

AZGFD Asks Hunters To Help Keep Chronic Wasting Disease At Bay

ON THE COVER

Arizona's deer and elk populations remain CWD-free due to surveillance efforts.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) is asking hunters to continue doing their part to help keep Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) at bay. CWD is a fatal wildlife disease that affects the nervous system of deer and elk.

All successful deer and elk hunters are encouraged to bring the head of their harvested animal — especially bucks and bulls — to any department office statewide between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The department is requesting that hunters call in advance before delivering a head for sampling.

The preferred method for storage is to place the head in a heavy-duty plastic trash bag, and keep it cold or frozen until it can be sampled. The department also requests hunters to provide accurate hunter information (name, telephone number), as well as hunt information (hunt number, game management unit in which the animal was harvested, state, and hunting license number). This information is crucial should CWD be detected in a sample.

As an alternative, hunters can view an instructional video on how to collect their own



samples on AZGFD's website (www.azgfd.com/healthy), then bring those samples to any department office statewide.

AZGFD is hoping to sample 1,500 deer and elk this season.

Department officials have not detected any cases of CWD in the 400-plus deer (mule and white-tailed) and elk that have been harvested by hunters and voluntarily submitted for testing this fall. Game and Fish has been testing for the presence of the disease in Arizona since 1998. While CWD

has been found in the neighboring states of Utah, New Mexico and Colorado, the disease has not been detected in Arizona. CWD has not been documented to cause disease in people.

CWD is transmitted and spread by animal movement and direct contact, which means the illegal importation of a cervid carcass or parts with brain or spinal column tissue of an infected animal could introduce

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Pay It Forward

BY CAROL L. ALLEN

It's the season of giving. We have had suggestions for boaters, hunters, outdoor enthusiasts overall, and veterans.

But, what about the other members of our "extended family" — our wonderful wildlife? Of course they cannot let us know what they need, but I think with some guidance from organizations such as the Arizona Game & Fish Department, Conservation First USA, and multiple other species-specific support groups, we can embrace some great gift ideas for our wildlife.

Three examples come to mind especially during hunting season: doing your part to keep wasting disease at bay, keeping collars from harvested game to ensure helpful information is recorded, and participating in the 2024 raffle for big-game tags. Every dollar raised for each species through the raffle is returned to the Arizona Game and Fish Department and managed by the Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee. With input from local habitat partners across the state and sponsoring organizations involved in the fundraising, project priorities are determined that provide the most benefit to each species.

There are many more ways (e.g., summer programs to provide water for wildlife) to gift these members of our extended family.

Yes, you too can pay it forward; *Join AZGFD's Conservation Membership program and ensure a wildlife legacy for the future: <https://www.azwildlifehero.com/donate/>.* ■

Hunters: Save Tracking Collars From Big Game

Wildlife management relies on valuable data.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is encouraging hunters who harvest a big game animal affixed with a GPS or VHF tracking collar to return that collar undamaged to any department office statewide.

While harvesting a collared animal is legal, Game and Fish asks hunters to refrain from cutting, damaging or otherwise destroying any portion of a collar. A collar easily can be removed from a harvested animal's neck by loosening two nuts on the black "drop-off" box on one side of the collar. A crescent wrench, socket wrench or multi-use tool can be used to loosen only those two nuts.

The department relies on valuable data



that collars provide in making science-based decisions that determine the most effective wildlife management practices. The stored

data can include an animal's behaviors, movement patterns and frequency, individual and group dynamics, home-range size and more.

The technology is expensive. A collar can range in cost up to several thousands of dollars. When factoring in additional costs of human resources, equipment and capture, the department is making a substantial investment in each collared animal. A portion of the funding comes from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) program, a stalwart national funding source for state conservation and recreational opportunities.

It's also helpful for hunters to report the date and location of their harvest when returning an undamaged collar to any department office statewide. For more information, call 602-942-3000. ■

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Photo Contest Winners Announced

The Real Winner Is Arizona's Wildlife

Enter for a chance to win special big game tags.

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

Buy Tickets Today!

The real winner is Arizona's wildlife. Every dollar raised for each species through the raffle is returned to the Arizona Game and Fish Department and managed by the

Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee. With input from local habitat partners across the state and sponsoring organizations involved in the fundraising, project priorities are determined that provide the most benefit to each species.

New This Year

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

Details

• Raffle tickets are \$10 each, per species. There is no limit to the number of tickets customers can purchase.

• The deadline to purchase tickets is 9 p.m. on July 7, 2024.

• The winner can hunt for 365 days (Aug. 15, 2024 to Aug. 14, 2025).

• Raffle tickets must be purchased [online](https://www.conservaionfirstusa.org/), and the buyer must be in Arizona at the time of purchase.

• The drawing will be conducted in July 2024.

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

More Information

<https://conservationfirstusa.org/> ■



Turkey



Antelope



Bison

DECEMBER 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS

CAME CHRISTMAS

During the night — velvet, dark and quiet,
Beyond the river — silver, soft and deep,
Above the trees — standing still and silent,
In the sky — hushed and asleep,

APPEARED A STAR.

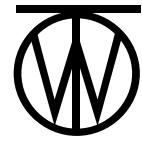
With a promise — bright and shining,
For a world wrapped in fear,
Into a moment shot with silver,
To a place so far, yet near,

CAME CHRISTMAS.

- by Carol L. Allen



We at Arizona Boating & Watersports wish you and your family a wonderful, meaningful Christmas.



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DECEMBER 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE

Have a safe and wonderful celebration.

JANUARY 1: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May 2024 have in store for you: happiness, good fortune, and good health.



Editor's Note: Please submit announcements for AZBW/WOT's calendar of events — "Downstream" — to editor@azbw.com. To guarantee placement, as room allows, items must be received by the tenth (10th) of the month prior to publication. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy, but we assume no responsibility for print errors or omissions. We also reserve the right to edit each item. Please include the name of the event, the date and time, the location, the organization, and contact information. You can also submit your event individually at westernoutdoortimes.com/classifieds.

Our waterways are ready, but are you?

To learn more about boating safely in Arizona visit www.azgfd.gov/boating or call: 623-236-7258

**Wear a life jacket.
Every trip.
Every time.**

Under state law, life jackets are required to be worn by children 12 years old and younger, but it's strongly urged that everyone wear one while on the water. Life jackets save lives.

Before heading out on the water, it's important that boaters check to ensure that their life jackets are in good condition and that they are the right size and fit for passengers. Look for:

- Any rips or tears
- Missing straps
- Broken fasteners
- Ensure that the flotation hasn't shifted.

Life jackets should be inspected each boating season due to the environment's impact on their materials and replaced if necessary.

Register Your Watercraft

Make sure your vessel's registration is current before heading out on the water! Skip the line and renew your watercraft registration online at www.azgfd.gov/boating



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Buying A Gift For A Boater? They Are Easy To Shop For

BY ED HUNTSMAN
BOATING CO-EDITOR

You are in luck! There is never a challenge when shopping for a gift for the boater(s) in your life. Whether your recipient sails, operates a powerboat, PWC, enjoys paddle-sports on a Stand-up paddle board, in a canoe or a kayak, chances are they are always in need of something that will enhance their day, safety or activity.

Some Ideas

If they're not dropping any hints for you and you're not comfortable asking them what they'd like, you might give their watercraft and equipment / gear a look to see if anything looks like it could use an upgrade or replacement. Life jackets wear out and electronics are constantly getting smaller and more useful. If they're anglers, they'll always be able to use new and additional tackle or fishing gear. From clothing to a new fly rod, no shortage of choices for an avid angler.

For Towed Sports

Do they enjoy water-skiing or other towed sports? Again, easy shopping for new music, a blue-tooth waterproof speaker, skis, board shorts or swimming suits, sunglasses, hats or other items that make good accessories for the right look out on the water. And, it's easy to gift a pre-paid card for your recipient to choose his or her own present!

