but individuals should pay attention to the reaction and seek medical help if the reaction is severe.



Gila Monster

### Gila Monsters

As for lizards, the only one in Arizona that is venomous is the same one that can be easily avoided: the Gila monster.

"Gila monsters want nothing to do with people, so if you leave it alone, it will leave you alone," said Jones. "Gila monsters are protected in Arizona, so it is against the law to disturb, harass, or remove these animals from the wild."

## National Park Service Seeks Public Input On Bison Management

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to announce the latest step to manage the impacts of bison on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP). After meeting with cooperators Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) over the last several months, the NPS will initiate public scoping later this week for a bison-management plan and environmental-impact statement (EIS) to be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

### During The 1900s

A herd of bison was brought to the Grand Canyon region in the early 1900s and has been managed since 1950 by the AGFD in the House Rock Wildlife Area (HRWA) on the Kaibab National Forest through an interagency agreement with the USFS.

During the late 1990s, the bison began "pioneering" up to the top of the Kaibab Plateau and into GCNP. A combination of public-hunt pressure, drought and fire, and reduced forage quality in House Rock Val-



American Bison

ley during the 1990s may have contributed to the bison's moving through Saddle Mountain Wilderness and onto the higher elevations of the Kaibab Plateau.

Over the past several years, very few bison have returned to HRWA and most now spend a majority of their time inside the park, with many not leaving GCNP.

### Since 2008

Since 2008, a workgroup consisting of staff from GCNP, AGFD, and USFS has been addressing research needs related to impacts of the bison herd on GCNP resources, and potential management tools, as well as administrative and operational challenges of long-term cooperative management.

Also in 2008, the Department of the Interior (DOI) chartered a Bison Conservation Initiative to improve bison management amongst its various bureaus, including the National Park Service. These efforts are ongoing and NPS is now initiating development of a long-term, coordinated approach to manage the current and future impacts of bison on natural and cultural resources of GCNP while supporting AGFD, USFS and BLM goals for manage-

ment of a free-ranging bison population outside the park.

"Stakeholder input is a central and critical part of this planning process," stated Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Dave Uberuaga. "We look forward to engaging interested members of the public, other agencies, tribes, and organizations to get their ideas. We appreciate the on-going collaboration of the U.S. Forest Service, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and look forward to working with the Bureau of Land Management as we work through this process."

### Public Scoping Period

The first opportunity for such involvement will be during a 60-day public scoping period beginning when the Notice of Intent is published in the *Federal Register*. Scoping will provide the public and other interested parties the opportunity to participate early in identifying the range of issues to be considered when the NPS studies the potential environmental impacts of managing bison in the park, to identify topics and concerns that should be

See **BISON** on page 13

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# RV Land Cruising



## SUPERSTITION SEARCH & RESCUE

# 'Project Blue' Helps Find Old Wreckage

From Mike Wallace

It has been a while since we have had a write up on Superstition Search and Rescue. This group of highly trained volunteers has accomplished an amazing amount of service to this community — aside from saving over a thousand lives in the past 15 years

Much has happened with this group in the last few years. SSAR is no longer the wilderness first responder for the Pinal County Sheriff's office. We have found that there are politics even in search and rescue.

### Now Serve Under AJ Sheriff's Office

We could no longer enter the field in a safe and effective manner due to some decisions that were made by leadership. For the safety of the team, we had to stand down. We do now serve under the Apache Junction Sheriff's office.

We have started a cert team to further serve those in need when and if an urban crisis occurs. We have solved several cold cases — bringing closure to family and loved ones. We have located lost victims while assisting other counties.

### A Sad Story Of Jeff And Blue

On July 25, 2012, 58-year-old Jeff Block and his wolf/canine companion Blue went missing. SSAR was one of the local groups involved in the search for Block when his body was discovered in a canyon west of Show Low. It was discovered that Block had lost control of his Dodge Ram truck.

When Block did not show up at his

home as planned, his brother Dan organized a search party with law enforcement and volunteer organizations to look for Jeff. Because of the area's rough terrain and the many wrecks littering the canyons, it became obvious that the search would be easier if all the older wrecks along the route were marked with a big "X."

### 'Project Blue' Is Born

Jeff Block and Blue were not found until Aug. 8, after a grueling two-week search. This tragic event motivated work to begin on "Project Blue," an effort to mark and catalog existing auto wrecks along area highways.

