



Invest In Safety

BY CAROL L. ALLEN

We never tire of reminding boaters to wear their life jackets, ideally the entire time they are out on the water. PFDs are no longer bulky, unattractive, and ill-fitting. Now they are comfortable, come in many styles, even colors, and some of the kid's jackets are nothing short of "cute and fun to wear".

If you are new to life-jacket shopping, check with the Coast Guard or its Auxiliary, Arizona Game & Fish Department, and the National Safe Boating Council. Another good resource are the members of the Lake Pleasant Sailing Club.

Two of the best resources locally to advise you are our boating co-editors: Ed and Debbie Huntsman. Information about Ed is at (<https://www.preventdrownings.org/about-us/board-members/board-member-ed-huntsman>); his e-mail is Edward.L.Huntsman@uscg.mil. Debbie is past president of the Women's Sailing Association.

And, if you're not a water recreationist, you can enjoy two of many Arizona destinations this summer: the Petrified Forest and of course the incredible Grand Canyon.

So, "if by land or by sea", safety is the key! Thoroughly, safely, enjoy your summer. ■

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2024 National Safe Boating Week Offers Tips for All Boaters

National Safe Boating Week will be held from May 18-24, 2024, reminding all boaters to brush up on boating safety skills and prepare for the boating season. This observance week is the annual kick-off of the Safe Boating Campaign, a global awareness effort that encourages boaters to make the most of their boating adventure by being responsible.

"We're committed to teaching boaters that the best boating experience is a safe day on the water," said Peg Phillips, executive director of the National Safe Boating Council, a nonprofit dedicated to helping create a safe boating experience for all boaters and the lead organization of the Safe Boating Campaign. "This National Safe Boating Week, prepare for a great boating season by inspecting your boating safety gear and

commit to providing comfortable life jackets for all your passengers to wear every time you go boating."

U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in four out of every five recreational boating fatalities, and that 75 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

There are many options for boaters when it comes to choosing a life jacket. When selecting a life jacket, a boater should check that it is U.S. Coast Guard approved, appropriate for the water activity, and fits properly.

"The best life jacket is the one you will wear," said Phillips. "Whether you're going fishing or just enjoying a ride on the boat, make sure you're prepared for the adventure by wearing a life jacket and knowing how to

use required safety gear."

The National Safe Boating Council recommends these tips for boaters:

Take a boating safety course. Gain valuable knowledge and on-water experience in a boating safety course with many options for novice to experienced boaters.

Check equipment. Schedule a free vessel safety check with local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons to make sure all essential equipment is present, working and in good condition.

Make a float plan. Always let someone on shore know the trip itinerary, including operator and passenger information, boat type and registration, and communication equipment on board before you leave the dock.

TIPS, continued on page 18

Petrified Forest Museum Opens Sales Outlet At Painted Desert Inn

Petrified Forest National Park is pleased to announce that Petrified Forest Museum Association (PFMA), one of the park's official, non-profit partners, has returned to the Painted Desert Inn with a variety of unique educational and interpretive sales items. They join ExplorUS (Petrified Forest Trading Company), the park's concessionaire, who offers souvenirs, drinks, and ice cream in the downstairs "taproom."

Painted Desert Inn is located two miles from the Painted Desert Visitor Center. First known as the "Stone Tree House," meals, overnight lodging, and American Indian arts and crafts were available when construction was completed in 1924. Park employees are currently planning activities to commemorate the Inn's 100th birthday this June. Check www.nps.gov/PEFO in April for celebration activity information.

Learn more about the 100-year history of the Painted Desert Inn, now a National Historic Landmark, at Painted Desert Inn - Petrified Forest National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov).

The Painted Desert Inn and the PFMA sales outlet are open from 9:00 - 4:00 Mountain Standard Time (MST) each day. Souvenirs, drinks, and ice cream are available from ExplorUS from 10:00 - 3:00 MST each day.

Additional information about the park and its partners can be found at each organization's website:

www.nps.gov/pefo

Homepage | PFMA (petrifiedforestbookstore.com)

Home - Petrified Forest Trading Company. ■



COME VISIT THE CANYON

South Rim Amenities Now Open

South Rim

Xanterra

- Maswik Cafeteria, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Maswik Pizza Pub, 4-10 p.m.
- Bright Angel Fountain, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Harvey House Cafe/Fred Harvey Burger Restaurant, Breakfast 6:30-10:30 a.m., Lunch 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Dinner 4-9 p.m.
- Fred Harvey Tavern, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily
- Arizona Steakhouse, Lunch 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Dinner 4:30-9 p.m.
- El Tovar Dining Room and Lounge - Breakfast 6:30-10 a.m., Lunch 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Dinner 4:30-9:30 p.m., Lounge, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. (Food until 9 p.m.), Patio closed until further notice.
- Fred Harvey Food Truck (parked at shuttle bus bay at visitor center): Open as of April 1
- The Grand Canyon Kennel, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. daily
- Grand Canyon Rec Center, 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

