



# 2024 Promises More

BY CAROL L. ALLEN

- More revelry at the Renaissance Festival,
- More safety for drivers and elk,
- More awards for positive outdoor activities and supporters,
- More trout in community waters,
- More places to explore, and
- More focus on the Second Amendment.

This issue celebrates the “newsy New Year” that is ahead of us. This month the Arizona Game & Fish Commission honors those individuals who have excelled in their support for wildlife and outdoor concerns.

In February, the annual chance to step back in time at the Ren Fair begins. Soon, highways will be safer for both wildlife and drivers because of new overpasses and other structures on I-17. Whenever you have a desire to just take a break from the hustle and bustle of the city, check in with Margie Anderson for a refreshing road trip idea.

And, last but certainly not least, read carefully the letter from Tim Rafferty affirming the importance of the Second Amendment and a chance to celebrate and protect its promise. ■

## PORTS

2

### DOWNSTREAM

Happy New Year!

4

### BOATING

Even in Arizona, do a winter boat check.



9

### TACKLE & TARGET

The welcome mat is out for the trout

14

### LAND CRUISING

TWe're on the road again with Margie.

18

### WESTERN WILDLIFE

Be careful of the coyotes.

# Federal Grant Will Fund I-17 Wildlife Overpass Near Flagstaff

Award of \$24 million comes from Federal Highway Administration



**P**HOENIX — The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has awarded Arizona a \$24 million grant for a wildlife overpass and other improvements designed to reduce crashes involving wildlife and better connect habitats across Interstate 17 south of Flagstaff in northern Arizona.

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), sought the grant through FHWA's Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program for improvements along 8.4 miles of I-17 between the Munds Park traffic interchange, about 25 miles south of Flagstaff, and the Kelly Canyon traffic interchange to the north.

### One Of 19

The I-17 wildlife project is one of 19 nationally to receive funding through the first round of \$110 million in grants from FHWA.

“We are pleased to announce the first round of grants under the Wildlife Crossings

**OVERPASS**, continued on page 17



ERIK MCLEAN/UNSPLASH

**Wildlife overpasses help mitigate the risk of vehicle-wildlife collisions while maintaining connectivity between habitats.**

# Make Plans To Attend The AZGFC Awards Banquet

PHOENIX — Mark your calendars! The Arizona Game and Fish Commission's annual awards banquet will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at the Hilton Phoenix Tapatio Cliffs Resort, Grande Ballroom, 11111 N. 7th Street in Phoenix. Reservations can be made [HERE](#).

The awards recognize Arizonans who have contributed significantly to the conservation of the state's wildlife, its outdoor heritage, and the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Sixteen award recipients chosen at the commission's Sept. 8 meeting in Greer, Ariz. will be honored at the banquet. This year's recipients are —

Award of Excellence – **Sheriff David Rhodes**, Yavapai County and **Sheriff Jim**

**Driscoll**, Coconino County

Youth Conservationist of the Year –

**Charles Smalley**

Media of the Year – **Henry Brea**

Conservation Organization of the Year –

**White Mountain Apache Tribe**

Conservationist of the Year – **Troy**

**Christensen**

Natural Resource Professional of the

Year – **Mike Hannemann**

Volunteer of the Year – **Jim Lawrence**

Educator of the Year – **Fred Cohill**

Mentor of the Year – **Kevin Rapkoch**

Advocate of the Year (State) – **Senator**

**Sine Kerr**

**BANQUET**, continued on page 17



# Don't Miss The Raucous Revelry!

The 36th Annual Arizona Renaissance Festival Opens February 4

The Festival is a medieval amusement park, a 16-stage theater, a 50-acre circus, an arts and crafts fair, a jousting tournament and a feast -- all rolled into a one non-stop, day-long adventure. You never know what you will find on or off the stage!

This unique outdoor event combines entertainment and wares reminiscent of what may have been found in a 16th Century European village market celebrating

**REN FAIRE**, continued on page 17



**JANUARY TBA**

**Renovations at Roadrunner Pond**

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.

**JANUARY 6**



**Polar Bear Plunge**

1340 McCulloch Blvd N  
Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403

**JANUARY 6 & 20,  
FEBRUARY 3 & 17,  
MARCH 2 & 16, AND APRIL 6.**

**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](http://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.

**THROUGH JAN. 14**

**Zoo Lights**

455 North Galvin Parkway  
Phoenix, Arizona 85008

**THROUGH JANUARY 15**



**Skate Westgate**

6770 N Sunrise Blvd  
Glendale, Arizona 85305

**JANUARY 20**

**AZGFD Awards Banquet**

Mark your calendars! The Arizona Game and Fish Commission's annual awards banquet will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at the Hilton Phoenix Tapatio Cliffs Resort, Grande Ballroom, 11111 N. 7th Street in Phoenix.



**JANUARY 20, 26, 27**

**Volunteers Needed**

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 WHO 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](mailto:LSchmitt@azgfd.gov) or Nathan Bailey at [NBailey@azgfd.gov](mailto:NBailey@azgfd.gov). To register, visit [https://volunteer.azgfd.gov/need/detail/?need\\_id=873421](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](mailto:LSchmitt@azgfd.gov) or Nathan Bailey at [NBailey@azgfd.gov](mailto:NBailey@azgfd.gov). To register for the Friday, Jan. 26 work day, visit [https://volunteer.azgfd.gov/need/detail/?need\\_id=873889](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](https://volunteer.azgfd.gov/need/detail/?need_id=873452).



**JANUARY 20-28**

**Barrett-Jackson 2024 Scottsdale Auction**

16601 North Pima Road  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260

**JANUARY 21**

**The Arizona Concours D'Elegance**

Scottsdale Civic Center  
3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd.  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251



**JANUARY 26**

**Lucky 13th Annual Arizona Balloon Classic**

1933 S Ballpark Way  
Goodyear, Arizona 85338

**JANUARY 27, 28**

**Grand Canyon Pro Rodeo and Little Delbert Days**

7206 Dub Campbell Parkway  
Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86406



**JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 11**

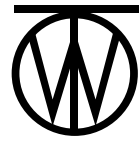
**American Indian Arts Exposition**

2830 S Thrasher Ave  
Tucson, Arizona 85713

**THROUGH END OF FEBRUARY**

**Trout Return**

The Community Fishing Program (CFP) finished catfish stockings for the season the week of Nov. 7. Trout returned 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.



**THE CREW**

**Publisher**.....Jim Allen  
**Editor**.....Carol L. Allen  
**Production**.....Angela Ogden  
**Boating Co-Editors**.....Ed and Debbie Huntsman  
**Outdoors Editor**.....Margie Anderson  
**Shooting Sports Editor**.....John Anderson  
**Special Features Writer**.....Tom Cole  
**Distribution**.....Steve Bazzar

**Contributors**

Arizona Game and Fish Department	John Kolezar
ASU Bass Team	Kelsee Haws
Arizona State Parks	Kip Pollay
AWA, AYC, BASS	Lisa Brookes-Haws
Becky Thompson	Lost Our Home
Bill Roecker	LPSC
BoatU.S.	Mary Syrett
Bureau of Reclamation	M.D.R. Proctor
Chelle Brookes	Margie Allen
Christi Brookes	Maxine Brookes
Daryl Horsman	Mike Brookes
Debbie Huntsman	National Park Service
DJ Proctor	NAU Athletics
Don McDowell	Patrick Horning
Ed Huntsman	Phoenix Power Squadron
Fur and Feather	Rory Aikin
Gloria Bryson Pyszka	Rose and Ron Werner
Henri Hurrier	SAPC
Jack Innis	Superstition Search & Rescue
Jackson Bridges	Tom Nunez
Jane Lemon Mott	Tonto National
Janet Bosley	Forrest
Jay Williams	Jerry Tate
Jerry Tate	USA Water Ski
John Campbell	Wayne Gustaveson

**CONTACT US**

7620 E. Mckellips Rd, Ste. 490  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257.  
Arizona: (480) 947-6219  
[www.azbw.com](http://www.azbw.com)  
[www.westernoutdoortimes.com](http://www.westernoutdoortimes.com)

**MEMBERSHIPS**



**AWARDS**



2008 & 2013  
AZGFC Media of the Year

2009 National Water Safety Congress Award of Merit

2016 AZGFC Writer Of The Year

**THE FINE PRINT**

*The entire contents of "Arizona Boating & Watersports" and "Western Outdoor Times" are copyrighted © 2023 by Arizona Boating & Watersports, LLC. No part may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of the Publisher. All property rights to any advertisements produced for the advertiser by AZBW/WOT, using artwork and/or typography furnished or arranged by AZBW/WOT shall be the property of AZBW/WOT. No such ad or any part thereof may be reproduced or assigned without the consent of the publisher. Story ideas and photos are welcome. We do not assume responsibility for unsolicited material. The expressed views of our advertisers and contributors are presented for reader interest only. Publishing them neither constitutes endorsement by AZBW/WOT nor necessarily reflects the opinions of those involved with this publication.*

**Editor's Note:** Please submit announcements for AZBW/WOT'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 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](http://westernoutdoortimes.com/classifieds).

# Our waterways are ready, but are you?

To learn more about boating safely in Arizona visit [www.azgfd.gov/boating](http://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](http://www.azgfd.gov/boating)



Arizona Game & Fish Department  
5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086  
602-942-3000 | [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)



# The Great Outdoors Is Waiting

**WE CAN HELP YOU GET THERE!**

Kokopelli is your home-town, custom-trailer manufacturer.



[kokopellitrailers.com](http://kokopellitrailers.com)

32240 West Bud Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85138 | 602.705.2164



## BoatUS/NWSA Seeking Nominations For Leadership In Women's Sailing Award

Annual lifetime achievement award recognizes sharing sailing.

The National Women's Sailing Association (NWSA) and Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) are seeking nominations for the 2024 BoatUS/NWSA Leadership in Women's Sailing Award. Since 1999, the national award has sought to recognize an individual with a record of achievement in inspiring, educating and enriching the lives of women through sailing. Past recipients have included sailing instructors, writers, sailboat racers, and boating club leaders from a wide variety of professions.

Nominations are being accepted at the NWSA award website ([WomenSailing.org/leadership-in-womens-sailing-award](http://WomenSailing.org/leadership-in-womens-sailing-award)) through February 1, 2024, while questions may be directed to [Leadership@WomenSailing.org](mailto:Leadership@WomenSailing.org). The 2024 recipient will be announced at the Annual National Women's Sailing Association Conference Luncheon in New Orleans, June 8.

"We are proud to recognize the contributions our recipients have made to teaching and encouraging participation in



MATTHEW COHEN

Last year's BoatUS/NWSA Leadership in Women's Sailing Award honoree Dr. Anne Kolker (C), NWSA board member and BoatUS' Claire Wyngaard (L), and NWSA president Debby Grimm (R).

the sport," said NWSA president Debby Grimm.