Hence, "Project Blue" was formed in 2012 as a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the search and rescue efforts for people in vehicle accidents in remote areas. Its mission is to expedite searches by visually marking old wrecks with a large blue X and cataloging the location with GPS coordinates so search teams will know which wrecks to pass by.

The color blue was chosen because it is not often seen naturally in landscapes and Blue was the name of Jeff Block's dog.

### To Be Continued

Watch for the May/June issue of Western Outdoor Times/ Boating & Watersports and more on Superstition Search & Rescue. The next article will focus on their quad-copter "Eagle 1."



**BLOCK AND BLUE** — After the tragic accident that took the lives of Jeff Block and his dog Blue, the idea for "Project Blue" was born. It is dedicated to their memory and is a valuable tool that marks old wrecks, thus making recent ones easier to locate. Superstition Search & Rescue states that this system is improving search and rescue efforts for those involved in vehicle accidents in remote areas.



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**BETTER BIKING** — Experienced mountain bikers will teach workshops Saturdays at Dead Horse Ranch State Park. At press time, the remaining Better Mountain Biking sessions are scheduled for April 19 and 26 and May 3. Better Mountain Biking sessions start at 12 p.m. on Saturdays and go until approximately 4 p.m., according to Ranger Randy Victory. For more information, call Ranger Victory at (928) 301-1190 or email rvictory(at)azstateparks.gov.

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## RV/Land Cruising

# Fun Times Await In The Center of Arizona

By Margie Anderson

The geographic center of Arizona is about 55 miles ESE of Prescott, and the closest town hall to that location is that of Camp Verde. There is a bronze plaque to that effect in Rezzonico Park, placed there by the Arizona Professional Land Surveyors.

The park is on Montezuma Castle Highway in Camp Verde. In fact, there is a ton of stuff to see and do in and around Camp Verde, including Montezuma's Well, Montezuma's Castle, and Tuzigoot National Monument.

If you like the outdoors, you will love the Camp Verde area. In addition to the kayaking, fishing, and swimming that the Verde River offers, there is Clear Creek just down Highway 260 to the east to FR 626.

### Clear Creek Campground

The Clear Creek Campground is in the Coconino National Forest and has a large day use parking area as well as the campground. There are 18 single-unit sites and one group site that you can reserve. There are no reservations for the single sites and it's a popular place, so be there early.

The sites have tables, fire rings and grills, drinking water and vault toilets. Tents, motor homes, and trailers under 32 feet are permitted but there are no utility hookups. There is a seven-day stay limit and the single sites are \$16 per night.

There may not be hookups in the campground, but right across the highway from the campground turnoff is a big RV park with a store and Laundromat. The Zane Grey RV park also has gas and electric, free wi-fi, horseshoes, and corn bob toss.

They have 57 sites and are open all year. You can get more information at their website: <http://www.zanegreyrv-park.com>.



Photos by Margie Anderson

Trails Follow The Creek

### A Beautiful Little Stream

Clear Creek is a beautiful little stream. Birdwatching, hiking, and fishing are some of the main activities. Bring an ultralight spinning rod and some small inline spinners or pethead jigs and small Power Grubs to fish for smallmouth bass and sunfish.

If you prefer live bait, both those species are suckers for worms. Go to the Arizona Game and Fish website at [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov) for information on fishing licenses.

There are trails along the edges of the creek so that you can explore as far as you like, and the campground and creek are shaded by huge trees. It really is a gorgeous place.

### Some Great Hikes Nearby

If you camp at Clear Creek, it makes a good base for several beautiful hikes that are not far away. The trailhead for the West Clear Creek Trail is on FR 618, which you would have passed on your way to the campground from Camp Verde. Take 618 and drive 2.3 miles to FR 215, then continue 4 miles east on FR 215 to the Bull Pen camping area where you can park.

This trail is the only maintained and marked access to the lower part of the West Clear Creek Canyon Wilderness. The downstream area is a popular place for fishermen and people out for a good time because of the clear pools, slide rocks, and the shade trees that make the red-rock canyon a delightful place to spend the day.

The trail has some strenuous areas and you'll cross the creek several times. If



View From Tuzigoot

there is a lot of runoff, the trail can be impassable. This trail is almost 8 miles long, and once you get to the end you have to turn around and come back — it's an all-day thing if you decide you want to do the whole trail. Bring a lot of water! This probably isn't a hike for small kids.