SOUTH RIM, continued on page 18

May Offers A Variety Of Events

MAY-JULY 7

There Is A Bonus To Buying Raffle Tickets Early

Conservation First USA is not only offering \$10 raffle tickets for a chance to hunt big game, but the group also is entering you into monthly drawings to win BONUS PRIZES. Yes, you read that right! Do not miss this opportunity. Visit the website to buy your raffle tickets and learn more about the monthly bonus prize drawings

Raffle Details —

- Seven lucky individuals will win one of seven special big-game tags (bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, bison and turkey) for the 2024–25 hunting season.
- Purchase the “All 7 Package” and receive one entry per species, PLUS a free entry for the Swarovski Optik Package.
- Raffle tickets are \$10 each, per species. There is no limit to the number of tickets you can purchase.
- The deadline to purchase tickets is 9 p.m. on July 7, 2024.
- The winner can hunt for 365 days (Aug. 15, 2024, to Aug. 14, 2025).
- Raffle tickets must be purchased online, and the buyer must be in Arizona at the time of purchase.
- The drawing will be conducted in July 2024.

Every dollar raised for each species through the raffle is returned to the Arizona Game and Fish Department and managed by the Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee. With input from local habitat partners across the state and sponsoring organizations involved in the fundraising, project priorities are determined that provide the most benefit to each species. In the 18-year history of the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle, more than \$11 million have been raised for wildlife and wildlife management in Arizona.

MAY-SEPTEMBER 30

Annual Fire Ban Implemented

Maricopa County’s regional parks set May 1 as the start date for the annual fire ban. The City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department’s annual fire ban will go into effect the same day. The annual fire ban dates align with the Air Quality Department’s burn activity regulations. Under these regulations, outdoor recreational fires are prohibited within [Area A](#)’s boundaries between May 1 and September 30. This area encompasses all of Maricopa County’s regional parks.

“While this year’s wildflower season was rather low-key, our team has noticed a significant amount of new vegetation growth within the parks from the spring showers. As the temperatures rise, this vegetation will dry out and quickly become an ideal source for wildfire ignition. Implementing a fire ban limits the possibility of starting a brush fire, which could cause severe damage to park resources, threaten park visitor safety, and pose a danger to nearby homes,” added R.J. Cardin, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department director.

It is also important to note that during this time of year, the National Weather Service often issues red flag warnings across central Arizona to alert land management agencies that conditions are ideal for wildfire ignition. Should this occur before the fire ban, park supervisors are authorized to issue temporary fire bans to ensure public safety and protect the park’s

resources.

When temporary fire bans are issued, the information is posted on the website, and visitors are notified upon entry to the park. The parks also stop selling firewood during this time.

The fire ban does not allow campfires, fire pits, and charcoal grills; however, using gas/propane grills in designated areas such as semi-developed and developed camping sites is still acceptable. Campfires along the shoreline at Lake Pleasant Regional Park are prohibited. Those who violate the fire ban may be fined under Rule 314, Section 312.

Smoking in the parks is also discouraged due to wildfire danger. Please be responsible and ensure that all cigarettes are properly extinguished and placed in trash receptacles.

While September 30 is the traditional fire ban lift date, an extension is possible. Park staff will monitor precipitation levels and vegetation conditions throughout the summer to determine if an extension is necessary.

Contact the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department at (602) 506-2930, or visit www.maricopa.gov/parks for additional information.



MAY 4

Payson Wildlife Fair To Offer Outdoor Fun May 4

Whether it’s catching a rainbow trout, taking aim with a bow and arrow, or getting up close and personal with live critters, the family-friendly Payson Wildlife Fair will be offering a variety of outdoor fun Saturday, May 4, at Green Valley Park



2024 ONGOING

Interested In Going Hunting, But Not Sure Where To Start?

Look no further. The Arizona Game and Fish Department along with an extensive network of partnering organizations host dozens of learn how to hunt, fish, shoot, trap and other outdoor skill development events throughout the year. Most of these events offer mentoring (not guides), hands-on activities, seminars, a hot meal and campfires for sharing your story. Event types and descriptions are merely guidelines to help you choose what is best for you — they are not prerequisites — most events offer activities that are suitable for all skill levels and interests. Further, hunting is just one portion of these events. Many of these events are also open to people wishing to learn more about wildlife, habitat, conservation, camping and the outdoors.

For a continually updated list of events and to register, visit: www.azgfd.gov/Outdoor-Skills ■



in Payson, Ariz.

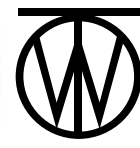
The annual event, scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., is a cooperative effort between the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), U.S. Forest Service, and the Town of Payson Parks and Recreation Department. Admission is free.