Speaking to NWSA's partnership with BoatUS, Grimm added, "We seek to introduce more women to sailing, a lifetime sport and healthy lifestyle to share and enjoy with other people. Sailing teaches leadership skills, science, geography, technology and math, which are fun for all ages to learn together. Both of our organizations help nurture the skills and sense of community to help sailors grow through their boating lives." ■



**A Boost of Confidence.**  
Free with every cleaning.

**James Jenista, DDS**  
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry  
10715 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Suite 102, Scottsdale  
Make an Appt: 480-860-6000  
[scottsdale-dentistry.com](http://scottsdale-dentistry.com)

**\$50 OFF YOUR FIRST VISIT BY MENTIONING ARIZONA BOATING & WATERSPORTS**

# BoatUS: 3 Best Practices To Follow For Your Boat's Long Winter's Nap

Across much of America, including parts of Arizona, millions of recreational boats have been laid up for winter storage. With the boating season officially over, some boat owners may think they are free and clear for the next six months. However, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) offers three best practices for winter storage to ensure the off-season goes smoothly and safely.

**1. If you haven't done so yet, read your marina, boat club or storage facility contract.** Every page. Why? This document clearly specifies critical safety rules to live by over the winter. Don't assume that because you read one contract they're all the same. Different contracts apply to the specific type of winter storage you might have, such as outdoor, in-

door or boats stored on a rack. Contracts also include work rules. Some common ones may include no work of any kind (most often for boats in rack storage but also sometimes for indoor storage), prohibiting outside contractors, no heaters or portable generators, or batteries must be disconnected. Why all the rules? There's no getting around the fact that vessels tightly stored together tee up an increased fire hazard. So, for the greater good of everyone in winter storage, follow these rules to the letter.

**2. Say "no" to power cords.** While this best practice could have been included above, it deserves its own mention. Ask any marina owner what keeps them up at night over the long winter storage period and they will tell you one item at the top of the list is power cords.



STACEY NEDROW-WIGMORE/BOATUS

**A winter boat check up can ensure your boat stays free of water, snow and ice accumulation during the off-season.**



BOATUS FOUNDATION

**If you store your boat in the water or on a lift over winter, bring a friend with you on any visits. An accidental fall into the water this time of year could go unnoticed.**

Undersized and multiple cords connected together are not only a potential source of ignition but make whatever they are plugged into, such as a battery charger or heater, another fire issue. If you need power to the boat to do some off-season work, check with your marina first. Some marinas may also require notification of any work you wish to do.

**3. Visit your boat – safely.** BoatUS recommends checking on your boat at least once during the off season, though

more often is better. This will help ensure animals don't make a home and your cover or shrink wrap is still effectively shedding ice and snow. When visiting the boat, it's best to find a parking spot away from vessels on jackstands. Don't move or adjust jackstands, and never tie off a winter cover to them. If you need to use a ladder to climb aboard, tie it off at the top. If your boat is stored in the water, bring a friend with you so a slip off an icy dock doesn't go unnoticed. ■

## 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.

### WE CAN HELP!

Maritime Communications, Inc. is an authorized ACR Battery Replacement center.

Battery replacement and recertification can usually be done in 24 to 48 hours



### CONTACT US TODAY

**Maritime Communications, Inc.**  
 766 Washington Blvd., Marina del Rey, CA. 90292  
 Tel: 310.821.4958 | [maritimecomm.com](http://maritimecomm.com)  
[maritime@maritimecomm.com](mailto:maritime@maritimecomm.com)

# BOXSCORE

covering sports from around the globe

## WORLD SPORTSWIRE

[boxscorenews.com](http://boxscorenews.com)



Boxscore News is a Division of Stryker Indigo New York

*Arizona  
Color*

# BOAT

# WRAPS

**ArizonaColorWraps.com**

**623.580.7386**



*One Call  
Wraps  
it All*

# VEHICLE WRAPS

**ArizonaColorWraps.com**

**2040 West Deer Valley Road | Suite D | Phoenix | Arizona | 85027**

# What's New For Boaters This Year?



## Pump Makes Siphoning Effortless

As northerners are winterizing their boats, southerners are well into the boating season. Both need the 109PC Siphon-Mate® Pump from Beckson Marine. The self-priming pump makes it easy to get a siphon started and simple to stop the process when the desired amount of liquid is moved—all without sucking on a dirty tube.

Beckson's 109PC Siphon Pump is non-metallic, so it won't scratch surfaces and is safe to use around combustibles. Built from sturdy marine-grade plastic, it won't rust or become difficult to use from corrosion. It can be used to transfer many fluids that don't affect PVC, such as water, oil and diesel fuel. It's also perfect for draining bilges, livewells and holding tanks. Measuring 11-1/2" L x 1-1/4" W. It comes with an 8' clear hose that can be cut to length as needed.

The Siphon Pump is simple to use. Pumping begins the siphon flow at 4 oz. per stroke. Once the process is started, the fully extended handle maximizes the stream to 1 gal/min. To stop, the handle is depressed and the hose removed from the liquid. The Beckson Marine 109PC Siphon Pump has an MSRP of \$61.75.

Contact local dealers or Beckson Marine, 165 Holland Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605. Email: [orderdesk@beckson.com](mailto:orderdesk@beckson.com); Visit [www.beckson.com](http://www.beckson.com) ■

## Tow Is For Boats Without A Ski Pylon

For owners who want to use their boats for watersports but don't have a dedicated pylon, the 198 Ski Tow from Accon Marine is ideal. Flush-mounted on the transom, it provides a secure spot to attach a tow rope and is a far better solution than putting strain on a cleat or chock.

The 198 Ski Tow is designed to accommodate all standard tow rope diameters, without having any part of the



fitting protrude and create a snag point. Solidly constructed, the patented four-piece assembly includes the polished main body, a backing plate, sealing cup and a gasket.

Measuring 3.5" L x 3.5" W x 1.25" D, the 198 Ski Tow is simple to install with common household tools. Owners simply drill a 2-1/2" and four pilot holes in the transom and attach the hardware with 1/4" screws. Accon Marine's 198 Flush-Mounted Ski Tow retails for \$57.87.

Originator of the Pop-Up® Cleat, Accon Marine manufactures a full line of innovative flush-mounted deck hardware, lifting cleats and navigation lights. The company prides itself on innovative and superior-quality products that are built to last.

Contact local dealers or Accon Marine, 13665 Automobile Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33762. 727-572-9202; Fax: 727-572-7621. [www.acconmarine.com](http://www.acconmarine.com). ■



## Pail Full Of Heavy Parts? Lil' Dolly Will Help

Boats and buckets go hand in hand. Owners fill them with soapy water while boatyards, marinas, dealers, and manufacturers often use them for toting heavy parts and used lubricants. Either way, moving them can be back-breaking toil without the Lil' Dolly Bucket/Pail Dolly from Beckson Marine. It's the safe and easy way to move up to 75 lbs. in a full pail.

With an 11" inner base, the rugged Lil' Dolly is sized to accommodate 5-, 6- and 7-gallon buckets. Manufactured from durable polypropylene, the tip-free design has five heavy-duty ball-bearing swivel casters with 2" solid urethane wheels for maneuvering over uneven surfaces. Plus, it meets sanitation regulations that require buckets to be kept off the floor to prevent dirt and bacteria build-up.

The Beckson Marine Lil' Dolly Bucket/Pail Dolly is offered in black, white or beige. It retails for \$93.90.

Contact local dealers or Beckson Marine, 165 Holland Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605. Email: [orderdesk@beckson.com](mailto:orderdesk@beckson.com); Visit [www.beckson.com](http://www.beckson.com). ■



## Tiny Mobile Device Makes Big Gift

Whether on water, dirt, snow, pavement or the links, music and the outdoors are natural companions. But no one wants to expose a mobile device to rain, dirt, dust or the accidental drop. With the waterproof JBL Click Bluetooth® wireless controller from ProSpec Electronics, it's never been easier to add fingertip control to a tablet or smart phone that's safely stowed away. And with a low price, the JBL Click makes an ideal holiday gift for anyone who enjoys being outside.

The JBL Click has an adjustable silicon strap that quickly mounts to virtually any steering wheel, tiller, paddle or handlebar. Easily removed, the controller is perfect when back home for use around the pool, garden or gym or while tailgating.

Only 1.3 oz. and the diameter of a



quarter, the JBL Click from ProSpec Electronics is designed to be used with or without gloves while maintaining steering control. The single turnable and clickable knob is intuitive to use. With it, users can adjust the mobile device's volume and play/pause/next track control. If the phone rings, the call can be rejected or accepted and terminated. It works with Android and iOS Bluetooth-enabled devices.

Pairing the JBL Click is simple and confirmed by an integrated LED. With Bluetooth Low Energy built-in, the included 3V CR2032 battery will last up to ten months. The JBL Click from ProSpec Electronics costs \$49.95.

Contact local dealers or ProSpec Electronics, 3325 S Morgans Point Rd., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466. [www.prospecelectronics.com](http://www.prospecelectronics.com) ■



## DANGER AND DAMAGE

**Lifting a boat by its cleats or standard bow eye can damage the vessel and be downright dangerous. Accon Marine's Round and Oval Lifting Eyes were designed specifically for this purpose. They handle up to 4,000 lbs. when installed correctly. Contact local dealers or Accon Marine, 727-572-9202; Fax: 727-572-7621. [www.acconmarine.com](http://www.acconmarine.com).**

**Tutoring, Editing, Writing**

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

**\$50/hour**  
(2 hour minimum)  
Carol Allen  
[editor@azbw.com](mailto:editor@azbw.com)

**SUN VALLEY FIBER-GLAS, INC.**

• Boat Repair •  
925 S. Center • Mesa, AZ 85210 • [www.sunvalleyfiber-glas.com](http://www.sunvalleyfiber-glas.com)

Since 1987

**DAN & JON**  
"The Boat Men" TURNER  
Phone: 480-833-6561  
Fax: 480-833-6508

Gel-Coat Colors  
Metal Flake  
Custom Painting  
Trailer Refinishing

**Just because you don't fit the mold  
doesn't mean you can't join the party.**

## **KOKOPELLI TRAILERS**

We are your home-town,  
custom-trailer manufacturer.

**PONTOON TRAILERS**

**CATAMARAN TRAILERS**

**BASS BOAT TRAILERS**

**V-HULL TRAILERS**

**CUSTOM SIZES**

**PARTS & ACCESSORIES**

**[kokopellitrailers.com](http://kokopellitrailers.com)**

32240 West Bud Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85138 | 602.705.2164



# Four Easy Ways To Become A Better Bass Angler

BY M.L. ANDERSON

The late Aaron Martens, Rick Clunn, Gary Dobyms, and Eddie Johns are four of the most consistently successful anglers I've ever known, but their prowess isn't due just to natural ability, although that does play a part.