If you do have little ones with you, they will absolutely love the creek and the campground and the trails along the stream. There is even a rope swing down by the day-use parking lot.

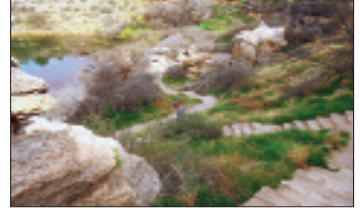
### Montezuma's Well

Kids will also love a visit to Montezuma's Well. To get there, take I-17 to exit 293 (4 miles north of the exit for Montezuma Castle). Continue through the towns of McGuireville and Rimrock, following the signs for four miles to the entrance to the Well. There is no fee and it's a really cool place.

Take a very short hike up the hill on a paved path. At the top there is an observation platform that lets you see the whole Well. It's actually a circular body of water that is constantly fed by an underground aquifer.

There are cliff ruins around the sides of the Well. There is another path that goes down to the water level and lets you see more ruins. It's nice shady place to sit for a bit and watch the ducks and birds.

When you climb back out, take the trail around the rim and make sure you take the little side trail to see where the water comes out. You'll end up in a little canyon where you can walk down the path to see the water coming right out of the side of the hill and down a 1,000-year-old irrigation ditch and into the creek. Kids will



At Montezuma's Well

love this place; I guarantee it.

### Tuzigoot

Another cool little side trip is Tuzigoot. This reconstructed hilltop pueblo shows an ancient village built by the Sinagua people. There is a little museum here and a shop. The fee is \$5 for adults 16 and over. Kids under 16 are free.

### For Seniors, A Super Deal

By the way, if you are 62 or over, you seriously need to visit a National Park office and get an Interagency Senior Pass. It only costs \$10 and is good for your lifetime. The pass is honored nationwide at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Fish & Wildlife Service sites charging entrance or standard amenity fees and it gets you and up to three other people in free.

If you are driving in, it covers everyone in your vehicle. Not only that, but for an extra \$15 you can get a sticker that lets you park and launch at all the Tonto National Forest Lakes for a calendar year free. Since it costs \$10 for a vehicle and boat each time, this is a great savings. Check it out at <http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/senior.shtml>.

Tuzigoot is one of the places that the pass gets you in for free. So is Montezuma Castle. In addition to getting in for free, Senior cardholders receive a 50 percent fee discount at campgrounds, developed boat launches and swimming sites and for specialized interpretive services. It's a super deal!

## Go Wild For Grand Canyon National Park!

Go wild for the history, nature, trails, and archeology of Grand Canyon National Park during National Park Week, April 19 through 27. To get the celebration going, Grand Canyon National Park will waive entrance fees on April 19 and 20.

### Earth Day Celebrations

The park will begin Earth Day celebrations on Saturday, April 19 with a free screening of the award-winning, environmental film Watershed. Produced and narrated by Robert Redford, the film tells the story of the threats to the once-mighty Colorado River; the film will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the Shrine of the Ages.

On Sunday, April 20, the park will host an open-house style celebration from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza. Join park rangers, Green Team members, park partners, and various organizations and businesses from throughout northern Arizona in a "green" celebration full of unique and interactive activities related to water and the environment and all nature has to offer at Grand Canyon National Park. Look for other fun park activities throughout the weekend, including litter clean-up projects. All of the weekend's activities are family friendly and free of charge.

Park visitors are reminded that fee-free designation applies to entrance fees only and does not affect fees for camping, reservations, tours, or use of concessions. Park entrance stations will have the Interagency Senior and Annual Passes available for



those who wish to purchase them. Visitors who plan to spend time in the park beyond April 20th will need to pay the regular entrance fee for the remainder of their stay.

### More Free-Fee Days

This year, additional fee-free days will occur in honor of the National Park Service Birthday (Aug. 25), National Public Lands Day (Sept. 27) and Veterans Day (November 11).

### Big Spending At Grand Canyon

A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that over 4.4 million visitors to Grand Canyon National Park in 2012 spent \$454 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 6,010 jobs in the local area.

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber and Lynne Koontz for the National Park Service. The report shows \$14.7 billion of di-

rect spending by 283 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park.

This spending supported 243,000 jobs nationally, with 201,000 jobs found in these gateway communities, and had a cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy of \$26.75 billion.

According to the report most visitor spending supports jobs in restaurants, grocery and convenience stores (39 percent), hotels, motels, and B&Bs (27 percent), and other amusement and recreation (20 percent).