For Paddlers

Is there a paddler on your list? Consider things like a throw-bag with a 25 or 50 - foot length of line inside that can be

used to help rescue a friend if necessary. A splash-guard, new gloves or dry bag can always be put to immediate use along with a new reusable beverage container.

For Any Boater

Any boater, regardless of the type of boating they do will appreciate a small but well-appointed first-aid kit. A Go-Pro? A bit pricey, but sure to please the boater on your list who can now capture all the action. A hand-held GPS will help make sure your boaters know where they are and how to get back!

More Ideas

A small appropriate size cooler that won't sink their boat? All shapes and sizes are available and now, are very effective and soft-sided coolers that are available in a variety of different sizes won't overwhelm the boat or the people in it. Dock lines or other items such as fenders can always find a home in helping protect the gel coat of a boat hull. Flashlights, cyalume chem light-sticks, or emergency navigation lights can be extremely useful when needed.

Water And Sun Protection

A good wide-brimmed hat providing protection from the sun and sunscreen is always appreciated by those that spend time of the water. And, a waterproof case for your boater's smart phone can also help keep a good day good in the event the phone slips out of someone's hands when trying to capture a photo. ■

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LIGHTED-BOAT PARADES

The Southwest Sparkles At Christmas

Lake Havasu State Park

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023 4 p.m.

Bring your blankets and lawn chairs, because Lake Havasu State Park will again be offering free admission to the Windsor 4 event area for the Holiday Boat Parade of Lights! The entrance gate from Paseo Del Sol will be open for free admission at 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 9.

Restrooms will be open for public use, and a limited number of picnic tables will be placed along the shoreline and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Propane fire rings and grills will be permitted for responsible use.

Please leave your pets at home; dogs are not allowed on the white sand beach. All children 13 and under need to be accompanied by an adult.

Holiday lights will adorn boats as they glitter and glisten through the famed Bridgewater Channel under the London Bridge as a new organizer continues to bring the community a 38-year-old tradition on Saturday night only!



ROBERT AND CHRISTYNE OLSON

Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade

December 13 – 17, 2023

Over 1 million spectators show up each year to watch the twinkling lights of the Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade. Festively decorated yachts, boats, kayaks, and canoes float along the harbor for five nights each December. Waterfront homes and businesses along the route also take part with their own colorful lighted displays.

Watch beautifully decorated yachts, boats, kayaks and canoes sail along the harbor in the 115th Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade. This year's parade will be held Wednesday through Sunday, December 13-17, 2023 and is once again hosted by the Commodore Club of the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce.

San Diego Bay

Sundays, Dec. 10 And 17

USA Today nominated the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights to contend in the newspaper's 10 Best Readers' Choice



Best Holiday Parade contest, with the final ranking to be decided by a vote from the public.

Continuing its long-standing San Diego tradition, the 53rd annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights promises to be the Holiday Parade of the year, entertaining bayfront crowds during the Sunday evenings of December 10 and 17, 2023. Participants in this year's highly anticipated holiday boat parade will decorate their boats to fit this year's theme, "Christmas Traditions Around the World."

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our major sponsors, the Jeff Brown Yachts, Royal Caribbean International, and the USS Midway Museum. Their unwavering support has been instrumental in making this unforgettable event possible. Additional sponsors include the Port of San Diego, Sterling Associates, Bali Hai Restaurant, Cook + Schmid, Maritime Museum San Diego, and more.

For information about viewing and entering the parade, go to 53rd Annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights (sdparadeoflights.org)

If interested in sponsoring the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights, please contact Joni Geis via email at joni@boatlenderusa.com, Larry Baumann at 619-222-1181 or via email at larry@balihairestaurant.com, or Gail Strickland at 619-788-9217 or via email at showhostgail@gmail.com.

About The San Diego Bay Parade Of Lights

The San Diego Bay Parade of Lights is a time-honored tradition brought to the San Diego Bay by the boating community. Each year, more than 80 lavishly decorated boats proceed around the San Diego Bay on two consecutive Sundays in December. More than 100,000 fans line the bayfront to view the parade each year. For more information, please visit www.sdparadeoflights.org.



Tempe, Ariz. Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade

Saturday, Dec. 9, 4-9 p.m.

The Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade is the Valley's most unique holiday event and celebrated tradition. Enjoy holiday

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

Be sure to check the battery expiration date located on the case of your Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or EPIRB. Most sets have a 5 years replacement date.

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Two Amazingly Portable Kayaks (And Where To Take Them)

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

The Isle Switch

Aren't all kayaks portable? Well, yes, but not all of them fit into a backpack, pump and all, with the whole package weighing just 19 pounds! The Isle Switch is the ideal kayak/paddle board for fishermen, especially fishermen who travel or who like to fish small waters that are hard to get to.

One of the features of this kayak is the flat deck – you sit on a chair that is raised from the deck and there is plenty of room and plenty of straps for your gear -- and they've eliminated plastic and metal parts on the deck. The flatness and width make it incredibly stable, and you can even strap multiple Switches together with Versa Straps, making it even more stable.

The elevated seat (you can put two seats on it if you want) sits four inches off the deck, and the adjustable foot rest means comfort all day long. The 4-piece hybrid paddle fits into an inflatable holder on the side of the Switch. The oval shaft and rubberized grip on the paddle makes paddling comfortable and easy, and the shaft itself adjusts for using the Switch as a kayak or a paddle board.

Perfect For Hiking To Secret Waters

The instant I saw this I knew it was the perfect boat for packing into those secret little backwaters that are impossible to drive to. You can pack the whole kit and caboodle into the backpack, toss it in the back or on top of the Jeep, and head for places with waters where you won't see another soul all day. You know – where the giants live!

The two-way pump inflates the Switch in just six minutes, so you don't have to waste precious fishing time. Plus, the 18-inch seat back means you'll fish in comfort all day long. If you're fishing a string of waters, a handy shoulder strap allows you to carry the inflated Switch from one pond to the next without having to deflate and re-inflate it. That same strap can be used across the deck to hold gear down.



The Isle is an inflatable with plenty of room for a fisherman. You can also leave the seat off and use it as a paddleboard. There's even room for our little Mochi on this nice flat deck!

What You Get

The Isle Switch comes with one seat, one footrest, a 2-in-1 paddle, handpump, board, and a premium storage pack. It retails for \$995. The Switch is a full 35 inches wide, making it super comfortable and stable, with lots of room for your fishing gear and even a cooler. If you're camping or spending multiple days out, you can take the seat off and use it on the ground, meaning even fewer things to carry. It's 11'6" long and has a 425 pound capacity, plus it comes in lots of colors.

Don't be afraid of its being inflatable – it's made with AirTech Fusion Lite Technology, which is a woven nylon fabric that decreases the weight by 20 – 30% but offers a high durability. It's got a flexible fin so you don't have to worry if you hit an underwater obstacle. Find out more about the Switch at <https://www.islesurfansup.com/>.

The Oru Origami Kayak

As you might have guessed from the



The Oru Origami Kayak is a folding kayak that weighs just 17 pounds and puts together in about 2 minutes!



The Oru Lake Origami Kayak is built for fishing, and you can carry it to the smallest waters -- no launch ramp required!

name, the Oru Origami Lake Kayak is a foldable boat that has just two loose parts. It can be put together in just under two minutes and only weighs 17 pounds – it's the lightest non-inflatable kayak on the market! Not only that, it only costs \$599. The collapsible paddle is sold separately.

The Lake is 9 feet by 32 inches. A single sheet of double layered polypropylene forms the hull and deck of the kayak (as well as the box), and the other part is a custom folded floorboard with a built-in 18mm memory foam seat. The unique folded floorboard is what creates the structural integrity of the kayak.

The Lake has easy to close bow and stern folds and an open cockpit for easy entry and exit. You can carry it with an Inlet backpack or the padded carrying handles. Want to know more? Check out <https://www.orukayak.com/products/lake>.