Aaron was known as a finesse fisherman. People used to say that Rick Clunn was the Zen master of fishing. Gary Dobyms is known as a power fisherman. You may not know Eddie Johns, but if you lived anywhere near him, you'd be familiar with his name. He dominates the tournaments in his area.

What gives them the edge? Here are easy ways you can emulate these anglers and become a better fisherman yourself.



**Aaron Martens was one of the best all-around fishermen I've ever met, and one of the nicest to boot. I miss him.**

## Aaron Martens – Fish Like A Hunter

Without a doubt, the fishing world lost a giant when we lost Aaron. He was not only one of the best fishermen I've ever met, but he was also one of the kindest. He also had the ability to focus on the job at hand to the exclusion of everything else, which was one of his major strengths. One thing that Aaron did that most other anglers don't do is study not just bass behavior, but also the behavior of their prey.

### Crawdads Study

Out west a lot of the big bass get fat on a diet of not just shad, but also craws and stocked trout. Aaron made it a point to study crawdads, shad, and trout. He had a pond where he would watch crawdads for hours. He knew how they reacted to danger and what kinds of cover they liked to live in. He knew where they spent the summer and where they went in the winter. When he fished tournaments in January and February, he'd turn over rocks on the bank to see if there were craws under them, and what color they were. No matter what color the craws or baitfish were, Aaron could match that color with a Yamamoto bait.

Even better than rocks, Aaron said, is stacked wood. He called it a fish magnet. Since his usual craw-like bait, the jig, snags badly on that, he'd fish wood with a 7-inch Aaron's Magic worm, Texas-rigged. He would pitch this past the wood pile and shake the weight, keeping it on the bottom and letting it root in the dirt like a craw with the tail dancing. He watched craws and he knew that when they were feeding, there would be little clouds of mud around them, and he could mimic that with his baits.

### Fished Like A Hunter

From studying crawdads, he knew that a good stretch of bank – one that would attract crawdads – would have a hard bot-

tom and some broken rocks, with some trees as a bonus. He also knew how easy it was to spook fish because he studied them as well, so he kept at least fifteen to twenty feet away. The bigger the fish, the more wary they are, he said. So he'd stay stealthy and keep back. "Somebody who is looking for a trophy buck doesn't sit out in the open," he said. Aaron really did fish like a pro hunter, knowing his prey, their food, and their habits intimately.

He was also very quiet when he fished. Bait presentation and where you keep the boat are only part of it, he told me. Don't stomp around, don't open and close lockers, and don't cast right to a target. "Food isn't going to just fall out of the sky," he said, "so make a quiet cast past the target and drag the lure down to the fish."

### If There Were Trout

If the lake he was fishing had trout in it, Aaron would bring along his big swimbaits. You must find areas where big fish can hide from trout, he said – standing trees, bushes, etc. He looked for ambush spots like sharp points, especially with a good drop-off or timber. He said big bass will stay along the drop-off and look up, waiting for the trout to swim over them, sometimes in thirty to forty feet of water.

When he fished a swimbait, he tried to picture what the fish were doing. He would make his swimbait act like a scared trout, giving it some good jerks and twitches and making it go really fast. Sometimes he made it come back with the tail just out of the water, making a wake. This makes it look like an injured trout.

### A Fantastic Fisherman

Aaron had a huge store of knowledge about not just bass, but what bass eat. This is just one of the things that made him such a fantastic fisherman. It's something you can strive for as well if you want to be a better bass fisherman.

## Rick Clunn – The Basics

When I first started fishing, Ricky Clunn was THE man when it came to bass fishing. I remember reading that he would sleep on shore of the lake where he was going to fish, to become in tune with nature. In fact, that is one of Rick's keys to success – being so in tune with the fish and the birds and the environment that he noticed absolutely the tiniest details. He told me that it sounds simple, but it's accurate: bass react to biological stimuli, and they all do the same thing. He employed a three-step method to locating bass no matter where he fished.

Step One is to establish a Seasonal Pattern. This tells you what area of the lake you should be fishing at a certain time of the year to get the most bites. Developing patterns, Rick says, is your most important asset. Your tackle is just tools, tools that should complement your abilities. Recalling past experiences and reapplying them in the future is the key. Keep records, he says – you are the most reliable source of information. Anything beyond yourself is just degrees of lies. He says it took him a year of keeping notes for it to pay off.

### Where The Bites Are

Rick says don't mix unlike bodies of water together in your notes – for instance, man-made lakes, rivers, tidal waters, etc. He sectionalized the lake map. Number 1 is the deepest, clearest water. Two would be midrange depth. Three would be the shallow areas, such as rivers coming in. He would divide coves up the exact same way. Then he would keep notes on what kinds of water he caught fish in at different times of year. The two main things a seasonal pattern does is eliminate non-productive water before you waste time on it, and it puts you in the places where you'll get the most bites. You can even use tournament results from magazines.



**Rick Clunn is one of bass fishing's greatest -- his super power is being able to tune out everything else and pay attention to what is happening on the water right now.**

Don't bother with techniques – you are just interested in where – what area.

Step Two is to establish the Current Pattern in your confidence area (the seasonal pattern gives you this). What are the fish doing right now. Fish the area like you're fishing a pond. Identify visible objects. Bass, Rick says, are object-oriented fish. 98% of them will be relating to objects. You have less than six types of objects they'll be relating to. Fish each of them and eliminate them until you find a fish. Work each kind thoroughly. Get the feel until you have done it efficiently.

### Two Types Of Current Patterns

You will find there are two different types of Current Patterns: individual fish or a concentration pattern. One big stump may have one or two fish. That's an individual pattern. If you're on this, you need to duplicate it by looking for big stumps. Moving from one to another is a milk run. If you find an area of flooded brush, vegetation, etc, that is holding schools of fish, you should stay there. This is usually not individual objects, it's masses of objects. The individual pattern is the most common, says Rick. When you find the pattern, don't waste time fishing between the patterns. Go from object to object on the big motor.

Step Three is one that he finds very few people consciously do – it is something that elite fishermen do. This is what he calls the Specific Pattern, and anglers who do a lot of flipping are most likely

to do this without even thinking about it. Finding that salt cedars hold fish is a current pattern. A specific pattern is knowing what limb the fish is on. The first fish you catch tells you where they are, he says, you just need to listen to the fish. This is where being in tune with things comes in.

### Exercise Mental Awareness

Awareness is all-important. Visualization is key, he says. "Get down on the bottom with the worm. Talk the worm back to the boat and you'll be right there when he hits it." Rick says you must exercise mental awareness like a physical attribute.

A caveat – when conditions change, it's time to start over and find the new Current Pattern.

## Gary Dobyms – It's All In Your Head

"Dock Talk" is the bane of every fisherman. There are probably very few fellow fishermen you are willing to believe when they tell you what the bite is, right? Gary knows this better than most, and over the years he's had a pretty good time trying to psych other fishermen out, and he's been psyched out in return. He and Dee Thomas were famous for messing with each other's heads. This was good-natured, but other folks weren't so friendly.

Dobyms has had competitors send their friends to pound his water the day before a tourney, or just do incredibly rude things on the water like wake his boat, go be-

**BASS ANGLERS, continued on page 10**

ShakeRattleandTroll.com  
Is Now  
huntingfishing.com

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.

**BASS ANGLERS**

Continued from page 9

tween him and shore, etc. Maybe you've had guys do that too. My partner and I were on the spinnerbait bite of a lifetime once at Lake Pleasant in a tiny cut that no one had the least bit of interest in until we started catching fish there. Before long, we were being crowded by boats, and one guy even hit our boat with a lure. It's crazy.

**Find Your Own Fish**

Gary says that what you need to remember is that you CANNOT fish someone else's fish, even if they tell you exactly what, where, and how. You need to find your own fish, then ignore the dock talk, because odds are, especially if they are tournament anglers, they are trying to mislead you.

Another incredibly important thing (and this was hard for Gary) is to learn to ignore it when you're being baited and keep your cool. If you start getting ticked off, they won. The key is to remain focused on the job at hand regardless of what is going on around you or what is being said. A guy might cut you off to try to make you mad. If you get mad, it ruins your day. A huge part of fishing is mental, says Gary, whether you fish tournaments or not. I'm sure you've noticed that if something is worrying you, you don't fish as well. You must be mentally tough and just let everything roll off your back. Gary says fishermen have changed and people are much more likely these days to be rude and nasty. Just let it go.

**Focus On Your Fishing**

There are mental exercises like meditation that can help you learn to focus on your fishing and ignore negativity. There are even sports psychologists who can help a lot if you really have a prob-



**Eddie John's secret to success is his diligence at keeping records of every fishing trip.**

lem with anger and wanting to get back at people. Rick Clunn called it "being in the zone". Be focused on your fishing to the point where you almost don't even notice anything else. It takes practice, but you can do it. Your fishing will be vastly improved.

**Eddie Johns – Fishing By The Book**

Keeping a log is something that Hank Parker told Eddie Johns about many years ago. The question was "what is something you can tell me to help my fishing that would help everybody?". Parker told him



**Gary Dobyms is one of my favorite guys ever — not only is he a dynamite bass fisherman, he's a blast to be around. John and I love fishing with him! He was the first bass fisherman to reach the \$1 million in winnings mark!**

to write it all down and don't let anybody else look at it. The fish will be in the same place every year.

**More Detail**

At first, Eddie just wrote down dates and where he caught fish. But now he knows how the moon affects fish, so his book has gotten very detailed. He logs water temperature, air temperature, fronts, and weather changes for two to three days before the fishing trip. He also notes what did NOT catch fish – areas, baits, etc. Sometimes he just writes four or five lines, but as time goes on he has gotten more detailed.

Eddie has organized his book by months. The book is now huge, but he can quickly determine what he should be doing (a very detailed Seasonal Pattern) by finding the lake he'll be fishing in the book for the month he'll be there. It's easy to zero in on the conditions that are current and match them to notes in the book, so he knows just where to go and what to throw.

**Preference For Paper**

He says you don't have to be as detailed as he is, just a few little lines. He keeps a little notebook in the boat and

jots things down, and he also takes photos when the water is low and puts them in the book. He doesn't use a computer because he doesn't trust them. He started out keeping it on his phone, but it fell overboard and he lost four years of notes. So paper is the way to go, and he does his research in The Book before he goes to the lake. He's got 15 to 20 lakes in the book now. He NEVER writes down what anybody else says.

Here are the types of things he records: lake, date, launch, water temperature, wind direction at time of catch, weight, location of each fish, sunrise, bait, depth caught at, which direction the boat was going, what color worked, weight of sinker if any, hook, details about structure – for instance, if rocks, smooth, jagged? He also draws a little map if it will help make it more clear to him. Keeping the book has made him more focused. He pays more attention to the environment and the lake because he knows he'll be writing it down. It makes him notice things. He jots down notes in the boat just enough to jog his memory so he can write it when he gets home.