To download the report visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm>. The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in Arizona and how the National Park Service works with Arizona communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to [www.nps.gov/Arizona](http://www.nps.gov/Arizona).

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# RV/Land Cruising



**SEEING STARS** — Lost Dutchman State Park (Apache Junction) will hold a Star Party on Saturday, April 26, starting at 7 p.m. and hosted by the Superstition Astronomical League. Families are welcome to come spend an evening and observe the wonders of the night sky through astronomers' telescopes. Participants should bring water, snacks, a red light (to protect everyone's night vision), sweater or jacket. For more information about Lost Dutchman State Park, call (480) 982-4485 or visit [AZStateParks.com/parks/LODU](http://AZStateParks.com/parks/LODU).

## EXPO

*Continued from page 4*

Valley this weekend, the record crowd shows that there is huge interest in learning about the great outdoors."

The annual Expo showcases activities such as fishing, hunting, shooting sports, archery, camping, off-highway vehicle recreation, boating recreation, and wildlife viewing and education.

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

The Gold Sponsors for the 2014 Outdoor Expo were Cabela's, Waste Management, and Arizona State Credit Union.

Silver Sponsors were Iron City Polaris, Arizona State Parks, AWC Silencers, Mule Deer Foundation, NRA Sports, Sportsman's Warehouse, U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation, and Weatherby Foundation International. Bronze Sponsors were A to Z Equipment Rentals and Sales, Arizona Department of Transportation, Bill Luke Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram, Lincoln Property Company, and Smith & Wesson. Other sponsors included HomCo Ace Hardware Tempe and White Flyer Targets.

Next year's Outdoor Expo will be held on March 28-29, 2015, at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix. More information will be posted at [www.azgfd.gov/expo](http://www.azgfd.gov/expo) as it becomes available.

## BISON

*Continued from page 10*

addressed in the EIS, and to bring forward any new information that NPS may not be aware of that would be useful in preparing the plan and EIS.

The NPS will host three in-person open house meetings during this comment period, as follows:

- Monday, April 28, Kanab Middle School, 690 S. Cowboy Way
- Kanab, UT 84741, 6-8 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 29, High Country Conference Center, 201 W. Butler Ave., Flagstaff, AZ 86001, 6-8 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 30, Arizona Game

and Fish Department, Activities Center, 4044 W. Black Canyon Boulevard, Phoenix, AZ 85086, 6-8 p.m.

### Web-Based Meetings

The NPS also plans to hold two informational Web-based meetings the week after the in-person open houses. In the coming weeks, please check the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site at [http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca\\_bison\\_eis](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca_bison_eis), as more information about the bison-management plan and EIS, public scoping, and public meetings will be posted on this site as it becomes available.

Interested parties will be able to submit

scoping comments either electronically on the PEPC Web site (the preferred method of receiving comments); via U.S. Postal Service at Grand Canyon National Park, PO Box 129, Attn: Bison Management Plan EIS, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023; or at one of the in-person public meetings the NPS will be holding during the 60-day scoping period.

Public comments will not be accepted during the web-based meetings; rather participants will be directed to the PEPC Web site to enter their comments.

## MESSAGE

*Continued from page 1*

another great campaign, leveraging the successful messages of the past and adding new tactics to reach an ever-broadening audience of boating participants. Here is a preview of this year's campaign:

Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day (May 16, 2014)

Ready, Set, Wear It! Life Jacket World Record Day (May 17, 2014)

National Safe Boating Week (May 17-23, 2014)

National Fishing and Boating Week (June 1-8, 2014)

Operation Dry Water (June 27-29, 2014)

If you are involved or will be involved with media or community outreach efforts, ... please visit [SafeBoatingCampaign.com](http://SafeBoatingCampaign.com) or email [ymoslehian@SafeBoatingCouncil.org](mailto:ymoslehian@SafeBoatingCouncil.org) for helpful resources. Have a happy, and safe, 2014 boating season!

**Rachel Johnson**  
Executive Director  
National Safe Boating Council

## BABIES

*Continued from page 10*

If the baby bird is truly in danger, it can be either placed back in the nest or at a safer, shaded location on nearby vegetation or a structure. Most often the parents will find and continue to care for a fledgling, provided people and pets stay away.