The Lake+ is currently on sale for \$559.20 (save \$140!) and it includes a free paddle with purchase. Upgrades include additional trim on the front floorboard, and adjustable backrest, and a seat designed to work with their seat cushion upgrade products. Oru Kayaks offers 30 day returns and a 3-year warranty. In addition to that, they offer financing for as low as \$71/month and they also sell discounted certified refurbished kayaks that have not been used on the water. You can get all the details at their website orukayak.com.

Waterproof Your Gear (Phone, Lunch, Etc.)

One thing you need to consider no matter what kind of boating you do is how to keep your gear, especially things like phones and cameras and lunches dry. Splashes happen. But even if your bag



The RUX waterproof bag is an essential piece of kit for any kayaker.

goes overboard, a RUX 25L Waterproof Bag is the rugged, easy to pack and carry tote that is the perfect addition to your kayak. Strap it on your Isle or stow it in your Origami Lake and keep your expensive electronics safe and dry.

It has a wide roll-top opening for easy packing, a removable shoulder carry strap and grab handles, and it's heavy duty waterproof TPU coated nylon. It also has 360-degree lash points so you can easily secure it to your kayak, as well as additional storage via the RUX pocket for stuff you need to get to quickly. Leave some air space in the top and I'm pretty sure this bad boy will float if you need it to! It costs \$150, but my new iPhone was over \$1000, so that sounds pretty darn good to me!

Where To Take Your Incredibly Foldable Kayak

Seriously, where CAN'T you take it? Whether you carry it in a backpack or as a suitcase, you can tote these kayaks down to any shoreline. One of our favorites for bass fishing would be the back end of Castle Creek at Lake Pleasant. You can put in from shore and the whole area is no wake. John and I once got second place at an All Star bass tournament out of one little cut in Castle – over a

KAYAKS, continued on page 10



The Oru Lake is easy to carry with the padded handle, or you can get the backpack.

PARADES

Continued from page 5

shopping, festive eats and treats, a dazzling boat parade featuring boats of all shapes and sizes, and a spectacular fireworks show. This event is free and family-friendly. See you at the Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade in December 2023!

Boat Parade Schedule

- 4:00 PM - The park opens for Holiday Shopping, Food Vendors, Beer & Wine Garden and Entertainment
- 4:15 PM - 5:00 PM - Emmanuel Lutheran School
- 5:15 PM - 6:00 PM – Solh Music
- 6:15 PM - 7:00 PM – Gal Drimmer
- 7:00 PM - Parade Starts
- 8:15 PM – Fireworks
- 8:15 PM - Santa Photos & Letters to Santa
- 8:15 PM - 9:00 PM – Gal Drimmer
- 9:00 PM – Goodnight!

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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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Buying Or Selling A Gun Online? Here's What To Expect

BY JOHN ANDERSON

Most of the time if I want to trade a gun in on a new one I just take it to Legendary Guns and those guys are great – I'm always happy with the trade and it's just plain fun to chew the fat with those guys. But recently I was in the market for a side-by-side shotgun – a kind of once in a lifetime purchase, and I wanted to trade in some other shotguns for it. Since Legendary didn't have the gun I wanted, I decided to see if I could do the deal online. Here's what happened.

Trading Or Selling A Gun Online

There are a lot of websites that will take your unneeded or unwanted guns off your hands and either credit your bank account or let you trade for a gun they have in stock. The first thing you need to do before even thinking about this is to check out the online store thoroughly by reading reviews from independent sources, checking better business bureau, and checking websites that keep track of scammers and just plain crooks.

In my case, I chose an online site that I know has been around for years and years and I've done business with before with no problems. There are actually a couple of such sites, so I chose my favorite one. There was a prominent button right on the main webpage that said "Sell Your Gun", so I clicked on that.

That took me to a page where I filled out all the info about the guns I wanted to trade in, including the condition, if the original packaging was included, any accessories included, the serial number, and photo of the gun right side and left side. After filling that out, it was a couple of days before I received a response with an offer to buy.

By then, I had decided to take two of the shotguns to Legendary and trade them in on a couple of pistols. I came away su-



Packing a gun you're selling online is time consuming and can get expensive. If the website you're selling to offers to send you packing materials for a reasonable fee, take it! We could have paid \$30 for packing materials, but instead we DIY'd it and it cost more like \$50!

per happy with that that trade, and that left me with just one over and under to trade in online.

The site that offered to buy the shotgun offered me a good deal, so I agreed to it.

Shipping The Gun To The Buyer

Now came the fun part. The shotgun I was selling (the site I used didn't do trades – they paid me for my gun) had a case that was rectangular instead of long since OU's break apart. The offer from

the website said they'd send a pre-paid shipping label, and if I wanted them to send packaging too, they'd deduct \$30 from my quote.

Margie and I decided that they would probably send packaging for a long gun, so we decided we'd package it ourselves. They sent the label to print and instructions. The instructions said that the package had to pass the "shake test" – in other words, nothing should move in the box or make any noise when the box was shaken. Hmm.

We ended up wrapping the choke tubes in paper towels before putting them in the canisters, and using old gun socks on the two parts of the shotgun. We wrapped the choke wrench in paper towels as well. That meant that the case was solid and nothing rattled. All good. I repeat: Now came the fun part.

Packing The Gun

We needed a box that was around 32x11x4 inches. We looked everywhere! The only ones that even came close can only be purchased in packs of 20 and were cost prohibitive. So we went to the local UPS store and bought a couple of 1616x4 boxes (\$20). Of course, even though the dimensions were correct, the orientation of them was not, so we had to undo them and sort of rig them together to make one long box 16x4x32.

Because it was rigged that way we had

to go to Staples and buy a BIG cardboard box – big enough to cut two pieces 32x16, plus packing tape, plus packing peanuts. Another \$28. We finally got it packaged and used a ton of tape on it, and that sucker was sturdy as all get-out. Put the label on and headed to UPS with it.

On the way we discussed our concerns with UPS's tendency to ask you what's in the box you're sending. We were reluctant to tell them it was a gun, but we definitely wanted to insure that bad boy. But the guy at the counter never asked. I did ask him about insuring the package, but he said that was all on the label. So, almost \$50 bucks later, the package was finally on its way. That was November 9.

On November 14 I received an email saying that they had received the firearm and to give them some time while they process it. Since today is only the 15th I haven't heard back from them yet.

Buying A Gun Online

The side-by-side that I want is a beautiful upland gun with quail on it. I found it at a pretty good price online, checked out the site, and it was legit. So we ordered and paid for it. The next day we got an email saying they are really sorry but they don't have that gun and they don't know how it got on their website. They said they'd credit my card.

Two days later there are two charges for the gun and no credit. I called them and got the guy at home while he was eating dinner. He said, "That shouldn't happen!" and told us he'd take care of it the next day. Crickets. Called the bank and they said they could do a disputed charge once the two charged were final. We're not talking peanuts here – a nice side-by-side is pricey!

I got my secretary Margie to call the gun company again and this time she got hold of the guy who does the charges and credits and he said that for some reason the bank often lists two charges – one pending and one real. Never heard of that. Anyway, finally the next day there was just one charge, and the day after that there was a credit. This all took 5 days, and I still didn't have my new gun!

However, the place that was buying my OU did have the side by side, but of course, for a higher price. I bought it anyway and had it shipped to Legendary Guns.

Getting A Gun Shipped To You

First of all, they won't ship a gun to you. They'll ship it to a dealer and you pay for an FFL. Call around. I called my favorite gun stores and got quotes from \$25 to \$50. When the gun comes in, you go to the gun shop, pay for the FFL, fill out the usual paperwork for the Feds, and take your gun home.

GUNS ONLINE, continued on page 10

Stockings, Bait, Tackle: All Are Geared To Reel You In

As the weather cools, fishing warms up.