The fair will feature live wildlife on display, booths from several local and state organizations, an archery range, and prizes for the kids, such as fishing rods and lures. A visit from Smokey Bear also is planned.

Green Valley Lake will be stocked with rainbow trout in advance of the fair. A fishing license is not required for fair attendees, and bait and loaner fishing rods will be provided. The Mogollon Sporting Association also will be offering a variety of fishing incentives.

The fair celebrates Arizona’s great outdoors and emphasizes the importance of conserving the state’s diverse wildlife species. AZGFD staff members will be on hand to share and discuss the department’s various programs, as well as provide some hands-on activities for fair attendees.

“People come from all over the state for this one-day outdoor event,” said Jarrod McFarlin, AZGFD field supervisor in Payson. “It’s a great day up in the cool, mountain air of Payson at a time when the Valley is just starting to heat up.”



THE CREW

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

Our waterways are ready, but are you?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Register Your Watercraft

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



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Wear Your Life Jacket At Work Day: Friday, May 17

Whether you're working in the office, at home, in the air, or on the water, all boating enthusiasts can participate in Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day on Friday, May 17, 2024. This fun day is part of the Safe Boating Campaign, a global awareness effort that encourages boaters to make the most of their boating adventure by being responsible.

"Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day is a great opportunity to share with others your love for boating," said Yvonne Pentz, communications director of the National Safe Boating Council, a non-profit dedicated to helping create a safe boating experience for all boaters and the lead organization of the Safe Boating Campaign. "The NSBC can't wait to see the creative and fun ways boaters wear their life jacket at work for a chance to win a prize."

Here's how to participate:

- Wear a life jacket wherever you work
- Snap a picture
- Post the picture on social media with the hashtag #wearyourlifejacketatworkday
- Tag the Safe Boating Campaign (@boatingcampaign)

Boaters will randomly be selected to win prizes from the Safe Boating Campaign throughout the day.

U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in four out of every five recreational boating fatalities in 2022, and that 75



percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

There are many options for boaters when it comes to choosing a life jacket. When selecting a life jacket, a boater should check that it is U.S. Coast Guard approved, appropriate for the water activity, and fits properly.

National Safe Boating Week will take place following Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day from May 18-24, 2024. During this week, the Safe Boating Campaign will provide daily tips for boaters on social media. Follow the Safe Boating Campaign on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @boatingcampaign.

The Safe Boating Campaign is produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The campaign offers a variety of free and paid resources to support local boating safety education efforts. Learn more at www.safeboatingcampaign.com. ■

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Does Your Boat 'Say' What It's Supposed To?

BoatUS Foundation offers required trash, oil, waste placard decals for just \$5 each.

Every new boat comes adorned with a plethora of warning labels for just about everything from obvious hazards to what a tow pylon should be used for. Did you know there are labels that can help remind you and your guests to keep our waters clean and ensure you are on the right side of the law?

Boats new or old and 26 feet or greater



Putting the BoatUS Foundation trash placard decal in a prominent spot – in this case on the inside of a head door – helps remind everyone aboard how to handle waste.



The BoatUS Foundation oil discharge placard decal on machinery spaces, such as a bilge access door, helps ensure proper handling of oil waste.

must have written trash overboard and oil discharge placards “prominently posted” to remind you and your crew what can be thrown overboard and what can’t. A third waste management placard about how garbage is to be collected and stored aboard is required for boats 40-feet or greater. All three are available for just \$5 each (or \$13 for the set of 3) from the

BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water for at BoatUSFoundation.givingfuel.com/ecommerce. Shipping is included, and purchases support the boating nonprofit’s mission to support clean waters.

“These placard decals can be the reminder you and your crew need when out on the water or working on your boat,”

said BoatUS Foundation director of boating safety Ted Sensenbrenner. “Having them aboard in locations where they will be seen says a lot about how you treat the environment.”

The Foundation placards are U.S. Coast Guard-compliant and meet MARPOL requirements in regard to size and materials. They may also meet state anti-littering laws for local waters. Not having the placards displayed on required vessels could result in civil penalties. ■

NEW PRODUCT

With **Wide-Line Cleats** from **Accon Marine**, it's simple for owners to upgrade to the convenience of low-profile pull-up hardware. The slightly oversized flanged base covers old holes and rough cutout edges left behind from previous hardware to improve the boat's overall sleek topside profile. Contact local dealers or Accon Marine, 727-572-9202; www.acconmarine.com.

Mother's Day
May 12

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

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44-Mile Stretch Of Wild, Remote River Now Has 24/7 TowBoatUS Coverage

TowBoatUS Fisher's Landing, AZ, helps boaters and anglers get home after running aground.