**Fishing Log Apps**

Here's the thing: everyone wants to see **BASS ANGLERS, continued on page 16**

Arizona's 11th Annual  
**CELEBRATE & PROTECT**



**THE SECOND AMENDMENT**  
**FEBRUARY 17TH, 2024**



AZ State Capitol/Wesley Bolin Plaza  
1700 Washington St. 10am-2pm

**VENDORS - SPEAKERS - FOOD - RAFFLES**

FREE  
EVENT



FREE  
PARKING

**2ARallyAZ.com**

**Get Fit for the Outdoors**

Get fit with KJ Boots, they're fun for the whole family.

**PROVEN TO:**

- Diminish Body Fat
- Improve Muscle Tone
- Provide Cardiovascular Activity to your heart
- Stimulate your lymphatic system, increasing your metabolism
- 80% reduced impact to your feet, knees, hips & lower back



**Excellent for joggers, runners & marathon trainers wanting to eliminate unnecessary stress to joints!**



www.AllinOneFitness.net  
**TRY BEFORE YOU BUY! CALL 480-946-7511**  
In partnership with [www.SaveYourJointsAmerica.com](http://www.SaveYourJointsAmerica.com)

# Business Cards & Logos Will Get Your Point Across

**Western Outdoor Times**  
Arizona Boating & Watersports  
News Magazine

Jim Allen  
Publisher

480.947.6219 | jim@azbw.com  
azbw.com  
floridaboatingandwatersports.com  
westernoutdoortimes.com

**Come visit us today!**  
With Over An Acre of Exhibit Space & Over 100 Examples  
Of Historic Fire Apparatus, The Hall Of Flame Museum Is  
The Largest Museum Of Fire History In The World



**Home To The National Hall of Heroes**  
602-275-3473 | hallofflame.org

 HOURS: 10am-6pm, Tue-Sat | Air Conditioned

**Western Outdoor Times**  
Arizona Boating & Watersports  
News Magazine

Carol Lemon Allen  
Editor

480.947.6219 | editor@azbw.com  
azbw.com  
floridaboatingandwatersports.com  
westernoutdoortimes.com

SCOTTSDALE AMERICAN LEGION  
SIPE-PETERSON POST 44




SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Website: www.post44.com  
Email: georgebogonovich@gmail.com  
Office: 480-941-0130 7145 E. 2nd St.  
Cell: 617-633-8128 Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.


**POST 720**  
4853 E Thomas Rd, Phoenix, AZ • (602) 620-6418

**VFW**  
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

POST 3513 Stanley A Crews

7220 E Wilshire Dr Scottsdale AZ 85257  
408-941-9849

**B.A.S.S. ARIZONA HIGH SCHOOL NATION**



Mike Hoffarth  
623-229-4650  
mikehoffarth@yahoo.com  
azbassnation.com

LOGISTICAL & PRODUCT  
SUPPORT FOR RANCHERS,  
FARMERS & AGRICULTURE

**Don McDowell**  
623-221-7655  
donsrt@gmail.com  
P.O. Box 5791  
Glendale, AZ 85312

**Partners in Conservation**  
Poly Pipe, Aluminum Troughs, Storage Tanks, Bentonite, Salt & Mineral Blocks,  
Solar Panels, Pumps, Well Conversions and Fencing Components

**KROG'S KAMP FISHING RESORT**



45817 Big Eddy Rd  
Soldotna, Arkansas  
(907) 262-2671  
krogskamp.com

ONEWHEELS ~ PADDLEBOARDS ~ KAYAKS



SALES ~ RENTALS ~ LESSONS  
TOURS ~ EXPERIENCES

480-463-6686  
INFO@RIVERBOUNDSPORTS.COM  
1425 E. UNIVERSITY DRIVE  
SUITE B102  
TEMPE, AZ 85281  
WWW.RIVERBOUNDSPORTS.COM

**CLIPPERSHIP**  
motorhome rentals



P: 907-562-7051  
info@clippershiprv.com  
www.clippershiprv.com  
5401 Old Seward Highway  
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

**BRYAN CHURCH**  
HTTP://WWW.BARTLETLAKE.COM



OFFICE: (602) 316-3378  
CELL: (480) 221-0503  
P.O. BOX 3817  
CAREFREE, AZ 85377  
EMAIL: BRYAN@BARTLETLAKE.COM

**FARMERS INSURANCE**

**Chalyce McQueen**  
Agency Owner  
Auto-Home-Life-Business

9332 E. Raintree Dr. Ste 130  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Office: 480.478.0030  
Fax: 602.926.2491

cmcqueen@farmersagent.com  
www.farmersagent.com/cmqueen

**BASS JUNKYZ**  
Tournament Directors Needed



Directors Wanted in  
these Kayak Markets

Southern California  
West Texas  
East Texas

Contact Us  
480.818.5309

Nationwide Warranties  
1-866-352-4999

**Auto Warranty Specialists**  
Commercial ~ Alt Fuel ~ Personal ~ New ~ Used

We are an independent broker for a number of nationally recognized Auto Service Contract Programs, (aka Extended Auto Warranties). This gives us the advantage of shopping for the best program for your particular needs.

Monthly Payments! No Interest! No Qualifying! No Credit Check!

Protect yourself now or pay for costly repairs later! ANY Make, ANY Model, ANY Mileage!  
Visit us today and obtain a free quote!  
www.NationwideWarranties.com

**Bidwell & Russell Ltd.**  
Financial Planning  
for Retirement, Trusts & Estates

2150 N Kiowa Ste A-104  
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403  
(928)453-0074 (928)855-6868  
russellfinancial@frontiernet.net  
success@russellretirementsolutions.com

**PRESCOTT JAZZ SUMMIT**  
"A Jazz Party of the First Order"

**Mike Vax**  
Festival Director

**Mike Vax Music Productions**  
Music for all Occasions  
925-872-1942  
vaxtrpts@aol.com  
www.friendsofbigbandjazz.com  
www.mikevaxmusic.com  
www.prescottjazzsummit.net

August 25-27, 2023



**Arizona Hunt Unit Maps**  
Packed with Road & Water Detail



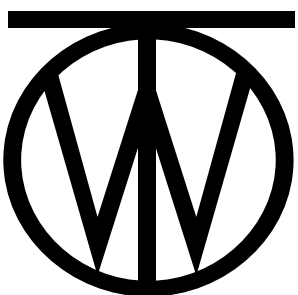
**ADVENTURE IDIAZ**

adventureidiaz.com

**Brand Your Business With Western Outdoor Times Advertising**

Western Outdoor Times advertising is easy and affordable. You can select the pages you want to place your ad on, and in the category you want it to be seen.

- 1 GO TO THE WESTERN OUTDOOR TIMES ADVERTISE PAGE**
- 2 SELECT THE CATEGORY OR SPECIALTY PAGE WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR AD.**
- 3 PRESS THE PAYPAL "BUY NOW" BUTTON**



OPT OUTSIDE PHOTO CONTEST

# Explore The Outdoors This Season!

Instead of spending the winter months camped inside, explore some of Arizona's most beautiful spaces by visiting a state park and enjoying all the amazing winter-time activities available. Make memories and take pictures, and share your photos for a chance to win major prizes!

Arizona State Parks and Trails encourages you to Opt Outside and submit photos between **November 24, 2023, and January 15, 2024** at midnight. Each contestant may submit up to **five entries** and may be entered in multiple categories. Winners will be announced in February 2024. The categories are —

- Living creatures, spotlighting Arizona plants, animals, and insects,
- Friendly faces, featuring visitors enjoying the parks,
- Outdoor activities, showcasing the many recreational activities available in the parks, like kayaking, fishing, hiking, camping, etc.,
- Landscapes, exhibiting the dramatic



views from within the state parks, • Arizona history, illustrating our state's rich cultural resources and storied past.

This photo contest is open to all nature lovers over age 18 who visit and take photos in one of our amazing state parks.

Each category will have a first, second, and third place winner. A grand prize winner will be selected for the contest overall, and will receive an exciting package any

outdoor enthusiast will love. The grand prize package includes a two-night stay in a Pin Drop micro-camper at Dead Horse Ranch State Park, an Arizona State Parks annual pass, a cave tour at Kartchner Caverns State Park for two, an REI gift card for \$15, and an AppreciateAZ gift box.

First-place winners in each category will receive an Arizona State Parks annual pass, second-place winners will receive two day-use passes, and third-place

winners will receive one day-use pass. All winners will also receive a limited-edition Arizona State Parks and Trails sticker and AppreciateAZ water bottle. Honorable mention may also be given to photos of particular merit.

Entries will be judged anonymously on creativity, uniqueness, clarity/composition, and effectiveness in conveying

**OUTDOORS, continued on page 16**

## AZGFD To Begin Review Of Article 10 Rules (Off-Highway Vehicles)

Public comment accepted through Jan. 11, 2024.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is beginning review of its Article 10 rules (pertaining to off-highway vehicles).

Under A.R.S. § 41-1056, every state agency shall review its rules at least once every five years to determine whether any rule should be amended or repealed. Each agency shall prepare a report summarizing its findings, its supporting rea-

sons, and any proposed course of action, and obtain approval of the report from the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (G.R.R.C.). The review report does not change rules; however, the agency may discover issues with its rules, such as inconsistencies with statute or outdated terminology.

The department will accept written comments regarding the Article 10 off-highway vehicle rules for 30 days, ending on Jan. 11, 2024.

All questions or comments about the OHV rules can be submitted to rulemaking@azgfd.gov or via the online comment form. ■



## Petrified Forest National Park, Talampaya National Park Become Sister Parks

PETRIFIED FOREST, Ariz. - Petrified Forest National Park and Talampaya National Park, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site in Argentina, recently became sister parks. The parks have similar geological, paleontological, biological, and archaeological resources.

"These arrangements will continue to strengthen the preservation, protection, and scientific research of the parks as well as bringing public attention to the importance of these unique places, regardless of the physical distances between them,"

said Petrified Forest Park Manager Jeanine McElveen.

Although the parks are located in different countries, they both preserve and protect a rich diversity of wildlife, geological wonders, Triassic fossils, cultural history, and spectacularly beautiful scenery for current and future generations.

The formal partnership encourages the exchange of ideas and best practices related to the management and administration of the parks, including collaboration with gateway communities, regional and local

**SISTER PARKS, continued on page 16**



**Rocky Point Times**  
NEWSPAPER  
Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico  
www.rptimes.com  
"Since 1993"

**(11-52-638) 383-6325**  
**(480) 463-6255**  
**FAX (011-52-638) 383-5193**

rockypointtimes@yahoo.com  
www.rptimes.com  
http://issuu.com/rockypoint

**Find us on Facebook**

**WIDE WORLD**  
ARIZONA'S  
maps and more store  
MAPS & MORE!  
www.maps4u.com

After 35+ years at the same location,  
our Phoenix Main Store has moved **EAST**.  
The **NEW** Store is at  
**2133 EAST Indian School Rd, Phoenix, 85016.**  
Same phone number **602-279-2323.**

Still on Indian School Road - Now on the eastside between SR51 and 24th Street on the south side of the street.