Community Fishing Program Update

The Community Fishing Program (CFP) finished catfish stockings for the season the week of Nov. 7. Trout will be returning to CFP waters in Phoenix, Tucson and Safford the week of Dec. 4-8. AZGFD will be stocking various CFP waters each week through the end of February. Visit the CFP stocking schedule for details.

Renovations at Roadrunner Pond in Phoenix should be finishing up and refilling is expected to occur sometime in January. Eldorado Pond in Scottsdale is still undergoing renovations with no specific completion date. Trout stocking has been underway since mid October for CFP waters in Prescott Valley, Payson, Show Low, and St. Johns.

Frances Short Pond Refilled And Stocked For First Time Since 2022 Pipeline Fire



Francis Short Pond in Flagstaff has been refilled and stocked with trout. The pond was drained in summer 2022 after monsoonal rains following the Pipeline Fire flushed thousands of cubic yards of ash, debris and sediment into the pond, resulting in a complete fish kill due to low dissolved oxygen.

The City of Flagstaff worked tirelessly to remove over 5,000 cubic yards of debris during the summer of 2023. It repaired and installed a new aeration system that not only runs on solar power, but is also hooked up to main electrical power. The new aeration system has the capacity to provide dissolved oxygen to the pond 24 hours a day, particularly overnight when it is the most critical time for fish survival.

The pond was refilled with Class A reclaimed water by the City of Flagstaff in early October 2023, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Page Springs Hatchery stocked 500 rainbow trout on Nov. 8 and again on Nov. 20.

Fishing has been good using flies (#12 Prince Nymphs and #10 Simi-seal leeches) and lures (1/8-ounce Panther Martins and Kastmasters). The limit is 2 bass minimum size 13 inches, the limit is 4 chan-

FISHING, continued on page 12



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Note: There are no changes to the site itself, our Facebook Page, Twitter Account or Facebook Group "The Sportsman's Advocate", Newsletter or the SRT Radio Show.

Hunters Get Second Shot At Doves

'Second' season runs through December 31.

When it comes to experiencing some of the finest wing-shooting that Arizona has to offer, the "second" dove season — which opens Friday, Nov. 17 — is not to be missed.

While the bigger white-winged doves, prized during the traditional 15-day season in September, have long since migrated to Mexico, the more acrobatic mourning doves remain abundant and widespread. The second season is a longer one, lasting 45 days and running through Dec. 31, 2023.

There still is a 15-bird daily bag limit, all of which must be mourning doves. The possession limit remains 45 mourning doves after opening day, of which no more than 15 may be taken in any one day. Note: The Arizona Game and Fish Department encourages all hunters to harvest as many Eurasian collared-doves as possible. There is an unlimited daily bag and possession limit year-round for this invasive species.

A few things to remember to make the most of the upcoming season:



A combination hunt and fish license for youth hunters ages 10 to 17 is only \$5. Children 9 and under do not need a license when accompanied by a licensed adult (two children per adult). Licenses can be purchased online at www.azgfd.com/License/, or from any license dealer.

Hunters 18 and older must possess an Arizona hunting license, or a combination hunt and fish license, and an Arizona migratory bird stamp (\$5), all of which can be purchased online or from any license dealer.

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before legal sunrise until legal sunset.

One fully feathered wing must remain attached to each harvested dove until it reaches its final destination.

Keep in mind that dove hunters are responsible for cleaning up after themselves. Shell casings (shotgun hulls) and

associated debris constitute litter and must be picked up and packed out. Littering while hunting or fishing are revocable violations, and a conviction can result in the loss of hunting privileges for up to five years.

For everything "dove," read the "2023-2024 Arizona Dove and Band-tailed Pigeon Regulations".

Dove hunters play an important role in conservation. Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program funds consist of excise taxes collected on the sale of hunting and fishing equipment (including 11 percent on ammunition), the benefit of which comes right back to Arizona for habitat improvements, shooting ranges, boating access and more.

In addition to the late dove season that opens Friday, several other small game hunting seasons are underway, including quail (Gambel's, scaled), Oct. 13, 2023-Feb. 11, 2024; cottontail rabbit, July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024; chukar, Sept. 1, 2023-Feb. 11, 2024; and tree squirrel (Abert's, Kaibab and red, excluding Mount Graham red squirrel), Sept. 29, 2023-Jan. 31, 2024. The season for Mearns' quail opens Dec. 1, 2023, and closes Feb. 11, 2024. ■

DISEASE

Continued from page 1

the disease into Arizona.

To that point, an individual is only allowed to possess, transport or import the following portions of cervids lawfully taken in another state or country:

Boneless portions of meat, or meat that has been cut and packaged.

Clean hides and capes with no skull or soft tissue attached.

Antlers, clean skull plates or skulls with antlers attached with no meat or soft tissue remaining.

Finished taxidermy mounts or products (hunters may ship their harvested animal to a taxidermist).

Upper canine teeth with no meat or tissue attached.

Do not bring the brain, intact skull or spinal column of a deer or elk harvested in another state back into Arizona.

It may take longer than a year before an infected deer or elk develops symptoms of CWD, which can include drastic weight loss (wasting), stumbling, being unaware of its surroundings, and other neurological symptoms. CWD can infect deer and elk animals of all ages, although it's most frequently noticed in older animals. CWD is fatal, and there are no treatments or vaccines.

All hunters are advised not to shoot, handle or consume any animal that is acting abnormally or appears to be sick. Wear latex or rubber gloves when field dressing deer or elk. All hunters are asked to contact the department at 623-236-7201 if they see or harvest an animal that appears to be sick.

For information about importation of harvested animals in other states, contact that state's wildlife management agency. For more information about CWD, visit www.azgfd.com/healthy.

Join our Conservation Membership program and ensure a wildlife legacy for the future. ■

KAYAKS

Continued from page 7

22-pound limit! What a day!

For trout, I'd take mine to any of the little lakes around Williams, like JD Tank and Perkins Tank. Every time I've been there I've been the only person there. Mochi loves to chase the frogs and they are just beautiful little lakes in the for-

est. All of the southern AZ lakes would be great, too, and they have great bass fishing.

Of course there are also all the White Mountain Lakes, and the many little lakes around Pinetop/Lakeside. Rainbow Lake is a great little bass lake that we've fished with Johnny Johnson. Beautiful forest all around and lots of birds and other critters.

The beauty of these inflatable or foldable kayaks is that you can just put them

in the back of your SUV and drive to wherever you want to put in — no boat ramp required. They are perfect for a camping trip to a small lake, or even a large lake. For large lakes with lots of boat traffic, you can always go to a no wake area and put in. There are always plenty of excellent places to fish in any big cove — just fish it like you would a small lake!

By the way, either of these little beauties would be an exceptionally great Christmas present! I would love to get one myself! ■

GUNS ONLINE

Continued from page 9

My Advice For Buying And Selling Online

Don't be in a hurry. Check out the dealer THOROUGHLY.

If they offer to send you packaging, take them up on it. It's crazy to try to pack one yourself.

Prepare to wait for quite a while when you are selling a gun online. I haven't gotten paid yet, so I'm not even sure they'll give me the amount they quoted. They should, because the gun is in perfect condition, but nothing is sure but death and taxes.

Call around and find out how much your local gun stores charge you to have a gun shipped there. In fact, go to your local

shop first and if they don't have what you want, ask if they'll order it for you. Then you don't pay until it's there!

Before you sell a gun online, check local shops and see if they buy guns. Many times they'll only take trades, but it doesn't hurt to ask. Compare the offers you get, but remember to be scrupulously honest about the condition of the gun if you're selling it online because once they have it and check it out, their offer will go down if it isn't what you said it was. They might even charge you to send it back to you!