YUMA, Ariz., – It's a shallow, sandy-bottomed, blue ribbon of Colorado River that stretches 44 miles across the low desert of the remote Arizona southwest. Now, recreational boaters and anglers navigating here from the Interstate 10 bridge down steam to the Imperial Dam have professional, 24/7 on-water towing and assistance available with the opening of TowBoatUS Fisher's Landing, Arizona. The company, located at Fisher's Landing Resort, is part of a nationwide network of more than 600 red TowBoatUS towing response vessels, offers soft ungrounding, on-water towing, battery jump and fuel drop off services.

Capt. Kayla Fulcer, with extensive knowledge of the river and its backwaters, is lead captain at the newest TowBoatUS port. General Manager Charles Stankovich says, "I've been on the river 12 years, and we understand how boaters can have unexpected trouble. Getting fuel can be a challenge, but what snags boats the most are the shallows. There are few markers and fluctuating water levels greatly affect navigability, even for smaller vessels," he adds. "We provide routine assistance to boaters, and



TowBoatUS Fisher's Landing is ready to assist boaters 24/7 with professional on water towing, soft ungrounding, battery jump and fuel drop off services.

help make their day get much better after a breakdown or running aground."

Stankovich offers that the resort's two tour boats and the 23-foot, red TowBoatUS response vessel are the only commercial vessels that ply these waters, which are a prime bass fishery. He highly recommends that boaters in this rugged and hot Arizona desert have a VHF radio aboard. "Cell coverage can be spotty, and a VHF radio is important for safety as well as to request routine on-water assistance."

Much like an auto club for recreational boat owners, Boat Owners As-

sociation of The United States (BoatUS) offers annual on-water Unlimited Towing Memberships for freshwater boaters and anglers for just \$109 per year. Towing, soft ungrounding, battery jumps and fuel drop-offs are all included along with more than 25 BoatUS benefits. Also offered with membership is a subscription to *BoatUS Magazine*, free DSC-VHF radio registration and more.

Like Fulcer, all of the company's captains are U.S. Coast Guard-licensed. Separate from BoatUS on-water towing services, the company offers vessel salvage and environmental remediation services.



Capt. Kayla Fulcer at the helm of TowBoatUS Fisher's Landing response vessel, ready 24/7 to assist boaters on the lower Colorado River.

This is the fifth and most southern TowBoatUS port on the lower Colorado River, which stretch north to Lake Mead, Nevada.

TowBoatUS Fisher's Landing monitors VHF radio Ch. 16 24/7 for routine on-water requests for assistance. Additionally, where cellular coverage permits the company can be reached at 928-920-6920, or by using the BoatUS App. The BoatUS toll-free 24/7 Dispatch Center is at 800-391-4869.

For more, go to BoatUS.com/Towing or call 800-888-4869. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Taking On Water? Skip The Pail And Grab A Pump

When a boat is filling up with water and the bilge pump has failed, a pail should be the last thing an owner reaches for. A Thirsty-Mate® self-priming hand pump from Beckson Marine should be an essential piece of safety equipment on every vessel. Available in a wide range of sizes and capacities, any boat can be emptied without the time and physical exertion needed to bail with a bucket.

Beckson Thirsty-Mate pumps are made entirely in the USA. Its unique self-lubricating, non-rusting polyvinyl material won't damage gelcoat or brightwork if accidentally bumped against it. Solvent-welded construction ensures a rigidly solid design, even when pumping fast. Virtually maintenance-free, the foot valve removes quickly for fast cleaning if a clog occurs.

The angled top sleeve of Thirsty-Mate hand pumps aims discharge water overboard. Models 124PF, 136PF and 136PF6 come with a 24", 36" and 72" flexible hose, respectively, for adaptability.

Each stroke of the pump's bright red contoured handle moves a massive



(From left) Beckson Marine Thirsty Mate models 136PF6, 136PF, and 124pf

amount of water — 10 gpm on the 24" 124PF and 13 gpm on the 36" models. Prices list for \$55.20, \$67.85 and \$81.75, respectively.

Contact local dealers or Beckson Marine, 165 Holland Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605. Email: orderdesk@beckson.com; Visit www.beckson.com. ■

Seasucker Partners With Charities

Since its founding, SeaSucker has been an active member of its community and embraced its philanthropic work. Its new Giveback Color Collection of vacuum-mounted boat accessories vibrantly highlights the work of the Coastal Conservation Association of Florida, Heroes on the Water and the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation. SeaSucker donates a share of the proceeds of each item sold to the respective worthy cause.

The branded products are the Large Recycle Waste Band, Flex-X Phone Mount, 2-Cup Holder Vertical and Single Rod Holder. Made in the USA, Giveback Color Collection accessories feature one of the charity's logos to add a splash of color to a boat and to let owners share their commitment to a worthwhile organization. They mount temporarily to any non-porous surface with SeaSucker's innovative Vacuum Mount technology, holding up to 120 lbs. — often for days.