You can also visit one of our Mini-Store locations:  
**EAST VALLEY 480-348-8917**  
2155 E University Dr, Tempe, AZ 85281  
Inside LowerGear Outdoors  
**NORTH PHOENIX 602-795-4868**  
17232 N Cave Creek Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85032  
Inside Lookout Mountain Outdoors  
Also located inside Changing Hands Bookstores and now in Lake Havasu City at Southwest Kayak Center

**BLOCK FENCE SPECIALISTS**  
Since 1971  
**Toro Construction**  
602-789-6929

- QUALITY WORK
- ECONOMY PRICES
- RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
- LICENSED (ROC# 57163) - BONDED
- FREE ESTIMATES
- GATE SPECIALISTS

**SERVING THE ENTIRE VALLEY**

# JOIN IN THE REVELRY!

## 36TH ANNUAL ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL™ & ARTISAN MARKETPLACE

**FEBRUARY 3-MARCH 31**

SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS & PRESIDENTS' DAY • 10AM-6PM



All day feasting!



Cheer for your favorite knight!



Over 200 craft shops!



NEW! Pub Crawl!



SAVE WITH DISCOUNT TICKETS AT:  
**Bashas' & FOOD CITY**



Delightful surprises!

MUSIC • COMEDY • JOUSTING • FEASTING • GAMES • RIDES • CIRCUS ENTERTAINMENTS  
OVER 200 ARTISANS AND CRAFTERS • OVER 2000 COSTUMED CHARACTERS  
50 ACRE VILLAGE MARKETPLACE • EAST ON US HWY 60 PAST GOLD CANYON GOLF RESORT



SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMART PHONE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS AT THE FESTIVAL WEBSITE



PRINT DISCOUNT TICKETS ONLINE • DIRECTIONS & FESTIVAL INFO

**ARIZONA.RENFESTINFO.com**

# Let's Take A Day Trip To Childs And The Verde River

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

John and I have been wanting to visit Childs for several years now, but the road was closed for a long time. Now that it's open again, we took a day and drove out there. It was a fun ride with a lot of cool stuff to see, and it's one you can do in a passenger car – but let me tell you, it's seriously washboard-y all the way to the split where one road goes to Fossil Creek access and one goes to Childs.



We stopped along Fossil Creek Road (708) to let Mochi stretch her legs.

ning of 708 to let Mochi run around since we'd already been driving for over an hour. This road said it was closed in a bit because of a fire, so we just hung out for a bit, let the dog run around, and refilled our coffees before we hit the road again.

708 is one of those roads that starts to snake along the side of mountains, which means there aren't a whole lot of roads going off it. But at one point my Topo Maps App showed me a short track to the east in Sycamore Canyon, and it showed a spring not too far away. This little pull-off is on a bit of a hairpin turn, but we saw it easily and went down it. Wow!

**Unexpectedly Beautiful**

It was unexpectedly beautiful in there! Such a small area but the spring meant



You'll get glimpses of Fossil Creek along the road, and there are also many spots where you can park and walk down to the creek.

that there was a tiny stream of water, and there were big trees in full fall color. It looks like people camp there now and then, but there is really only room for one vehicle. We explored around in there and of course Mochi went in the water, and I really didn't want to leave, but we still had a long way to go. But what a gorgeous little spot. One of the perks of off-roading is finding these gems.

**Towel Creek Trail**

When you get to the Hackberry Basin area (you can see all these places on the Topo Maps app) you'll see a couple of trailheads. Towel Creek trail is a long one with two trailheads. To get from one to the other it's about 8.5 miles, but to hike from one of the trailheads back to the same one it's almost 17 miles. One of the trailheads is here on 708 and the other is off the Gap Creek Trail at Camp Verde. There's a great trail guide at hikearizona.com for this Gap Creek trailhead.

**To The Verde River**

There is a side track about 3 miles from the trailhead that goes to Towel Spring, and after that there's an old line shack that is still in use by the local cowboys. The trail eventually goes to the Verde River.

**Dorens Defeat**

There are a bunch of features in this area around the Towel Creek trailhead that include the name Dorens Defeat. I tried, but I couldn't find any information about Doren at all. There's Dorens Defeat Spring, Dorens Defeat Canyon, Dorens



The Verde River Next To The Campground

Defeat Spring, etc. I'd really like to find out the history behind that name!

**A Mystery**

On one of the hiking forums, there was a discussion about Dorens Defeat Castle, which was intriguing, to say the least. It even gave coordinates for it, which I put into Google Maps. What I came up with was just a pile of rocks, but then I found a photo on hikearizona.com and a descrip-

**DAY TRIP, continued on page 15**



Map Of Fossil Creek On One Of The Signs Along The Road

**Getting There**

Starting at Camp Verde, take the 260 east to the Fossil Springs road, which is FR708. There are a lot of informative posters right at the beginning of this road.

708: You're going to be traveling on 708 for a long time. Because it is incredibly washboard-y, we went very slowly and I still felt like my hips were both broken by the end of the day. But a lot of people were going pretty darn fast on that road. Granted, a Jeep is a much harder ride than a car!

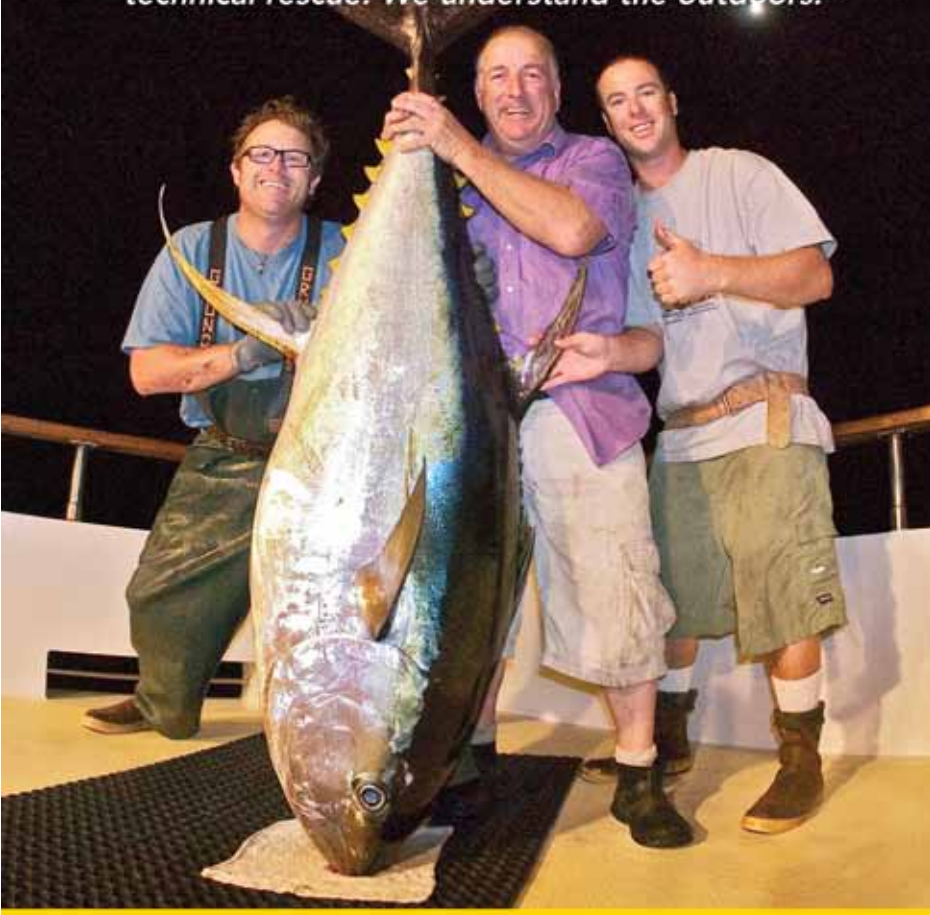
**Coffee Break**

We pulled off on a road near the begin-

# TripleWall Productions

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

*"We pride ourselves in the quality of our videography and editing. We are all avid outdoor enthusiasts with backgrounds in fishing, hunting, mountain and technical rescue. We understand the outdoors."*



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



Verde River



**DAY TRIP**

Continued from page 14

tion of Dorens Defeat Castle and it is a large rectangle – the remains of a rock wall. It also says that it centers Dorens in the middle of the Verde Confederacy. This Dorens Defeat mystery really has my curiosity piqued!

I did research the Verde Confederacy, and I was expecting something about the Civil War, but this actually refers to regional wars between A.D. 1100 to 1450! The theory is that warfare and alliances were practiced on a large scale, bigger than anywhere else in prehistoric southwest America. It's controversial.

**Worth The Hike!**

On another hiking forum they discussed Towel Creek ruins with a different set of coordinates. I looked that up and there were a bunch of photos of some pretty amazing rock walls across openings in the cliffs. Definitely worth the hike! Just goes to show you what kind of rabbit trails you can go down when you start to research place names in Arizona!

