

ON THE COVER



Fish Arizona!

BY CAROL L. ALLEN

Got fish? Gone fishin'. Go fish. All apply to Arizona and the angling opportunities offered in this state. Bass Junkyz, high school and college programs, Arizona Game & Fish Department are among the outstanding promoters of this family friendly sport.

Whether you fish in community waters or head to the high country lakes, you can enjoy the time near and on the water. Fly fishing, striper fishing, trout fishing, bass fishing, blue gill fishing, catfish fishing — whatever your preference, all are available with just a rod and reel, from shore or from a boat.

There are approximately 60 million anglers in the United States of which 46 million are estimated to fish in a given year. Anglers generate \$48 billion in retail sales. Recreational fishing has a \$115 billion impact on the nation's economy.

The bottom line: We wish you tight lines as you enjoy your next fishing trip. ■

PORTS

2

DOWNSTREAM

Spring swings into summer.



4

BOATING

Avoid fueling mistakes.

9

TACKLE & TARGET

Jerry Tate shares his expertise.

12

LAND CRUISING

June is Great Outdoors Month.



14

WESTERN WILDLIFE

Avoid conflicts with wildlife.



'FEED THE ADDICTION'

These tournaments are not just events; they are community.

A Bass Junkyz event is not just a bass fishing tournament event; it is a community of anglers coming together for a sport they love. We invite family and friends to attend every event. Our weigh-in system is state of the art and our process is streamlined to increase the survival rate of bass. Food is provided after every weigh in and checks are handed out in a timely manner.

Two Comments From Competitors

"Fished the Bass Junkyz team tournament on Havasu with my fish-catching bro Mike Williams. They drew 85 boats and always run a great show. We got lucky and barely pulled off the win with

21.85 against my buddy Roy and his partner. «- Shaun Bailey

"Had a great time fishing today with my dad and seems like forever since him and I fished a tournament together. Big shout out to Tim Price and his staff at Bass Junkyz for putting on one the best well run team tournament I have fished in a long time. They had a full field of 100 teams and everything went so smooth during registration, launch, and weigh in. We were blessed and fortunate to take first place honors at our first tournament at Bartlett Lake. Congrats to all the teams that finished in the Top 10 and fishing was good".

- Joe Uribe Jr. ■

2023 Should Be Boom Year For Lake Mary

Over 67,000 rainbow trout from 3 to 18 inches stocked into Lower Lake Mary in this spring.

BY MATT RINKER
SENIOR AQUATIC WILDLIFE SPECIALIST,
AZGFD FLAGSTAFF REGION

If you have ever fished Lower Lake Mary, you know it is a lake of boom and bust. Some years the lake is full and fishing is great and other years the lake is low or just a meadow. Well, the story of Upper and Lower Lake Mary is directly tied to the history of Flagstaff and its early settlers. Upper and Lower Lake Mary are named after Mary Riordan, the daughter of the wealthy lumber baron Timothy Riordan. The Riordan



dans lived in the Riordan Mansion which is now an Arizona State Park.

Completed In 1904

Construction of the Lower Lake Mary Dam was completed by the Riordans in 1904 with a pipeline providing water to the

LAKE MARY, continued on page 9



PHOTO BY CLARK YOUNG ON UNSPLASH

Two Fishing Programs Offer Extended 'Classrooms'

MIKE HOFFARTH
ARIZONA HIGH SCHOOL
NATION DIRECTOR

The AZ High School Bass program is for High School anglers who will compete at local lakes in a Team format. Teams will be required to have their own Boat Captain who will take them out on the water to fish these qualifiers. Teams who do not have Boat Captains will be assigned a Boat Captain if possible by the Tournament committee. These assigned Boat Captains will be AZ Bass Nation members or local Pros. This program will hopefully increase these anglers fishing skills & how to use depth finders to locate and catch more fish. Anglers will enjoy camaraderie, competition and will have access to B.A.S.S. education and conservation programs.

Anglers will be required to participate in community service and fundraising projects during the year. The top two teams at the end of the school year will qualify to fish the High School National Championship in June or July. All an-

PROGRAMS, continued on page 9

Send Your Photos

For each edition of the Fishing Report, we'll select some photos and reports submitted by members of the angling public either through the Fish AZ Facebook Group or through the bfishing@azgfd.gov email address. If you'd like your photo/report considered for publication here, please indicate the species, place, date, name (we only publish first name and last initial), and any other information you'd like to provide. For more photos (including new photos each day), visit the Fish AZ Facebook Group.

Thank You, Anglers!

Arizona fishing opportunities wouldn't be possible without the Sport Fish Restoration Program. It was created through the Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950 (Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act) and the Wallop-Breaux amendments of 1984. Through a federal excise tax paid by manufacturers on fishing gear and motorboat fuels, it provides grant funds for fishery conservation, boating access, and aquatic education. ■