"Through committed partners like SeaSucker, we're expanding access to healing outdoor activities, and empower-



ing more heroes to find solace and joy on the water," said Neil Mullaney, Heroes on the Water executive director. "We're deeply grateful for SeaSucker's commitment to our mission."

Contact local dealers or SeaSucker, LLC, 1912 44th Ave. E, Bradenton, FL 34203. 941-900-1850. info@seasucker.com; www.seasucker.com; www.facebook.com/SeaSucker; www.instagram.com/Seasucker.marine; www.youtube.com/user/SeaSuckerVideos. ■



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

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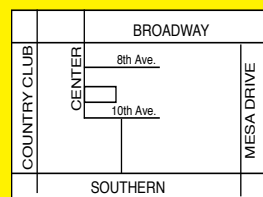
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Diggin' Cranks With Kevin Finley

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

At the U.S. Open about several years ago, Arizona Nitro pro Kevin Finley found a Storm Arashi crankbait in the goodie bag he received at tournament HQ. Later, he went fishing at Lake Pleasant with a buddy, Taj White, and told him, "you tie on whatever you think I should throw – I've got a tournament coming at Pleasant." Taj absolutely smashed them with the Arashi. That's how he found out about the Arashi, and now he says it's the best crankbait he's ever used.

Never Lost One

Finley says he's never lost one – the hook hanger is perpendicular to the length of the lure, and that seems to help them not get snagged. "I've got some that look like you took a hammer to them," he says, "they get beat up, but I always get them back." Some of his Arashi baits are Silent Squares and some rattle. Kevin says he buys a bunch of them at a time. "If you buy a bunch of Silent ones," he says, "seven or eight of them will be silent, and maybe one or two have little tiny knock inside." Those are his absolute favorites. He says it's a subtle, single knock and you have to shake it real hard to hear it. When he gets one like that, he marks it and he says he dreads the day he ever loses one.

The #3 Arashi will run about three feet deep, and the #5 around five feet, but Kevin says on a really long cast you can get it to go six or even seven feet deep. "I love to have that #5 drag bottom in shallow water," he says, "just totally scrubbing the bottom." He'll change the hooks four or five times a day if he's throwing one, because he says if you're not dragging the bottom, or touching something with it, it's just not as good, and that goes for any crankbait, he says, not just the Arashi. The Strike King 5XD is another great crankbait at Pleasant, for instance.

Technique

Finley says you need to get close to shore and throw the plug parallel to the bank. "If you're not throwing parallel, don't even use a crank," Finley says. That's what he does the vast majority of the time. Alternatively, though, he says you can use a really deep crankbait and throw it out then crank it uphill. This can be killer on a long shallow point or a little cut in the bank. Keep your eyes on the shoreline – when you see a small cut that runs out into the water, that cut continues under the surface.

The Benefits Of Muddy Water

In deep clear water you have to throw that crankbait a long, long way. In clear water you need to make long casts anyway, no matter which bait you throw, but particularly with this digging technique. In muddy water, you can make shorter casts so you can target areas between things like stumps and docks and such. Muddy water means you can pick your spots better, in other words.

Once the lure hits bottom, he cranks it super slow, just barely moving it, but scrubbing the bottom. He says if you're not getting bit, speed up a little. The number one rule is that you need to be hitting something. The number two rule is you need to be changing up your retrieve all the time – never just reel right through, change your cranking to make the retrieve erratic.

Stop And Go Hits

The reason for stop and go hitting is that it makes the bait look real. Straight doesn't look real, but if your bait is crashing into the bottom and into rocks and into stumps and bouncing left and right, it looks real. Kevin says his lures go Bam!, right, Bam!, left. The Arashi hunts right and left all by itself, and that's one of the



Nitro Pro Kevin Finley catches big bass by digging the bottom with a crankbait.

things that makes it such a great bait, he says.

If he could get a crankbait to run thirty feet deep, he'd do it, Kevin says, but for the most part, about twenty feet deep is the limit to where he'll dig a crank. Occasionally, while fun fishing, he's thrown one way out then used the trolling motor to get far away before cranking it back, but it takes way too long. How much line you have out is directly relational to how deep the crankbait can go, so the longer you can cast, the deeper you can get your bait down there.

Grass

In grass, a lipless rattling bait is almost always his choice – let them fall down into the grass then rip it out hard – he reels down and rips from 9:00 to 12:00, hard. For ripping lipless baits in grass, you need a stiffer rod because a soft rod won't let you rip the hooks through the grass and the hooks will be constantly covered with the grass. Havasu, he says, has short crispy grass that doesn't come out of the water, and this ripping technique is great for that. For longer grass you can reel it over the top and give it a good rip when it touches, but for the most part he'd switch to a Chatterbait for that.