**502 To Childs**

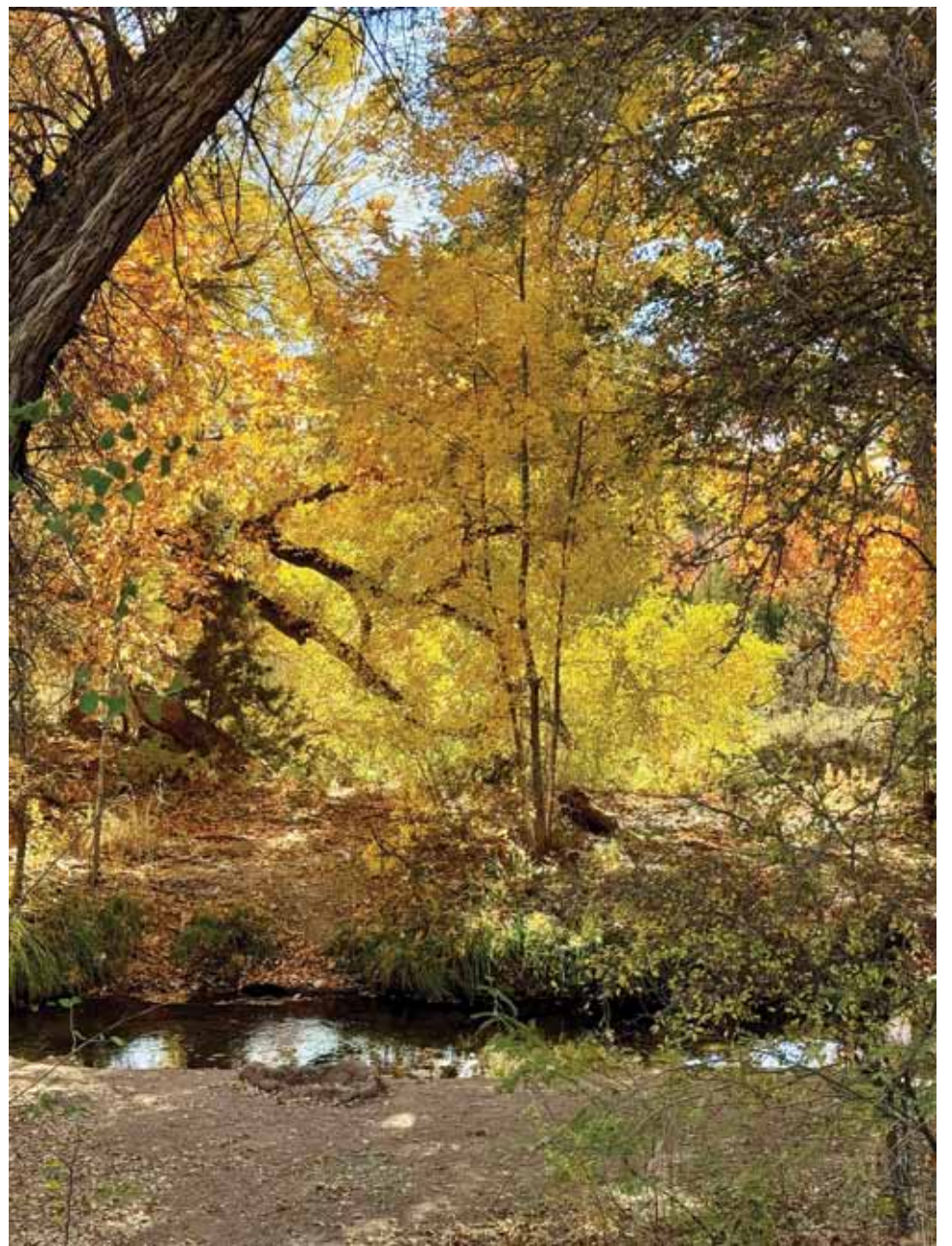
After around 14 miles on 708, you



**Sally May Siphon Intake**



**A very short spur at Sycamore Canyon was a beautiful surprise.**



**We stopped at the Clear Creek Campground off 260 on the way back to Camp Verde and the fall colors were amazing!**



**We saw this mule deer on the hillside next to FR502 to Childs.**



**Here's what's left of Stehr Lake.**

take a right turn onto 502 to Childs. If you keep going on Fossil Springs Road (708), you'll come to the trailhead for the famous Fossil Springs swimming hole. You need a permit for this hike because it was getting loved to death.

**Along Fossil Creek**

502 takes you along Fossil Creek in places, and you'll start seeing the remains of the structures that supported the Irving Power Plant at Childs. There's a big pipe that siphoned water over the mountains, and you can see the Sally May Siphon intake from the road. Once you get into this area you start to see a lot of parking areas that are day use for people who want to play or fish in Fossil Creek. There are a lot of No Camping areas, so just pay attention and follow the rules.

We had seen Stehr Lake on the map and we thought it was an actual lake (our old map even showed a boat ramp!), but

it's just a big dry area with a distinctly different colored vegetation. Apparently it stored water for use at the power plant if the creek didn't provide enough. Once the power plant was dismantled, including a dam and other infrastructure, the lake drained and was gone. Also gone are thousands of feet of concrete flumes. This all restored Fossil Creek's original flow.

**Verde River And Verde Hot Springs**

The end of the road is at the Verde River, and there is a nice campground there with a pit toilet. We found a lovely shady spot to park right by the river, which is wide and slow moving at this point. Walking along it upstream revealed some faster water – not quite whitewater, but still lots of fun in a kayak. There is a boat ramp for kayaks and inflatables at the campground, very near where we parked. We had lunch

**DAY TRIP, continued on page 16**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Celebrate And Protect The Second Amendment

Join RidersUSA on the Capitol lawn on February 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FROM TIM RAFFERTY  
TIMRAFFERTY@COX.NET



Did you know that in 2021 the bureaucrats at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) claimed that there were 21,000 firearms-related fatalities in the U.S.? After making this statement, the CDC soon thereafter declared that the fabricated term, “gun violence” (its “people violence”!) is now a health-related issue, thus justifying their position to jump into the anti-gun frenzy. Okay, so why is a government agency tasked with identifying and eradicating infectious diseases suddenly taking a hard left turn into an arena they know nothing about?

Apparently, the present administration issued a memo to federal agencies across the board to figure out a way to insert these agencies into the business of challenging our Second Amendment. Perhaps, they figure, if you throw enough

refuse against the wall, that something has got to stick. The CDC, along with other agencies, is now actively engaged in the business of undermining or totally castrating the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to our Constitution. Meanwhile, these agencies have become so “woke” that their effectiveness as credible entities created to serve the people, have become corrupted and compromised.

The same administration will unashamedly swear on a stack of Bibles claiming they support our Second Amendment. However, their actions are in sharp contrast to their words. Mounds of evidence clearly indicate that these Washington, DC, political elites will indeed confiscate the firearms of every law-abiding citizen in these United States, if given the opportunity!

Persistent harassment and attempts to disarm the law-abiding, defy all logic and common sense. Every American has a God Given Right to self-defend against the actions of the growing and increasingly violent criminal element.

Despite the dark cloud of tyranny hovering above us, there is a bright light that pierces through the gloom and ignorance. Aside from well-established pro Second Amendment organizations such as the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the Arizona Citizens Defense League (AzCDL), there is another less-conspicuous local organization that regularly challenges the misinformation and blatant lies of the anti-gun industry. This group is known as the RidersUSA (Riders United for a Sovereign America) organization.

Every year in February (commemorating the month Arizona became our 48<sup>th</sup> State), RidersUSA and their friends at Gun Freedom Radio, sponsor a production that has no equal, drawing thousands to the Arizona State Capitol. It is by far, the largest gathering of pro-Second Amendment enthusiasts and gun rights aficionados held within the State of Ari-

zona. Nationally renowned gun-rights experts and personalities share the stage to speak of their experiences and knowledge involving the ongoing challenges and struggles to maintain and secure the right to keep and bear arms for this and future generations.

This is a family friendly event, complete with a children’s section and a motorcycle procession where riders from across the state ride in to get this party started. Participants of course, are welcomed to responsibly sport their favorite weapon of choice. Booth spaces are available for entrepreneurs to advertise their businesses, sell merchandise and/or distribute literature. RidersUSA will also sponsor a firearms raffle with a chance to win a brand spanking new rifle and other prizes. Your chances of winning are enhanced because of the limited number of raffle tickets that will be sold. This is a fun-filled, educational, and worthwhile experience that you wouldn’t want to miss! Hope to see you there; click on the link for more info: [www.2ArallyAZ.com](http://www.2ArallyAZ.com)

*Authored by Cousin Vinny*

## OUTDOORS

Continued from page 12

a story within a state park. The contest judges include Arizona State Parks and Trails staff; Tim Elinski, mayor of the city of Cottonwood and co-owner of Pin Drop Travel Trailers; and Lauren and Owen Steinwall of the popular Arizona

adventure social media account, The AZ Hikeaholics. Visit <https://azstateparks.com/opt-outside-photo-contest?> to learn more about our contest judges and listen to our recent podcast episode where we dive deeper into the prize packages and interview Arizona State Parks and Trails’ staff photographer to get tips and tricks on taking great pictures in the parks! ■

## DAY TRIP

Continued from page 15

here and it was cool and shady. The only downside was having to keep Mochi on a leash because we were in a campground.

### Definitely A Fun Trip

Just before you get to the campground there is a road to the north toward the electrical substation that is there. This road is closed, but this is where people were parked who were going to Verde Hot Springs. You need to hike a couple of miles to the river and cross the river to



**There is a substation at Childs, but the power plant is gone.**

get to the hot springs. We didn’t bother, but we did find photos of it online and it’s surprisingly built up.

This was definitely a fun trip, and I’ve got to admit it was worth the sore bum from the bumpy ride. We saw a lot of hawks, rabbits, ground squirrels, and deer, plus it was fun to stop and read all the informative signs telling about the Irving Power Plant history and seeing what was left of the infrastructure. I’d recommend this drive! ■



**Fossil Creek Road Off Highway 260 East Of Camp Verde.**

## BASS ANGLERS

Continued from page 10

Eddie’s book, but only 1 out of 100 guys will take the trouble to keep one themselves, and it is absolutely the easiest thing that will make the most difference in your fishing. It gives you confidence, and confidence is a good thing. If you don’t mind using electronics for your book, there are plenty of fishing log apps available.

### The Takeaway

Maybe you’ve noticed that the things these elite anglers do tie into each other. Paying attention to the fish, to what’s going on in nature around you, focusing on your fishing and ignoring distractions, learning about the fish and the prey – all these things help give you confidence and focus. These are all things that any angler can do, and they will absolutely make you a better fisherman. ■

## SISTER PARKS

Continued from page 12

economies, peer groups, and partner organizations. The relationship will enable easy sharing of knowledge, information, data, technology, training, and managerial, technical, and professional experiences between the parks.

In August, Petrified Forest National Park signed a similar sister park arrangement with Ischigualasto Provincial Park, located near Talampaya National Park. Learn more about each of the parks by going to their websites, or better yet, plan a visit to see them in person! ■



# NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

**WE ARE VFW POST 3513 AUXILIARY**

**BECOME AN AUXILIARY MEMBER.**  
Contact Dorothy Callaway  
[dmcalloway@cox.net](mailto:dmcalloway@cox.net)

**VFW Post 3513**  
We are the largest VFW Post in Scottsdale and the only Scottsdale VFW Post with its own building for events. We are located one mile south of downtown Scottsdale.  
7220 E Wilshire Dr, Scottsdale, AZ • (480) 941-9849  
#AuxiliaryPatriotism



## OVERPASS

Continued from page 1

Pilot Program to projects that will significantly reduce the number of collisions between motorists and wildlife,” said Federal Highway Administrator Shailen Bhatt, who traveled to Arizona to make the announcement at Sunset Point along I-17. “These roadway safety investments will ensure that motorists and wildlife in Arizona get to their destinations safely and are a win-win for safety and the environment.”

### Vehicles And Elk

In addition to the wildlife overpass, which is planned for milepost 327.4 in the Willard Springs area, the project also will include new 8-foot-tall wildlife fencing tying into existing culverts, ramps to help wildlife escape fenced areas and double cattle guards at interchanges. It will connect with an AZGFD project that will retrofit wildlife fencing along 6 miles of I-17 south from Munds Park that directs wildlife to two existing large bridges. The nearly 15 miles covered by these two safety projects accounted for 58% of crashes involving wildlife between 2018 and 2022 between Stoneman Lake Road and Flagstaff. In this 31.7-mile stretch, around three-quarters of all crashes between vehicles and wildlife involve elk, which can weigh up to 1,100 pounds.