Younger, unfeathered baby birds that have fallen to the ground can be placed back in the nest, if feasible. If the entire nest with babies or eggs has fallen, it should be returned as close as possible to the original location. If the nest is missing or needs repair, a temporary artificial nest can be constructed from a shallow container and placed in close proximity to the original nest.

Contrary to popular belief, human scent on the babies, eggs, or the nest will not concern the parents.

## Young Quail

The eggs and young of quail, which are ground-nesting birds, are also encountered around homes in desert communities and often unnecessarily removed from the wild by well-meaning members of the public. Nests of camouflage-colored eggs should be left in place when discovered. If necessary, the eggs can be moved a short distance away to a protected location and the parents will likely return.

After hatching, young quail will follow their parents closely. But, if the parents are

frightened, they will leave the area temporarily. Once the threat or predator is gone, one or both parents usually return to collect their offspring.

## Mammal 'Kids'

Demlong said that baby mammals such as rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, bobcats, javelina, and fawns (deer and elk) are also unnecessarily taken from the wild. Baby mammals, in most instances, should also be left in place, untouched, unless obviously injured. Although they may appear orphaned, baby mammals are typically left alone by their mother for long periods of time while she forages for food and water.

Baby mammals that are immobile and at immediate risk of injury can be moved, if necessary, to a safe location nearby that provides appropriate cover. The mother will likely find the relocated baby by smell or hearing and continue to provide care, provided people and pets stay away.

"It's very reassuring to know that our society values wildlife and is passionate about caring for wild animals," Demlong said. "But, I would like to remind people that what is best for baby wildlife, and sometimes difficult to accept, is to leave them alone."

If you have questions about a specific situation, please contact one of the wildlife rehabilitators listed on the department's Web site at: [www.azgfd.gov/urban-wildlife](http://www.azgfd.gov/urban-wildlife). Or, contact your local Game and Fish office.

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### NUMBERS

Continued from page 1

of death in almost three-fourths of all fatalities.

Approximately 85 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

In 2012, the Coast Guard counted 4,515 accidents that involved 651 deaths, 3,000 injuries and approximately \$38 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents.

Approximately 14 percent of deaths occurred on boats where the operator had not received boating safety instruction.

Operator inattention, operator inexperience, improper lookout, machinery failure and excessive speed are the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.

Alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; it was listed as the leading factor in 17 percent of the deaths.

Twenty-four children under age thirteen lost their lives while boating in 2012. Forty-two percent of the children who died in 2012 did so from drowning.

The most common types of vessels involved in reported accidents were open motorboats (47%), personal watercraft (19%) and cabin motorboats (15%).

### National Recreational Boating Statistics

- Fatalities: 651
- Drownings: 459
- Injuries (requiring medical treatment beyond first aid): 3,000
- Boating Accidents: 4,515
- Property Damage: \$38,011,601
- Number of registered recreational boats in the U.S.: 12,101,936

### WEAR IT

Continued from page 1

promotes safe and responsible boating and the value of voluntary life jacket wear by recreational boaters through the national theme, "Wear It!"

### Still Can Have Fun

"Every day I hear about the grim consequences of not wearing a life jacket while boating," said Rachel Johnson, executive director of the National Safe Boating Council. "You can still have fun on the water while choosing to always wear a life jacket and boating responsibly."

U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in almost three-fourths of recreational boating fatalities in 2012, and that 85 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets. That's why boating safety advocates continue to push for increased and consistent life jacket wear on the water.

### WORKSHOP

Continued from page 1

ing environment with expert instructors. Classes are held throughout the day. Evenings are filled with fun and entertainment like happy hour, campfires, night hikes, fly tying, presentations and motivational speakers.

"BOW is about so much more than hunting and fishing, or camping and paddling," said program coordinator Linda Dightmon. "It's all about learning to appreciate our wild lands and wildlife and

### PRESCOTT

Continued from page 1

ite Mountain Archers again this year to host the "Yavapai Mile High Classic" 3d Archery Championship Tournament. In addition to the outdoor 3d tournament, we are adding both competitive and beginner indoor archery courses and archery workshops.

The purpose of the Go Outdoors! Event is to provide entertainment, education and

### Too Fast To React

"Accidents on the water happen much too fast to reach and put on a stowed life jacket," said John Johnson, chief executive officer of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. Today's life jackets are comfortable, stylish and easy to wear. In fact, they don't even have to be jackets anymore. Old-fashioned, bulky orange life jackets have been replaced with innovative options, such as inflatable life jackets, allowing mobility and flexibility for activities like boating, fishing, paddling or hunting, and are much cooler in the warmer weather.