Specific Targets

At Lake Havasu, there are a lot of man-made structures in the water, and that water is clear. You don't want to run right up on the cage or whatever, because that super clear water means the fish can see you, too. Finley loves to throw crankbaits to the cages, and the magic number for him seems to be when the cage is in eleven to thirteen feet of water and has seven or eight feet of water over it. "You don't want to hit the top, you want to bounce it off the sides of the cage," Finley says, "and you want to stay as far away from it as you can."

He uses a Humminbird 360 so he can pinpoint those cages from a hundred feet



away and cast incredibly accurately. He says the Garmin Livescope works for him too. This technique is so good that he'll keep doing it even if he loses cranks to the cages. In one tournament he lost nine crankbaits on a single cage, but he caught a six-pounder on the tenth cast. He was fishing his second-best cranks: the Bill Norman DD22, and they're not expensive so he doesn't mind losing a few, especially on a tough tournament lake like Havasu.

Equipment

Finley uses a composite rod for

FINLEY, continued on page 10



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f i y t d

AZGFD Launches New Web Page Geared For Tournament Anglers

Tournament angling for all species in Arizona has grown tremendously recently. Many people don't realize that the Arizona Game and Fish Department does not issue permits for fishing tournaments.

Fishing tournaments are permitted by the land management agency where the tournament is being held. The department is, however, very interested in —

- Building relationships with tournament organizations, promoters and anglers.
- Working with permitting agencies like the national forests, Arizona State Parks, and the National Park Service to ensure fishing tournaments are not having negative impacts to fish populations and are emphasizing public safety.
- Promoting safe fish-handling practices.



- Utilizing fish data from fishing tournaments to better inform fisheries management.

By dedicating a Web page to tournament angling, the department hopes to provide a place for information sharing

about “all things tournaments.” The Web page includes information on —

- Fish handling and fish care during a tournament.
- Recommendations for bass tournament organizers.
- Recommendations for non-bass tournament organizers.
- Popular fishing tournament waters and tournament permitting agencies.
- Ways for anglers to minimize mortality when catching and releasing bass in deep water.

Visit our Tournament Fishing Web page at: <https://www.azgfd.com/fishing-2/fishing-challenges/tournament-fishing/>.

Donate to AZGFD's wildlife conservation efforts and ensure a wildlife legacy for the future. ■

Watch These New Fishing Videos

There are a few new trip videos and educational videos out there —

Kevin Rapkoch has a new video on fly fishing for carp (“10-pound grass carp eats a cicada dry fly!”) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0ry9sgtAF8>

Jeff Lewis and his brother Richard of REEL Fishing Arizona have a new video, “Amazing Day Fishing with Richard (10 catfish in 4 hours)” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-wOfQ9oV1g>

Fishing Gimiks AZ has a new video, “It's More Fun Fishing on the RIVER” (Gila River) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAGxRRWIVMA>

Gary Senft has a video, “Fishing Horseshoe Lake” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-7eCx0Ib5g&t=36s>), along with several Bartlett Lake videos.

Geek & Geezer Fishing has a new video, “Fishing this Urban Pond is INSANE!” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQMqzSIWIU>

Fishing with Johnny Johnson has a new video posted (filmed in August), “Never Give Up! - Roosevelt Lake, AZ.” Video after the intro starts at about the 1:55 mark. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LyXutTXzVgs>

Fish AZ Shares Fishing Tips

BY CHASE NEWLON
AZGFD R3 COORDINATOR

The temperatures are on the rise! With that, bass and bluegill have been stocked throughout all the Community Fishing Waters. Try your luck at one of the 50+ of these waters, many of which are found within the Phoenix Metro area. Find one that is close to you here: www.azgfd.gov/community.

When switching from targeting trout to fishing for largemouth bass, you will need to upsize most of your gear. A 7-foot medium power rod is a good starting point for targeting bass. You will want to spool it up with an 8-pound braided line with a 3- to 4-foot-long, 10-pound fluorocarbon leader. Here is a great resource on knots for attaching a leader to your main line:

<https://www.takemefishing.org/how-to-fish/how-tie-fishing-knots/line-joining-knots/>

Now that you have your rod ready to go, you will need some lures to target the freshly stocked bass. Jigs are one of the best year-round lures for largemouth bass. They come in a variety of sizes, colors, and types. Depending on where you are fishing, a certain style of jig will be the most appropriate. You can find the different types of jigs and what each of them is used for here: <https://www.takemefishing.org/blog/may-2017/bass-fishing-101-choosing-the-right-jig/>

The FishAZ Network is filled with great events for all skill levels by a variety of great partners. See the list at: <https://register-ed.com/programs/arizona/239-fishaz-network>. ■

Review Proposed Hunt Recommendations Now For 2024-2025 Seasons



The Arizona Game and Fish Department's proposed recommendations for the 2024 deer, javelina, bighorn sheep, bison, black bear, mountain lion, predatory and fur-bearing mammals, small game, migratory birds, trapping, and population management seasons, as well as for the 2025 spring javelina, black bear and bison seasons, are available for

review at www.azgfd.gov/huntguidelines.