Bottom Line

Sometimes the firearm you really want is not to be found locally. *Buying* a gun online is WAY easier than *selling* a gun online, just because of the whole packing and shipping hassle. Hopefully you can learn from my experience! ■

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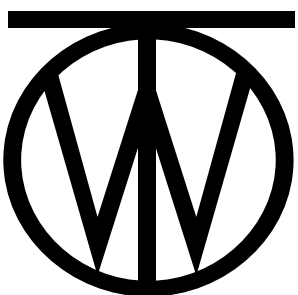
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FISHING

Continued from page 9

nel catfish, the limit is 5 sunfish, the limit is 4 trout. Surface temperature was 46.5 F, pH 7.75, D.O. 7.2, Secchi Depth 1 meter (3.28 feet) on 11/6/2023.

Fishing Tips And Upcoming Events

BY CHASE NEWLON

AZGFD R3 COORDINATOR

Now that the weather is cooler, the fishing is starting to heat up! It's that time of year when cold water fishing really starts to take off, so make sure you have your gear in order. Whether you are new to fishing or are a seasoned angler, here are a few tips to make sure your gear is ready for the fall.

If you are new to fishing and are looking for a rod and reel for cold water fishing, I would recommend a 7-foot, medium-power, fast-action spinning rod with a 2500-size spinning reel. This rod is the jack of all trades and will be able to do just about any kind of fishing you can find here in Arizona. Some of my favorite baits for trout are salmon eggs, corn, and PowerBait with a few split-shots 18 inches up the line. If artificial lures are more your



thing, targeting trout this time of year can be very effective with 1/4 oz. Kastmasters, 3-1/8" Rapala X Rap, and 1/8-ounce Marabou Jigs. For trout and other cold water species, you should use a 6- to 8-pound fluorocarbon or monofilament line.

Speaking of line, line weakens and deteriorates over time and the last thing you want is to hook up on a fish and the line breaks. You should change out your line

A Good Example —

Saturday, Dec. 2, 9-11 a.m. - Salt River Saturdays River Cleanup, Trout Unlimited Zane Grey Chapter, Blue Point Recreation Area on the Salt River, Fort McDowell. The Zane Grey Chapter of Trout Unlimited is joining with the Arizona FishAZ Network and presenting "Salt River Saturdays." We are continuing our conservation efforts by asking everyone to collect a net full of trash (#cleanmywater). What to bring: rod, waders, net and flies (Green Weenie's, small black Zebra Midges, Pheasant Tails, green, black and yellow Woolly Worms and Woolly Bggers). Make sure you have a Tonto National Forest Pass, as well as a valid Arizona fishing license. You can get an Arizona fishing license at www.azgfd.gov. To register, visit <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/205391>. Other cleanup dates will be Jan. 6, Jan. 20, Feb. 3, Feb. 17, March 2, March 16, and April 6.

Rose Canyon Lake Restrictions Extended For Two More Years

Lake remains open for fishing but not swimming and boating.

The Coronado National Forest has extended the existing prohibition on swimming and boating at Rose Canyon Lake for two more years to protect public health and safety and the environmental quality of Rose Canyon Lake, which serves as a fishery. The lake is still open to fishing from shore, walking around the lake, or camping in the nearby campground. The prohibition on swimming and boating is in effect through Oct. 22, 2025.

Volunteers Sought For Upcoming Lake Habitat Improvement Projects

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is seeking volunteers for two upcoming aquatic habitat projects in January.

Roosevelt Lake – Jan. 20

AZGFD will be installing donated Christmas Trees into Roosevelt Lake on Saturday, Jan. 20 starting at 9 a.m. Meeting location may be the boat ramp or TBD (will be updated on the volunteer event posting). We will be tying trees to cinderblocks and loading them up on department pontoons to distribute around the lake. Volunteers will be able to help build and deploy trees. AZGFD will provide gloves for those that need them, along with the habitat supplies to get the trees ready to deploy. Volunteers should bring their own water, food, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, and should wear closed-toed shoes and clothes appropriate for January weather. The project is anticipated to be finished around 2-3 p.m. If you have questions, please email Lacey Schmitt at LSchmitt@azgfd.gov or Nathan Bailey at NBailey@azgfd.gov. To register, visit https://volunteer.azgfd.gov/need/detail/?need_id=873421.

Apache Lake – Jan. 26 and 27

AZGFD will be placing Mossback Safe Haven and Georgia Cube fish habitat structures into Apache Lake on Friday, Jan. 26 and Saturday, Jan. 27. Work one or both days (separate registrations below). Plan on meeting at 9 a.m. at Burnt Corral Boat Ramp. Each day we will work most of the day, hopefully finishing by 2 or 3 p.m. Volunteers will be constructing habitat and assisting with loading it onto department boats for installation. This activity will include the use of some power tools such as drills, so small children will likely not be able to participate in this event. However, we welcome ages 10+ to come help out and see what we do. Volunteers should bring their own water, food, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, and will want to wear closed toed shoes and clothes appropriate for January weather. If you have any questions, please email Lacey Schmitt at LSchmitt@azgfd.gov or Nathan Bailey at NBailey@azgfd.gov. To register for the Friday, Jan. 26 work day, visit https://volunteer.azgfd.gov/need/detail/?need_id=873889. To register for the Saturday, Jan. 27 work day, visit https://volunteer.azgfd.gov/need/detail/?need_id=873452.

Head Out To Woods Canyon And Willow Springs Lakes To Fish

Good article by Jim Stroger in the *Payson Roundup* titled "Head out to Woods Canyon and Willow Springs lakes this fall to fish." As the water in these lakes cools in the later stages of fall, the trout move to shallower water and become fun to catch with a fly, sometimes little more than a rod's distance from the bank. "I usually start to head up to both lakes in mid October, but the fishing gets even better into mid and late November, all the way until ice-up," he says. ■



at least once a year to ensure that the line has not weakened. There is a good tutorial [HERE](#) if you haven't changed your line out before.

For all the fly fishers out there, fly line also deteriorates over time and it may be time to replace that old line on your rod and reel. Fly line does tend to last longer than normal fishing line if it is taken care of and maintained; however, changing line every two to three years is typically a good idea. Visit your local fly shop and they will be happy to help you in selecting the correct line and spooling it on your reel. Some of my favorite flies for the colder months are Thin Mints in a size 8-10, Simi-Seal leeches in a size 8-10, and Jujubee midges in sizes 18-22.

The FishAZ Network is filled with events for all skill levels by a variety of great partners. For an up-to-date list of events, visit <https://register-ed.com/programs/arizona/239-fishaz-network>.

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How To 'Bee' A Friend To Pollinators

Valley of the Sun Quail Forever's Native Pollinator Seeds Program

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

You most likely already know that bees around the world are in trouble, but they aren't the only pollinators – butterflies, bats, ants, hoverflies, wasps, mosquitos (yes!), beetles, hummingbirds, and even slugs are pollinators, and almost all of them have had their numbers decrease over the last few decades. In fact, they are down to 20% of what they used to be.

Think about it. If you've been an Arizonan for long, you probably remember driving down the highway through desert and getting the windshield plastered with bugs. I know I remember it and until Sherry from Arizona Game and Fish brought that up at the Valley of the Sun Quail Forever banquet, I hadn't even noticed that it doesn't really happen much anymore.

We're Both In Trouble

Our pollinators are in trouble, and that



Goldenaster

means trouble for us. Without pollinators, most of our food crops won't produce food. Pesticides, urban sprawl, and many other factors have endangered our tiny friends.

You might feel a bit helpless about it – I know I did. I truly care about bees and all the pollinators, but I can't fight growth or commercial farms using pesticides. But there is ONE thing I can do – I can do a small part toward making sure that the pollinators that we do still have get the best chance to thrive. And that's where Valley of the Sun Quail Forever comes in.



Desert Globemallow

Valley Of The Sun Native Seed Program

AJ Murosky is the man behind the Native Seed Program that VOTSQF is working on. He says that it's a small idea that grew. Quail Forever is known for volunteering for habitat projects – they recently helped the Game and Fish put in a 3-mile long line of industrial dog bowls with floats to supply water for wild animals in Robbins Butte. The bowls are about every 400 feet or so, and they worked for 3 years on that project.