### Reminders Again This Year

This year during National Safe Boating Week and throughout the year, the campaign will highlight stories of real boaters whose lives were saved by wearing a life jacket. In addition, the campaign will remind boaters of the importance of boating

how to help conserve them. It's about learning a new skill or conquering an old fear. It's about meeting like-minded women and making new friends. It could be all about learning a lot more about you."

### Making Great Memories

Guests stay in rustic cabins outfitted with electricity, bathrooms, showers, sinks and bunk beds. Food, lodging, class materials, sports equipment and expert instruction are all included. Pack a sleeping bag,

introductions to outdoor activities and services for the community. This event will feature the latest in equipment for enjoying the outdoors, involving everything related to outdoor and recreational activities.

We combine demonstrations, exhibits and seminars together in one large event, including but not limited to, fitness, archery, hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, water sports, off-road vehicles, climbing, biking, cooking and other activities.

safely, including consistent life jacket wear, boating sober, knowing navigational rules and having a proper lookout.

The North American Safe Boating Campaign unites the efforts of a wide variety of boating safety advocates, including the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, Canadian Safe Boating Council and many members of the National Safe Boating Council.

The campaign is produced under a grant from the Sports Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. Partners hold local events, teach classes, offer on-water training, distribute educational materials and perform free vessel safety checks, among other activities.

Be sure to follow the campaign on Twitter at twitter.com/boatingcampaign and like us at facebook.com/SafeBoat-Campaign. Share your boating story at SafeBoatingCampaign.com.

personal stuff, a good attitude and an eagerness for learning.

The cost of this all-inclusive weekend of discovery and adventure is just \$245. Reservations are still available, but traditionally sell out well in advance. Whether this is a solo weekend, a girls-get-away, or a family affair, guests leave with new skills and great memories.

For information contact the Arizona Wildlife Federation office: (480) 644-0077, awf@azwildlife.org, www.azwildlife.org

Popular event features include the following:

- Catch-and-release fishing tank (poles provided)
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For more information, contact Amber Hudson, (928) 777-0532.

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**MONSTER BASS**

*Continued from page 7*

trophy bass and memories that come out of Roosevelt Lake," said AZGFD Fisheries Branch Chief Chris Cantrell. "This effort also should have a positive economic impact on local communities. The state of Texas has had huge success with stocking Florida-strain largemouth bass, and we expect the same."

The department has not stocked Roosevelt Lake with Florida-strain largemouth bass since the 1980s. Since 2011 surveys, there has been an 80-percent reduction in largemouth bass catch rates. Still, in 2013, Roosevelt Lake was the most fished water

in the state.

Florida-strain largemouth bass is the same species as the northern strain that dominates Arizona's warm-water fisheries. But, unlike northern strain, adult Florida strain in the 10- to 15-pound range is relatively common. An additional benefit of the Florida strain is its potential to feed on Roosevelt Lake's nonnative gizzard shad.

The department expects at least a few thousand Florida strain to survive to adulthood. It will likely take at least two years before the bass grow to a catchable size of 10-12 inches.

A United States Forest Service Tonto Pass is required to fish Roosevelt Lake.

**SPRING FISHING**

*Continued from page 7*

In other canyons (Gunsight, Padre, Last Chance, Rock Creek, Escalante and San Juan) fat juvenile stripers are feeding on plankton. Stripers are scattered and can best be caught trolling a shad imitating crankbait that runs 12 to 20 feet deep. Trolling speed should be 3 mph for the best result. Mark locations where each fish is caught and return to that spot to catch more.

More stripers are hitting anchovy bait at the dam. Catching is getting much better with 10 fish caught per hour from anglers checked this week. Stripers caught

on bait are not as healthy as those caught with reaction lure techniques.

Very deep canyons (150 feet or more) with a shallow bench along the edge are harboring a few large steeper schools. We found a huge school with fat juvenile stripers and recovering adults at Buoy 25 which was last years' hottest steeper spot in the lower lake. We dropped spoons right on the school with quick results but fish moved back into the deep water after we caught 6 or more in 5 minutes.

Spring fishing is at its best right now. It will only improve as the water warms into the 60s.

*At press time, lake elevation was 3574, and water temperature, 52-60F.*

**TIPS**

*Continued from page 7*

Trout fishing in northern Arizona is better in the spring than in the summer. Summer fishing in Flagstaff and Williams is

best for bass, crappie, northern pike and bluegill.