The hunt structures and recommendations were formulated based on the hunt guidelines approved by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

All questions or comments about a particular game management unit or hunt can be emailed to AZHuntGuidelines@

www.azgfd.gov. The public also is invited to call any of the department's regional offices statewide and ask to speak with a game management biologist. No formal presentations are planned.

To learn more about the hunt recommendations and hunt guidelines processes, visit www.azgfd.gov/huntguidelines. ■

FINLEY

Continued from page 9

crankin' – part glass, part graphite. It's a Bass Pro Shops rod, and he also uses a Bass Pro Shops reel. A lot of guys have a hard time reeling slow, but he's not one of them, so he uses a fast 7:1 or 8:1 BPS Platinum Signature Reel and he cranks

slowly once his bait hits bottom. As for knots, he doesn't mess with success: he ties a Palomar on everything.

Fluorocarbon's Advantage

Line size makes a huge difference with this technique. For really deep cranking he'll use 8- to 10-pound-test fluorocarbon. The problem with this is that it frays incredibly easily, so he will re-tie six or

seven times an hour. Seriously. However, if the water is dirty he'll use 17-pound-test fluorocarbon line because he won't be fishing so deep. Fish are always shallow in dirty water, he says. The stouter line means that if he gets snagged on something he can just pull it so hard the hooks straighten out, and he gets his bait back. The advantage of fluorocarbon is that it sinks – an advantage when digging cranks.

In the old days, the advice was glass and mono for cranks, reason being that mono stretches and glass bends, so you're less likely to rip the crank away from the fish. But fluorocarbon also stretches, says Finley, the big difference being that mono continues to stretch, and fluorocarbon doesn't. Fluorocarbon will stretch until you stretch it far, and then it won't go back. The longer it's on your reel, the less stretchy it is, he says. Change your line more often and you won't have a problem.

Baits And Colors

The Arashi Silent Square is Kevin's number one bait for digging, but he also loves the DD22's and the Strike King 5XD. The Backstabber Lures from Trophy Technology are great because they have a hook at the tail and on the back instead of the belly, so you get a lot fewer hangups. He sticks to basic colors like crawfish, shad, and a couple very bright

ones, his favorite being Fire Tiger. The Castaic Liplless Stabber is a fantastic grass bait – it also has the hook on the back instead of the belly, and the Ghost Stabber is his favorite color.

In dirty water, he chooses solid colors, even black, or he picks a bright color like chartreuse or red. In clear water, he uses a translucent bait and in very clear, a ghost bait. Also, he likes rattles in dirty water and silent baits for clear water, except for those special subtle-knocking Arashi Silent Square baits he finds now and then.

Non-Boater Advice

You straight up have to run the bank for this technique, and Kevin says this makes it really tough for the backseater. About all you can do, he says, is let the guy up front with you and give him the deeper side. It's not ideal, but it's better than nothing. As a backseater myself, I'd say if your boater is digging cranks, odds are you don't have one that will run deep enough for you to do the same in deeper water. I'd pick up a heavy jig, like a one-tonner with a Yamamoto Hula Grub on it, and cast that out in front of the boat (on the non-bank side, of course). Depending on how fast your partner is moving the boat, you should be able to get it to the bottom and get a couple good hops out of it before you have to re-cast. You could also try a heavy spinnerbait. ■

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Grand Canyon National Park Announces Re-Opening Of Trails And Campground

GRAND CANYON, Ariz. — The National Park Service is announcing Havasupai Gardens Campground and the Bright Angel and Tonto Trails have re-opened for public use. The areas were closed Dec. 1, 2023, for Transcanyon Waterline project construction activities.

Plateau Point Trail, from Havasupai Gardens to Plateau Point remains closed until June 20, 2024. During this time, Tonto Trail hikers will be able to use a trail detour to connect to and from the Bright Angel Trail.

The water-filling station will be available for use at Havasupai Gardens. The water filling stations at Mile-and-a-Half and Three-Mile Resthouses are projected to be available by mid-Ma.

During the four and a half-month closure period, construction workers replaced the water distribution lines throughout the Havasupai Gardens area and at the Mile-and-a-Half and Three-



Bright Angel Trail

JAREK TUSZYNSKI

Mile Resthouses.

Work is still in progress at the construction sites at the South Rim and the inner canyon. To date, the contractor

facilities and two raw water tanks are nearly completed. Construction of the new South Rim water treatment plant, helibase building and landing pads are in

progress. Excavation is being conducted for the new Phantom Ranch water treatment plant.