The area between Munds Park and Kelly Canyon is one of three priority areas proposed by the state for new wildlife overpasses because of higher potential for collisions involving wildlife and important movement corridors identified through research. The other interstate freeway locations identified as potential sites for wildlife overpasses are I-17 near the Kachina Boulevard interchange about 6 miles south of Flagstaff, and Interstate 40 west of Parks. AZGFD has funded design plans through ADOT for these overpasses as they remain top priorities for

both wildlife connectivity and safety. ADOT and its partners continue to seek funding for projects at these other two priority sites. Locations for these projects were identified through studies conducted by AZGFD, including GPS telemetry and wildlife-vehicle collision hotspot identification

### Designed For Several Species

Identified by the federal, state and Coconino County governments as a high priority corridor for elk movement, the 8.4 miles of I-17 through the Willard Springs area currently has no bridges and only one road culvert suitable for use by elk and deer. The wildlife overpass will be 100 feet wide designed for use by elk, deer, foxes, coyotes, bobcats, black bears, mountain lions and smaller animals.

A projected start date will be determined in the coming months. The project will require completion of final design, including environmental review, project programming and other required steps. This process will be initiated due to the federal grant.

### Environmental Excellence Award

In 2015, FHWA awarded ADOT, AZGFD and other partners its Environmental Excellence Award for Excellence in Environmental Leadership for numerous efforts to reduce conflicts between vehicles and wildlife while connecting habitats.

“ADOT has a rich history of coordinating with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and other partners on projects that promote safety for both motorists and wildlife,” ADOT Director Jennifer Toth said. “This grant will advance these efforts in a critical corridor for recreational and commercial travel while helping elk, deer and other creatures whose habitats span northern Arizona.”

For the project funded by the Federal Highway Administration grant, Arizona Game and Fish has committed \$1.5 million

in matching funds along with \$750,000 toward project design. AZGFD also received a \$1 million America the Beautiful Challenge grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that, along with \$387,000 in matching funds, will be used for the fence retrofit along I-17 south from Munds Park.

### Dual Benefit

“As Arizona continues to grow, crossing structures such as wildlife overpasses and underpasses will have the dual benefit of reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions for public safety while also connecting fragmented habitats, allowing wildlife to access vital resources, preserving migratory routes, and maintaining genetic diversity,” said AZGFD Director Ty Gray. “We’re grateful to the Federal Highway Administration and our sister state agency, the Arizona Department of Transportation, for this opportunity to help ensure a wildlife legacy for future generations.”

### Other Collaborations

Other notable collaborations between ADOT, AZGFD and partners including the U.S. Forest Service and Regional Transportation Authority in Pima County include —

A reconstruction of 17 miles of US 93 in far northwestern Arizona featuring three wildlife overpasses and two bridged underpasses in desert bighorn sheep habitat, complemented by three underpasses on State Route 68 between Bullhead City and Golden Valley.

A system of crossing and fencing on SR 260 east of Payson designed to reduce crashes involving elk and deer.

A 6-mile reconstruction of SR 77 (Oracle Road) north of Tucson that included an overpass and underpass connecting wildlife habitats in the Santa Catalina and Tortolita mountains.

Two wildlife underpasses and 6 miles of fencing added to SR 86 between Tucson and Sells. ■

## BANQUET

Continued from page 1

Advocate of the Year (Federal) – **Senator Kyrsten Sinema**

Business Partner of the Year – **OneAZ Credit Union**

Buck Appleby Hunter Education Instructor of the Year – **Ken Ford**

Wildlife Habitat Steward of the Year – **Josiah Austin**

North American Model Commissioner’s Award – **Micah White**

The first Commission Awards event was held in January 1991. Since then, nearly 400 recipients have been recognized for their dedicated work toward securing Arizona’s wildlife for generations to come. ■

## REN FAIRE

Continued from page 1

the arrival of the King and Queen to their shire. Walk through our gates to be transported back in time.

Mingle with over 2,000 costumed characters, eat a giant roasted turkey leg; take part in games of chance and skill; cheer on your favorite knight; Shop in over 200 artisan shops and select an inimitable gift for that special someone; there is so much to see and do. “Eat Drink and Be Merry” is the order of the day at the Village of Fairhaven.

The Arizona Renaissance Festival is open Saturdays and Sundays Feb. 3 – Mar. 31 and Presidents’ Day Monday, Feb. 19. It’s just east of Apache Junction, on U.S. Highway 60.

Visit [Arizona.RenFestInfo.com](http://Arizona.RenFestInfo.com) for more information and events’ schedule. ■



# HALES MARINE SERVICE

BOATING TRANSPORTATION



### MECHANICAL

We service all outboard and inboard motors from annual service to engine repowers and drive rebuilds



### SERVICES

Wheel bearing replacement, welding, bunk carpet and wiring.



### TRANSPORTATION

Whether you are looking for a long haul or a short haul, we do it all.



### STORAGE

Uncovered storage \$125 per month

2101 W. Williams Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85027 | (623) 879-7236 | [halesmarineservices.com](http://halesmarineservices.com)

# Business Directory

## BOAT TRANSPORT

**Hale's Marine Service**  
(623) 879-7236  
halesmarineservice@aol.com  
www.halesmarineservices.com  
22241 North 24 Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85027 U.S.A

## FIBERGLASS REPAIR

**Sun Valley Fiber-Glas, Inc.**  
480-833-6561  
925 South Center  
Mesa, AZ, U.S.A

## MARINAS

**Bartlett Lake Marina**  
NE of Carefree, AZ U.S.A.  
602/316-3378  
www.bartlettlake.com/index.html  
info@bartlettlake.com

**Pleasant Harbor RV Resort & Marina**  
Peoria, AZ  
(928) 501-5263  
(602) 269-0077  
www.pleasantharbor.com NEW

## PUBLICATIONS

**Arizona Boating & Watersports/  
Western Outdoor Times**  
(480) 947-6219  
jim@azbw.com  
www.azbw.com  
www.westernoutdoortimes.com  
7620 East McKellips Road, Ste 490  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

**Rocky Point Times Newspaper**  
(52) 6383836325  
rptimes@prodigy.net.mx  
www.rockypointcollectibles.com  
P.O. Box 887  
Lukeville, AZ 85341 U.S.A.

## RADIO SHOWS

**Don McDowell Outdoors**  
(623) 221-7655  
don@shakerattleandtroll.com  
www.huntingfishing.com  
Glendale, AZ

## REPAIR

**Hale's Marine Service**  
(623) 879-7236  
halesmarineservice@aol.com  
www.halesmarineservices.com  
22241 North 24 Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85027 U.S.A.

## SWIM PLATFORMS

**Swim Platforms**  
Swimplatforms.com  
6024318225  
www.swimplatforms.com  
3220 S. 38th St  
Phoenix, AZ 85040 U.S.A.

## TRADE ORGANIZATIONS

**Arizona Trade Exchange**  
https://itradePAY.com

**iTrade Pay**  
https://itradePAY.com

## TRAILERS

**Kokopelli Trailers**  
www.kokopellitrailers.com

## WEB SITES

**Arizona Boating & Watersports/  
Western Outdoor Times**  
(480) 947-6219  
jim@azbw.com  
www.azbw.com  
www.westernoutdoortimes.com  
7620 East McKellips Road, Ste 490  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

# AZGFD Confirms Three Coyote Bites In North Phoenix

Arizona Game and Fish Department wildlife officers have been actively searching for a coyote or coyotes that have bitten three people since Saturday in the area just east of Interstate 17 and Happy Valley Road in Phoenix.

On Saturday, Dec. 9 a 4-year-old child was bitten on the lower leg while walking with family members. Also on that Saturday, a man who was jogging in the same area was bitten by a coyote. On Monday, Dec. 11, a man was bitten on the heel by a coyote south of Happy Valley Road near I-17. All three individuals received medical treatment and rabies shots. Game and Fish officers removed one coyote Sunday evening and are continuing to search the area.

Officers are also posting notices throughout the area, letting people know about the coyote issue. The public is advised to be aware of their surroundings and keep wildlife at a distance. To report any new coyote sightings in the area bordered by I-17 east to 19th Avenue and Pinnacle Peak Road north to Jomax Road, please call the Arizona Game and Fish Department at 623-236-7201. In an emergency, call 911.

Coyote attacks on people do occur and have the potential to be serious. There have been 28 coyote attacks on people in the Phoenix metropolitan area in the past 26 years.

## Living With Coyotes: Things You Need To Know

Coyotes are common in rural and urban areas across Arizona. They are often observed at night or around sunrise, and it is not uncommon to find one napping under a shrub in a brushy backyard or neighborhood. Because coyotes are so common in both rural and urban areas, the information below may help to reduce conflicts with them. The Arizona Game and Fish Department does not respond to calls to



relocate or remove coyotes unless they are a public safety concern. Those needing assistance relocating wildlife should contact a licensed wildlife removal business.

## Conflicts With Coyotes

Coyotes are curious, clever and adaptable, and will take advantage of any food source. Yards with abundant fruit on the ground, pet food, unsecured garbage cans or unattended pets such as small dogs and cats are often easy food sources for coyotes.

Coyotes may consider larger or loud dogs to be a threat to their territory and become aggressive toward them. Coyotes have lured and attacked dogs that are off-leash, and bold coyotes have attacked small dogs on retractable leashes.

## What Attracts Them?

Generally, coyotes frequent a home or neighborhood if they find food, water, or

shelter.

- Food can include rabbits, livestock, birds or rodents attracted to bird feeders, pet food, unattended pets, garbage, or fallen fruit.

- Water sources can include a pet's water bowl, fountain, or swimming pool.

- Shelter can include shrubs, a storm drain or any cave-like area beneath a shed, a porch, or unused building.

If you see a coyote near your home, don't ignore it. The coyote may lose its natural fear of humans, which can eventually lead to bold behavior.

## How To Scare Off A Coyote

- Make loud noises, but DO NOT turn and run away; the coyote may view it as an opportunity to chase.

- Keep eye contact.
- Shout and bang pots and pans or rattle empty soda cans with pebbles in it (coyote shaker).

**COYOTES, continued on page 19**

# Endangered Mount Graham Red Squirrel Population Shows Slight Decline

The annual interagency survey of the endangered Mount Graham red squirrel showed a decrease in the latest population estimate in the Pinaleno Mountains of southeastern Arizona.

The annual survey, conducted jointly by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), Coronado National Forest, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, resulted in an estimate of 144 squirrels. This is an increase from the 109 squirrels estimated in 2021, but lower than the 156 squirrels estimated after a new survey method was implemented in 2022.

"We saw a big increase last year because of our more thorough survey method, but it doesn't remove the threats this squirrel still faces, and it will take time for them to recover," said Holly Hicks, AZGFD's small mammal project coordinator.

Previous annual red squirrel surveys focused on visiting all known "middens," or areas where red squirrels store their cones. This method did not systematically detect middens created by red squirrels as they moved to new or different areas on the mountain.