Quail Forever Native Pollinator Seed Mix from Valley of the Sun Quail Forever

National Quail Forever had for the west, they weren't really Arizona seeds and that makes a big difference.

Need Native Seeds

Desert Botanical Gardens taught them which seeds to provide for native Arizona pollinators, and AJ visited nurseries all over and found out that the seeds that nurseries have for sale are assumed to be correct for your area, but in the lower 48 states if there is a native seed in Maine, for instance, it is considered to be a native seed for the whole 48 states!

This clearly is wrong. The milkweed seeds in the National packets, for example, won't grow here, and milkweed is crucial for Monarch butterflies on their migration flights. The seeds in the Valley of the Sun Quail Unlimited Native Pollinator Seeds packets are proper for the area. They have two mixes: one for planting above 3000 feet elevation, and one for 3000 and below.

For All Pollinators

They really vetted the seeds for the



Hairy False Goldenaster

So when AJ saw that the national Quail Forever chapter does a seed program in the Midwest, he thought "why can't we do it here?". He took the idea to the board, and they said "let's do it!" so the program began in March of 2023.

A Partnership Grows

AJ learned that there are seed programs for the West and initially he got the seeds from National, but he thought they weren't quite right, so he went to the board meeting for the Arizona Trail Association at the Desert Botanical Gardens hoping to talk to someone about native plants.

As luck would have it, he got seated next to a Desert Botanical Garden botanist named Wendy and she gave him a tour of the research center at the gardens. Soon a partnership grew between the Gardens and VOTSQF.

Subsequently, AJ learned a lot – such as the need to search for specific scientific names of plants. In the seed mix that the



California Poppies

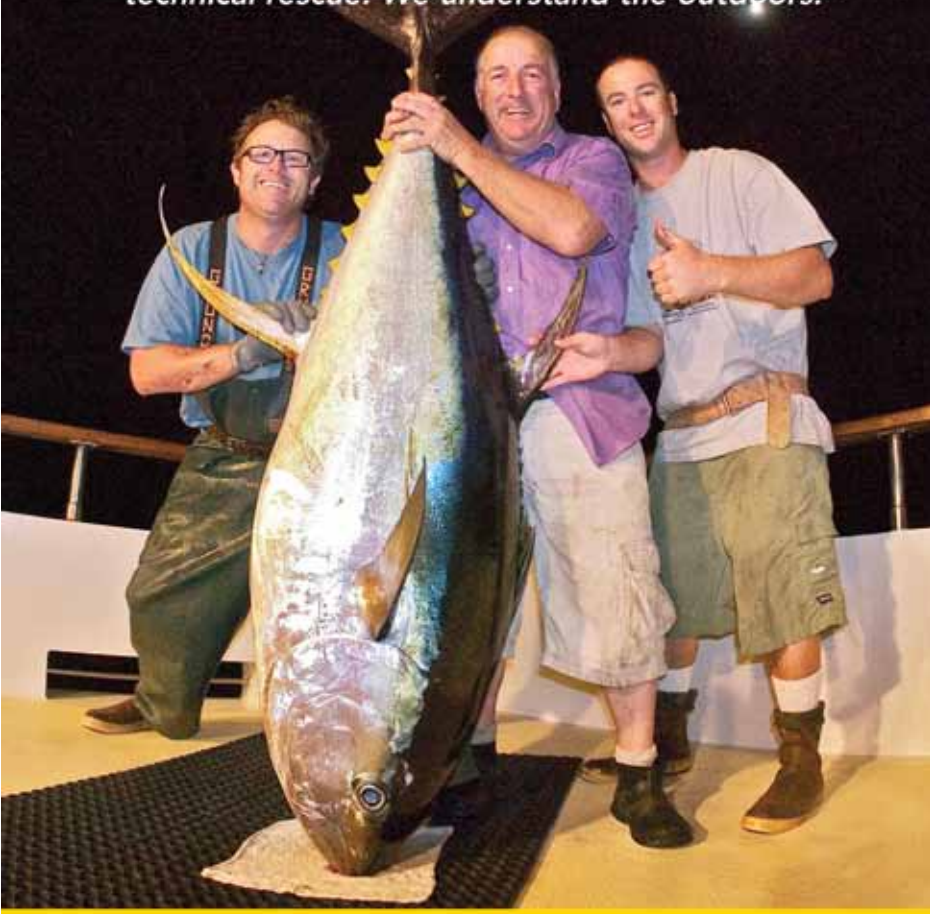
Native Seed mix to make sure they were actually for plants native to Arizona. The mix has both perennials and annuals, but AJ says the perennials may not grow for 2 or 3 years because they need rain and a frost to crack open the seeds. Their

POLLINATORS, continued on page 15

TripleWall Productions

TripleWall Productions specialize in outdoor video production as well as all your video-production needs.

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Contact Mike Wallace at (480) 228-7733 or triplewallproductions@gmail.com



POLLINATORS

Continued from page 14

original thought was to provide seeds that would produce flowers for butterflies, but they broadened that to pollinators in general: ants, bats, bees, flies – everything.

And just because the club is Quail Forever doesn't mean the seeds benefit birds only. Birds will eat any seeds, as anyone who has bought a quail block can agree with. These seed mixes are meant to create a system where all the critters can live: insects draw birds and other animals, and all of the animals benefit.



Indian Blanket

How To Plant The Native Pollinator Seeds And How To Get Them

To plant the seed mix is pretty simple – plant October through December and they just need about a ¼ inch of soil over them. You'll need to water them now and then until rain takes over. In the past few years, a trend called guerilla gardening has become popular, and that is simply planting or sowing seeds on ground that you don't own. People in big cities, for instance, may throw flower seeds in a vacant lot and transform it into a place of beauty.

VOTSQF does not encourage guerilla gardening. However, they do encourage you to plant these seeds on your own property. Another modern trend is to have a bit of a meadow for a front yard, meaning rather than having a manicured lawn, you spread seeds whose plants will benefit native insects and wildlife.



Annual Sunflowers

Insects In Decline

According to ruralsprout.com, 40% of all insect species are in decline and could continue to die out in the coming years. Butterflies, moths, sawflies, wasps, bees, ants, and dung beetles are most at risk. If everyone would plant a native wildflower meadow instead of grass in their front yard, the insects would be helped immensely. Habitat loss is the number one culprit for the decline of insects.

Another big culprit is non-native, invasive species of plants that impact not only our insects, but the plants that our insects need to live. And, 80 million pounds of pesticides are used every year on lawns in the U.S. Ruralsprout.com has an excellent article on starting a meadow in your front yard. If that's too much, then why not a garden? If you start a meadow, get a few "Pollinator Garden" signs that will let people know the benefits of your garden – the neighbors are a lot less likely to complain when they understand.

Packets For Planting

On www.votsqf.com you will be able to click on the Native Seed Program button and put your name down and they'll contact you when seeds are for sale. I was super lucky because they gave a packet to everyone at the Quail Forever banquet



California Bluebells

this year. I've planted one packet so far and am eagerly awaiting flowers.

They are also working with public libraries – the Glendale Library system and many rural libraries have seed packets that you can get for free – just check out a packet with your library card! They are hoping to get them in Yavapai County and Phoenix Public Libraries soon. VOTSQF is also working with ranchers and other people with large plots of land so that they can buy the seed mix in big quantities to improve the ecology in their area.

Grateful To VOTSQF

I am totally stoked about this program and so grateful to AJ Murosky for the incredible amount of work he has put into this project, and also to Valley of the Sun Quail Forever. They are an excellent example of how hunters are the first, and best, conservationists. ■



Bluebell



Desert Marigolds Among A Ton Of Invasive Globe Chamomile



Prairie Aster

The VFW National Home Keeps Family Circles Intact

The Mission

“The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment.”