For more fishing information visit the Arizona Game and Fish Department website at [http://www.azgfd.gov/h\\_f/fishing](http://www.azgfd.gov/h_f/fishing).

This is a one-time stocking effort. Future stockings of Florida-strain largemouth bass efforts are possible, but would rely on

public donations. To contribute to a thriving Roosevelt Lake fishery, visit <http://www.azgfd.gov/bassDonations>.



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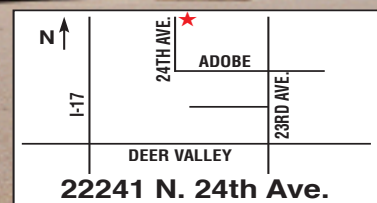
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# In Memory Of Muffin Man

**THANK YOU** — Not always the case with all cats, Muffin Man Brookes was a friend of and to everyone who was part of his life — even those who aren't "cat people." In fact, all one needed to do was walk in Muffin's Person's front door, and he or she would be immediately greeted and "expected" to give full attention

to him. His meow was interesting, to say the least, but his purr was one of the most soothingly beautiful ever heard. And, it was constant. Muffin Man said goodbye on April 3, 2014 after a long life with Chelle Brookes, who cared for him for many years and with complete love. We send our sympathy to Muffin's many, many friends and his family — but especially to his Chelle. Thank you for being such a good friend, little Muffin Man, and for many wonderful memories of our times together.



# Spotlight: Business



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**WOMEN**

*Continued from page 9*

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session. Reservations fill quickly, so grab a friend and come join us for the annual NRA Women's Wilderness Escape!

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• Session 2 will be held Sept. 28 - Oct. 5  
For more information, contact us at (800) 672-7435 opt 4 or email [wwe@nrahq.org](mailto:wwe@nrahq.org).

**ELK**

*Continued from page 9*

the seven Arizona Game and Fish Department offices.

Some of the leftover elk tags are for Hopi hunt open areas and are available to everyone, both tribal members and non-

tribal members, through the first-come first-serve process.

For those who qualify, there are also some leftover elk tags for military hunts at Camp Navajo; contact [www.azguard.gov/CampNavajo.htm](http://www.azguard.gov/CampNavajo.htm) or call (928) 864-6239 for additional information on Camp Navajo hunts.

**APRIL**

*Continued from page 8*

**The Reel Deal**

Here's a quick fish story. On April 8, angler Jack Head of Phoenix was taking his wife and sister-in-law boating, fishing, and for a picnic. What he saw in the Agua Fria arm floating on the surface was a once-in-a-lifetime sight.

A monster striper, with a roughly 5-pound carp wedged in its mouth, was floating on the surface.

Head pulled in the fish and weighed it on his hand scale — the fish pinned his 30-pound maximum scale. Head said the fish was far more than 40 inches in length. The point is that these monster stripers are in Lake Pleasant, and they're willing to eat a 5-pound carp.

"I got him up with the gaff, then I handed the pole to my wife," Head said. "I had fish smell on my arms after I reached out and hugged him."

You never know what adventure awaits on Arizona waters. Go create yours.

**DERBY**

*Continued from page 8*

mercial anglers will not be allowed to enter.

Two, there is a change in the fish mix; halibut has replaced albacore, which is a more consistent local game fish. Yellowtail will be the featured fish, but the event will include white seabass and halibut divisions.

The winner of the 2013 Tournament was Marc Nunes of Point Loma, San Diego, Calif. He successfully landed a 35-pound yellowtail in the La Jolla kelp on June 3 on his boat. Neil Barbour was the winner of the white seabass division with a 62-pound, 8-ounce fish off Point Loma.

For more information, contact John Campbell, (619) 991-5481 or [johncinsd@gmail.com](mailto:johncinsd@gmail.com).



**LAKE POWELL Yacht Club**

The purpose of the Club is to serve the interest of boat owners and water recreational enthusiasts, to defend such owners and recreational enthusiasts against discriminatory legislation and burdensome taxation, to prevent the pollution of Lake Powell and neighboring recreational facilities, to stimulate a greater interest in boating among all the citizens in the area and those attracted to the area served by the Club, to promote better boating and water safety, to develop a fraternal spirit among local outdoor enthusiasts, and to provide a medium for the exchange of boating information.

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