The new method now involves systematically searching for active middens within survey plots that are designed to capture the majority of red squirrel habitat in the Pinaleno Mountains. This enables



new middens to be detected as they are created, and activity at these middens is then used to estimate the population size.

"We appreciate the continued support of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Phoenix Zoo, and all of the agency personnel who helped us work together on the census," said Bonnie Woods, acting Safford District Ranger for the Coronado National Forest.

Marit Alanen, lead biologist for the Mount Graham red squirrel with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said: "The numbers this year demonstrate that we need to continue working together to manage the squirrels' habitat and help the subspecies recover."

The continuing conservation measures for this endangered species and its habitat include the following: assessment of

the remaining habitat, insect pheromone treatments to protect trees, conifer seed collection (including storage and planting), forest stand monitoring/enhancement, reducing food and habitat competitors, captive rearing with partners at the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation, the Phoenix Zoo, continuing life history and translocation/augmentation research through the University of Arizona, and continuing annual survey monitoring.

The subspecies was listed as endangered in 1987. Mount Graham red squirrels live only in the upper-elevation conifer forests of the Pinaleno Mountains and feed primarily on conifer seeds. The subspecies is highly territorial and has lower reproductive rates than red squirrels in other locations.

Other long-term impacts to Mount Graham red squirrels and their habitat include insect infestations, competition with non-native Abert's squirrels, and poor cone crops caused by drought, all of which influence population size.

The Mount Graham red squirrel population peaked at about 550 animals in the late 1990s, but typically ranged between 200 and 300 individuals until the 2017 Frye Fire devastated much of their habitat.

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

**COYOTES**

Continued from page 18

- Wave your hands or objects like sticks and brooms.
- Throw small stones or cans.
- Spray the coyote with a hose.
- Use a commercial repellent like mace, if necessary, on bold animals that refuse to leave.
- Move toward other people, a building, or an area with activity.

If a coyote is approaching a person or has bitten a person, seek medical attention by calling 911. Anyone bitten by a coyote must immediately seek medical attention from a qualified healthcare provider.

Also call your local Arizona Game and Fish Department office, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday excluding holidays. After hours and weekends, a dispatcher is available at 623 236-7201.

**Tips To Avoid A Conflict**

- Remove attractants outside your home, including garbage, pet food, water sources, and bird feeders that can attract rodents and birds for coyotes to eat.
- Never feed wildlife. It is unlawful to feed coyotes in Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties per Arizona Revised Statute 13-2927. Some cities and less populated counties have adopted ordinances against feeding or attracting bears, coyotes, javelinas, and mountain lions. Violations can result in a fine of up to \$300. Check your local city and county ordinances.
- Encourage your neighbors not to feed coyotes or leave anything out that might attract the animals.
- Feed your pets inside and never leave them unattended, especially at dusk and dawn when coyotes are most active. If it's necessary to leave a small pet outside unattended, keep it in a sturdy enclosure with a roof.

- Keep poultry, rabbits, and rodents in secure enclosures with roofs.
- Trim and remove any ground-level shrubs and branches that provide hiding places or den sites for coyotes or their prey.
- Secure garbage containers and eliminate odors by cleaning trash cans with a 10 percent chlorine bleach solution. Put out trash containers on the morning of pickup, not the night before.
- When you encounter coyotes while walking a small pet, pick up your pet and leave the area.

**Possible Health Concerns**

• Rabies – Symptoms of this disease include foaming at the mouth, erratic or hyperactive behavior, and/or fearful, paralyzed or lethargic behavior. Call 911 or your closest Arizona Game and Fish Department office immediately if you see any animal with rabies symptoms.

• Canine distemper – This viral disease consists of fever, eye and nose discharge, loss of appetite, and coughing. It can be transmitted to and from dogs through bodily fluids. Symptoms can appear similar to those of rabies.

• Canine heartworm – Coyotes can serve as carriers of this type of heartworm, which is spread among dogs by mosquitoes.

• Mange mite – Coyotes may be a host for the itch or mange mite. Female mites can burrow into the skin. Coyotes with mange can lose their hair, which can make it difficult for them to control their body temperatures. Mange must be extremely severe before it disables a coyote. Most coyotes can survive with the disease for a long time. Transmission to dogs is possible through direct contact.

For more information about urban coyotes, visit <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/living-with-wildlife/living-with-coyotes/>. ■



Post 720 celebrated its 100th anniversary in early 2021.



**VFW POST 720**

- Barry Goldwater was a lifelong member.
- The food is amazing and the outdoor gathering space is comfortable and relaxing
- Hall Rental Available (Capacity 300+)



4853 E THOMAS RD, PHOENIX, AZ • (602) 620-6418

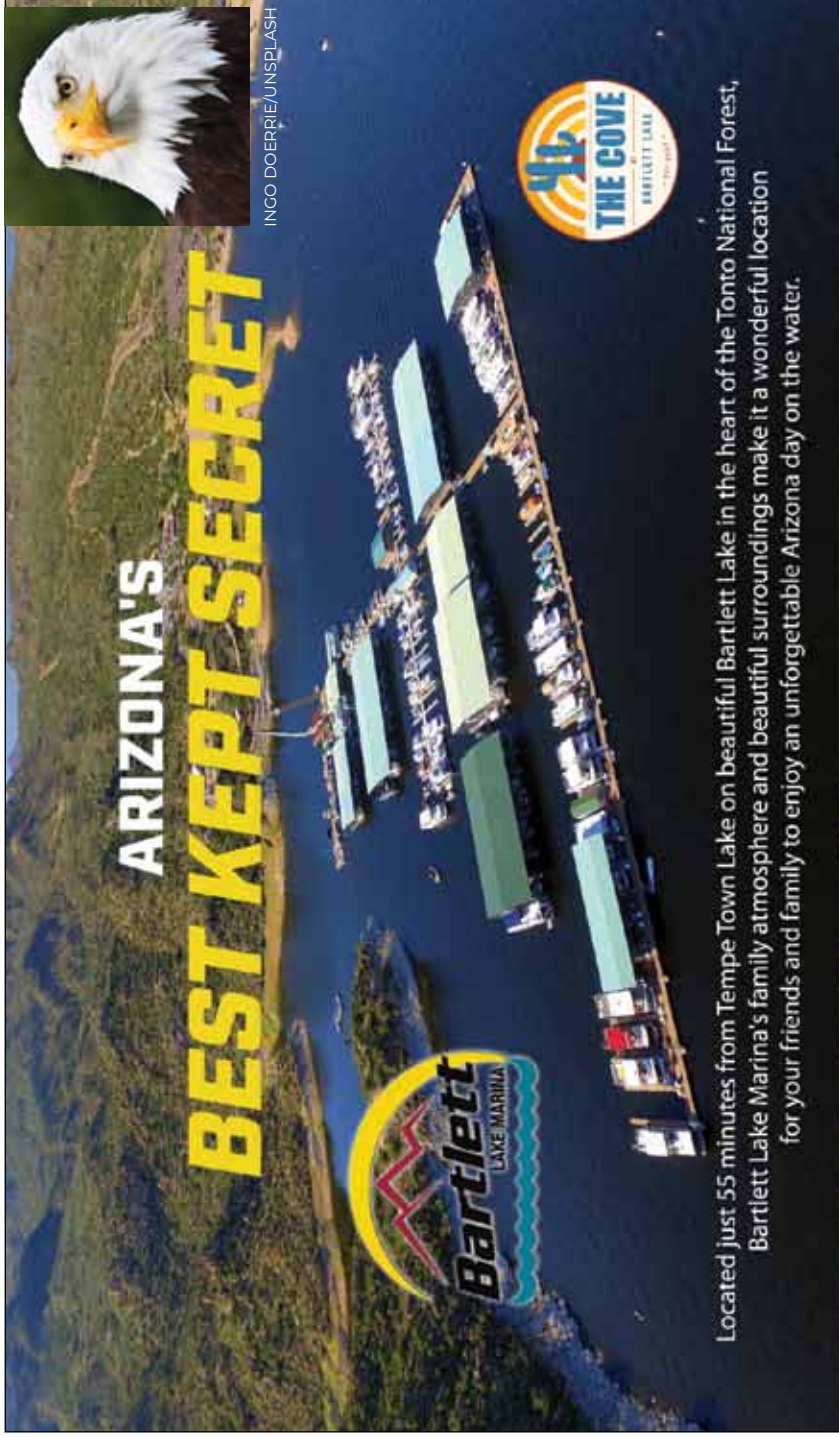
# Extend Your Boating Pleasure

**Visit our websites today**  
[www.SwimPlatforms.com](http://www.SwimPlatforms.com) &  
[www.EasyUpSwimHandles.com](http://www.EasyUpSwimHandles.com)

**Get On Board With**

**Ask about installallations at our shop.**  
**Swim Platforms Inc.**  
**3220 S. 38th St.**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85040**  
**602-431-8225**

**Easy Up Swim Handles**



**ARIZONA'S  
BEST KEPT SECRET**

**Bartlett  
LAKE MARINA**

**THE COVE  
RECREATION CENTER**

Located just 55 minutes from Tempe Town Lake on beautiful Bartlett Lake in the heart of the Tonto National Forest, Bartlett Lake Marina's family atmosphere and beautiful surroundings make it a wonderful location for your friends and family to enjoy an unforgettable Arizona day on the water.

**2,815 ACRES OF FUN!**

Bartlett Lake Marina has a boatable surface area of 2,815 acres - more than Canyon Lake and Saguaro Lake, combined. Fed by the pristine waters of the Verde River, Indians of this valley spoke descriptively in their legends of the river's "sweet waters."

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.

**BOAT RENTALS**

Bartlett Lake Marina we are ideally located 17 miles northeast of Carefree and only one hour from Phoenix. Our marina offers a range of well equipped comfortable pontoon rental boats. All safety gear and full instruction are included. We welcome novices! You can trust our rental boats to keep you and your family safe while exploring the surrounding bays. We have a number of different pontoon boats for your party needs. We also offer a variety of packages from full day rentals, and weekend rental packages.

- PONTOON BOAT
- SKI BOAT
- PERSONAL WATERCRAFT
- PARTY YACHT
- PADDLE BOARD

[www.BartlettLake.com](http://www.BartlettLake.com)

VOLUME 19 | ISSUE 1

**WESTERN** JANUARY 2024

**OUTDOOR TIMES**

A PUBLICATION OF ARIZONA BOATING & WATERSPORTS

**Hurray!**

**It's Huzzah Time Again!**



**SO, WHAT'S NEW?**  
Many new products available to start the New Year.

**SNAP A MEMORY**  
AZ State Parks invites you to enter their photo contest.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR'S**  
Join the AZGFC at the annual awards banquet.




GREYSON THOMAS/UNSPLASH

**Kokopelli Trailers**

Custom aluminum boat trailers, top quality materials, a lifetime warranty and some good ol' fashioned TLC.



32240 West Bud Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85138  
602.705.2164 • kokopellitrailers.com