About Us

Born from the belief that America needs to care for the children and families of men and women who sacrificed for our country, the VFW National Home is a place of healing, support and refuge.

It was founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war could remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their servicemember didn't come home.

Today's families face different chal-



lenges — reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment and rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, among others — and the National Home has evolved over our decades-long history to meet those changing needs.

The origins of today's VFW National Home can be traced to a 23-year-old woman named Amy Ross. In 1922, Ross



made it her mission to help find jobs for the thousands of unemployed veterans in Detroit.

The Beginning

News of Ross' efforts reached millionaire cattleman Corey Spencer, who gifted 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan, to build on Ross' vision of supporting veterans.

On Jan. 7, 1925, the VFW National Home was founded, helping to fulfill the VFW pledge to “honor the dead by helping the living.” Later that spring, the Home welcomed its first family in an old frame farmhouse, Mrs. Pollett and her six children. Pollett had become suddenly widowed and lost her husband's military pension.

Through The Years

Since its founding, the VFW National Home has grown from an old frame farmhouse to a sprawling campus with playgrounds; park areas; and multiple buildings, including single-family homes, a community center and gymnasium, child care facility, guest lodge, chapel, and administrative offices.

Over the years, the National Home has evolved to meet the changing needs of America's military and veterans' families. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the National Home's commitment to honor our nation's veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families.

Changing Lives

The National Home's community is open to the families of actively serving military personnel, veterans, and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. The family can be one or both parents with one or more children.

VFW/Auxiliary

- Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
- Applicant has a parent in the VFW or Auxiliary in good standing or, if deceased, in good standing at the time of death
- Single or Married with dependent child(ren)

Veteran

- Honorably discharged, Active, Guard, or Reserve Veteran
- Surviving widow or widower with dependent children
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
- Single or Married with dependent child(ren)

Actively Serving

- Unaccompanied Tour or Deployment
- Parent(s)/Guardians(s)
- Single or Married with dependent child(ren)
- Drilling National Guard & Reserve

Families may accomplish significant life goals by participating in our program.

We offer:

- Case management services to help



families set up their plans and goals for the future.

- Educational, recreational and enrichment opportunities.
- Community resources and counseling.
- Free housing and daycare.

Creating Lasting Impact

Participating families are welcomed to our small-town community where they may live for up to four years as they work with their case manager to set and accomplish major life goals.

To find out if the National Home's program is right for you and your family, call us today to speak with our caring staff who will help you determine eligibility.

HELPLINE: 800-313-4200

Taking The First Step

Thank you for your interest in the VFW National Home.

The National Home offers families of veterans, active-duty military and members of the VFW and its Auxiliary opportunities for growth and development in our nurturing community. All 42 of our beautiful homes are located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

Take the first step by filling out this form. <https://vfwnationalhome.org/get-help/#form>

At any time you can reach out to our helpline.

Changing Lives

Your gift will be life-changing for the families of our nation's heroes. You'll empower us to provide families with housing for up to four years, professional counseling, life skills classes, and a variety of educational, recreational and enrichment opportunities. You'll give children the chance to live a normal life, to meet new friends and learn to respect God and country. Plus, you'll help us provide veterans across the nation with free assistance through our Military and Veteran Family Helpline.

Make a donation to help military and veteran families: <https://vfwnational-home.org/>



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Catch A New View

Experience Hiking In Tempe

Local birders and fitness fans love Tempe's «A» Mountain for its scenic trail past wildflowers and desert shrubs, plus the sweeping vistas from the summit. Experiencing it yourself is incredibly easy; you can access its trailhead at the northern end of downtown Tempe.

The steep out-and-back trail is under a mile, with a big payoff at the top: panoramic views of the city, including Papago Park, Arizona State University, Tempe Town Lake and other landmarks. Time your short trek for sunset to catch especially stunning views. If you're hungry for more trails, Tempe's got the goods, including some in scenic Papago and South Mountain Parks.

TWO WHEELS CAN TAKE YOU 217 MILES

Here's an indication of how big biking is in Tempe: The city measures only 40 square miles, but is home to 217 miles of bike paths—ranging from Sonoran Desert trails to bike lanes on city streets.

This connectivity earned Tempe a Gold Level Bicycle Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists, and it also makes sightseeing on two wheels both easy and safe. There are trails through the red butte formations in Papago Park, near Tempe Town Lake and throughout the city's neighborhoods and green spaces. And if you can't bring your own wheels, **The Bicycle Center** near Mill Avenue has rentals on hand.



TEMPE TOURISM OFFICE



Have A Havasu Holiday

A sleigh full of events celebrates the season.

As thousands of visitors and locals plan their holiday getaways, Go Lake Havasu, the tourism board for Lake Havasu City, turned to the Director of Fun at London Bridge Resort for her favorite holiday traditions. That's the actual title of Joelle Dickinson – as her business card can attest – an Illinois native who has lived in the city for ten years, working for the past seven at the resort.

Dickinson previously ran the Toy Story ride and birthday parties at Walt Disney World in Orlando, so this woman knows a thing or two about fun, trading her Midwest snowboots for flip-flops in the Arizona desert.

"I just love seeing the bridge lit up with Christmas trees and wreaths," she says, "It's

HAVASU HOLIDAY, continued on page 19



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AZGFD Announces Winners Of 2023 Wildlife Photo Contest

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) has announced the winners of the 2023 wildlife photo contest. The 12 winning photographs are included in the full-size 2024 wildlife calendar that is published in the November-December 2023 issue of Arizona Wildlife Views magazine.

AZGFD currently has a subscription special for *Arizona Wildlife Views*. A one-year subscription to the bi-monthly magazine ordered by Dec. 31, 2023, will include the wildlife calendar and a bonus issue (seven issues total) for only \$12. To subscribe, visit www.azgfd.gov/magazine.

The calendar is also available for sale at all Arizona Game and Fish offices for \$3.

Anne James' photo of a ringtail was awarded best in show and is showcased on both the cover and in the calendar. James, of Payson, said, "I knew few entries would include a ringtail because of their nocturnal nature and that it wasn't an ordinary image."

The 12 winning photographers are —

- **Jim Burns, Scottsdale:** Round-tailed ground squirrel kits
- **Bill Ferris, Flagstaff:** Elk
- **Isabel Guerra Clark, Phoenix:** Desert bighorn sheep
- **Anne James, Payson:** Ringtail
- **Kristen Kabrin, Fallon, Nevada:** Coati
- **Paul Martin, Mesa:** Red-naped sapsucker



Winning Image Of A Ringtail By Anne James Of Payson

- **Jeff Martineau, San Tan Valley:** Banded rock rattlesnake
 - **Kathleen Murphy, Payson:** Clark's grebes
 - **Lee Scherer, Marana:** American pronghorn
 - **David Vincent, Tucson:** Bobcat
 - **William Wells, Surprise:** Woodhouse's toad
 - **Sue Welter, Peoria:** Common chuckwalla
- Given the strength and diversity of this year's nearly 800 entries, the judges singled out 20 images from talented photographers for honorable mention. These photos also are featured in the calendar issue —
- **Julie Curtis, Golden Valley:** Harris's antelope squirrel
 - **Tom Jones, Phoenix:** Gila woodpeckers
 - **Yvonne Kippenberg, Scottsdale:** Desert bighorn sheep
 - **Leslie Leathers, Tucson:** Vermilion

flycatcher

- **Robin Merrill, Cornville:** American beaver
- **Mandy Montooth, Flagstaff:** Long-tailed weasel
- **Christine Nolan, Phoenix:** Great egret
- **Pamela Parker, Mesa:** Gambel's quail
- **DeeDee Purcell, Phoenix:** Mule deer
- **David C. Ring, Tucson:** Great horned owl
- **Kathy Ritter, Happy Jack:** Steller's jays
- **Tam Ryan, Mesa:** Black-necked stilts
- **Josh Sellke, Scottsdale:** Black-tailed jackrabbit
- **Stephen Vaughan, Tucson:** Rufous hummingbird
- **Faith Walker, Flagstaff:** Hoary bat
- **Dan Weisz, Tucson:** Varied bunting
- **Alfred Weling, Scottsdale:** Snowy egret
- **Sean Wickenheisser, Lake Havasu City:** Verdin
- **Russell Wynter, Scottsdale:** Western screech-owl
- **Marc Zebell, Springerville:** Bull elk

AZGFD thanks everyone who submitted photographs and also thanks Arizona Highways for its partnership in hosting the photo contest.

Subscribe today to *Arizona Wildlife Views* to bring Arizona's wildlife and wild places into your home. <https://www.azgfd.com/about-arizona-game-fish/azgfd-press-room-and-media/publications-and-videos/wildlife-views-magazine/> ■

Woman Dies Of Injuries Sustained In Apparent Elk Attack

Feeding of wildlife suspected of contributing to the attack in Hualapai Mountains.

A woman died eight days after being hospitalized as the result of an apparent elk attack on her property in the Pine Lake community in the Hualapai Mountains, about 15 miles southeast of Kingman.

The attack occurred on a late October afternoon while the woman's husband was in Kingman. According to the husband, when he returned, he found his wife on the ground in the backyard with injuries consistent with being trampled by an elk. He also observed a bucket of spilled corn nearby. There were no witnesses to the event.

The husband called 911, and his wife was transported first to the Kingman Regional Medical Center and then to Sunrise Hospital in Las Vegas. According to the husband, she was put into a medically induced coma due to the extent of her injuries.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) did not learn about the attack until the next day, when a local resident informed a department officer. Another AZGFD officer visited the community, put door hanger warning signs on residences along the road advising people not to approach or feed elk, and spoke with the victim's husband and other residents. While at the victim's residence, the officer observed multiple elk tracks in the yard.

On Nov. 3, AZGFD was contacted by the Kingman Police Department advising

that the Clark County (Las Vegas) Coroner's Office notified them the victim had passed away. AZGFD officers went door to door in the Pine Lake community that evening, putting out more door hanger warning signs and two roadside warning signs advising people not to approach or feed elk.

This is believed to be the first fatal elk attack in Arizona. There have been five reported elk attacks in the state during the past five years. Feeding is one of the main sources of conflict between humans and wildlife. Fed wildlife becomes habituated to humans. For example, in 2015, two children suffered minor injuries after a food-seeking elk circled a picnic table from which their family was eating in the Hualapai Mountains. In 2021, an adult female received serious head injuries from an elk that was habituated to humans in Pine.

The Clark County Medical Examiner's office has determined the death to be caused by an accident. AZGFD will continue to urge residents not to feed elk and other wildlife, and will continue to monitor elk activity in the area.

The public is urged to help keep wildlife wild. Wildlife that are fed by people, or that get food sources from items such as unsecured garbage or pet food, lose their natural fear of humans and become dependent on unnatural food sources. Feeding puts at risk the person doing the feeding, their neighbors, and the wildlife itself. Please do not feed wildlife.

For more information about the dangers of feeding wildlife, please visit <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/living-with-wildlife/dont-feed-wildlife-keep-wildlife-wild/>. ■

This Year Is The 25th Anniversary

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the reintroduction of Mexican wolves to the wild in the U.S. Once occurring throughout parts of the southwestern U.S. and Mexico, the Mexican wolf had all but disappeared by 1970. In 1976, this gray wolf subspecies was listed as endangered, and a binational captive breeding program was initiated to save it from extinction.

In 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department and other conservation partners released the first 11 captive Mexican wolves into the wild in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) in Arizona and New Mexico. With the birth of the first wild-born litter from a wild-born parent in 2002, the Mexican Wolf reintroduction project entered into a new phase, whereby natural reproduction began to replace the need to release captive-reared wolves. Proven techniques such as fostering are injecting new genetics into the population.

Since 1998, the wild population has grown from zero in 1998 to a minimum of 242 Mexican wolves in 2022, with about 60 known packs documented. There is still work to do, but for a subspecies once extirpated from the U.S., the revival of the Mexican wolf has thus far been a remarkable comeback story.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has always advocated for a balanced approach to Mexican wolf recovery, taking into account the department's conservation mission as well as the needs of people who live, work and recreate on the landscape. ■

HAVASU HOLIDAY

Continued from page 17

a magical time of year on the Bridgewater Channel and Main Street, especially for young children like my four-year-old daughter.”

“I also enjoy living in such a giving, charitable community, especially during the holidays,” she says, pointing to such charitable holiday events as the Toys for Tots golf tournament (Dec. 2), Empty Bowls Projects (Dec. 2), and the 40th annual Toy Run (Dec. 3).

Here Are Some Highlights Of Holiday 2023:

• Friday Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, 6 – 9 p.m., Downtown Havasu District (Main Street) – Downtown Lake Havasu comes alive the first Friday of every month through May, the perfect time to enjoy a head start on holiday shopping. Discover 70+ local artisans and pop-up boutiques in the Artist & Vintage Village, located along the sidewalks of McCulloch between Querio and Scott Drive.

Enjoy live music and nightlife in many of the bars and restaurants. Elective Theatre, a local alternative rock band, will be performing as an acoustic duo for this hometown holiday event. Almost five dozen local businesses will host food trucks, art galleries, boutiques, and free kids’ crafts. Then stick around for the after-party at SummerRay Wine Bar & Local Eatery. (https://www.golakehasasu.com/First_Friday_December_2023/12-01-23)

Light Up The Holidays

• 28th Annual Festival of Lights, Nov. 24 – Jan. 7, 2024, Nightly until 10 p.m. – The London Bridge Resort Festival of Lights brings out the Christmas spirit. This annual holiday lights extravaganza transforms the city into a twinkling winter wonderland. Bring the family for a stroll under the London Bridge along the

walkway, or take your boat on a night cruise through the Bridgewater Channel as over 500,000 lights set the water aglow. There’s plenty of free parking at the English Village or London Bridge Resort and Convention Center. It’s a cherished tradition that adds a touch of sparkle to Arizona’s West Coast. (https://www.golakehasasu.com/lake_havasu_festival_lights-2023)

Mrs. Claus And The Grinch Make An Appearance At London Bridge Resort.

• 12 Days of Christmas Celebration, London Bridge Resort, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. through Dec. 22, 2023 – Bring the kids to enjoy the holidays with a 12 Days of Christmas Celebration. Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, beginning Nov. 29 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m., enjoy stories with Mrs. Claus, letters to Santa, crafts, food vendors, naughty and nice drinks for the adults and ice skating. The event is at the London Bridge Resort inside Kokomo (near the ice skating rink). (https://www.golakehasasu.com/12_Days_of_Christmas_December_2023/12-01-23)

Enjoy Live Musical Theater For The Holidays.

• ELF The Musical at GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts Theatre, Dec. 1 to 17, 2023 – Live local theater doesn’t get much better than GraceArts, located at 2146 McCulloch Blvd N. Now, just for the holidays is the perfect show: ELF The Musical, based on the beloved sweet and hopeful 2003 holiday film starring Will Ferrell. Buddy, a young orphan, crawls into Santa’s bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. Show times from Dec. 1 to 17. Adults: \$28; Children under the age of 18: \$15 (https://www.golakehasasu.com/GraceArts_LIVE_Presents_Elf_The_Musical_2023/12-03-23) ■



Post 720 celebrated its 100th anniversary in early 2021.



VFW POST 720

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Outdoor enthusiasts frequent Bartlett Lake for a variety of recreational opportunities, including shoreline camping in Arizona's natural desert terrain. While in this part of the Tonto National Forest, visitors may see mule deer, bald eagles, javelina, coyotes, and many indigenous desert plants, including the majestic saguaro, mesquite trees, and blooming ocotillo.



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