Future construction-related trail and campground closures for the project include:

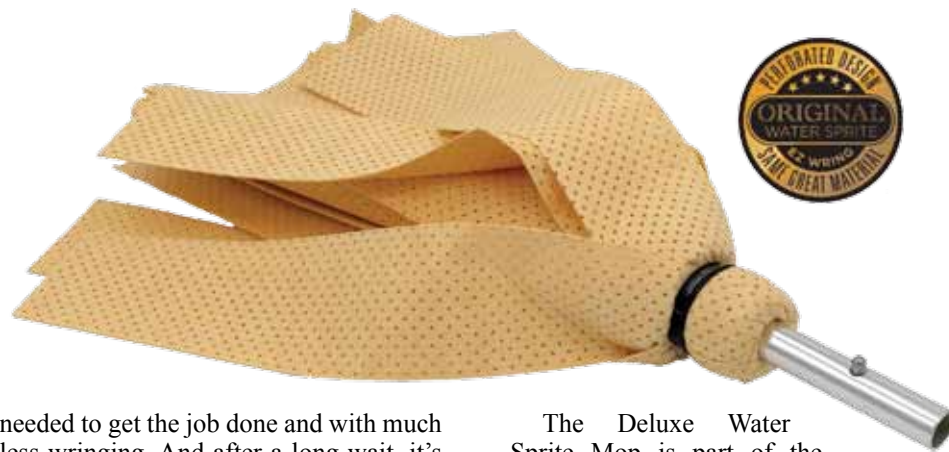
- Plateau Point Trail from the Tonto Trail junction to Plateau Point: June 21, 2024-March 14, 2025
- Bright Angel Trail from Havasupai Gardens to Silver Bridge: Dec. 2, 2024-March 14, 2025
- Bright Angel Campground: Dec. 19, 2024-May 9, 2025
- Silver Bridge: Sept. 15-Dec. 31, 2025

The construction areas and schedule are subject to change and visitors are encouraged to check the park's website for the current operational status. Intermittent trail delays of up to 30 minutes in the vicinity of construction work may occur as necessary throughout the project. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

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The Deluxe Water Sprite Mop is part of the One-Handle-Does-It-All-System and can be used with any of Shurhold's fixed or telescoping handles. Like the other 40 system attachments, it's made in the USA and quickly and securely snaps on or off. The Shurhold 117 Deluxe Water Sprite Mop costs \$99.98; handles range between \$10.85 and \$119.98.

Inventor of the One-Handle-Does-It-All-System, Shurhold is the leading manufacturer of professional-grade detailing supplies that help clean, polish and protect RVs. Dedicated to educating RVers, Shurhold provides key tips for RV value preservation at www.shurhold.com.

Contact local dealers or Shurhold, 3119 SW 42nd Ave., Palm City, FL 34990. 800-962-6241; Fax: 772-286-9620. www.shurhold.com/rv.

Iosso Frees Sticky Snaps And Zips

Dirt, grime and salt spray can play havoc with zippers and snaps. People even buy special tools to open and close them, occasionally damaging the surrounding fabric in the process. With Iosso E-Z Snap Zipper & Snap Lubricant, a few minutes of simple maintenance early can alleviate hours of frustration later.

Made in the USA, E-Z Snap is a unique gel-like formula that protects and lubricates plastic and metal zippers, snaps, hinges and other hardware. The

formula won't dissolve with water, dissipate with heat or get sticky in the cold. Unlike a spray, it only goes where it's dabbed. Plus, it doesn't contain solvents, silicone or Teflon, so it's non-hazardous.

E-Z Snap is simple to use. For snaps, it's applied on the male side, then worked a few times into both sides of the fastener. Dabbed lightly every 8" or so on a zipper, opened and closed several times, it smooths the zip action and can make shrunken fabric easier to manage. A 1.5 oz. tube of Iosso E-Z Snap Zipper & Snap Lubricant costs only \$5.95.

Contact local dealers or Iosso Products, 1485 Lively Blvd., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007. Toll-free 888-747-4332. iossoproducts@iosso.com; www.iosso.com.

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Large fluid drums can sometimes prove challenging to open, especially the first time when breaching the original factory seal. The Wrench-70 container wrench from Beckson Marine makes fast work of 70mm and 3/4" slotted plugs, enabling users to get on with the job of transferring liquids to smaller containers.

Crafted from fiberglass-filled nylon for light weight and exceptional strength, the Wrench-70 provides needed added leverage to help open fluid drum caps. Its ergonomic design is easy to grip, while the raised handle affords access to even low-profile plugs. The Wrench-70 measures 9-1/2" L.

Its synthetic construction is completely non-sparking, providing an extra measure of safety when handling combustibles. The Wrench-70 from Beckson Marine has a suggested retail price of \$28.80. Beckson also offers an array of drum pumps, connectors and bung adapters, plus a pail dolly and strap-lock, to help make commercial barrel fluid transfers simpler and safer.

Contact local dealers or Beckson Marine, 165 Holland Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605. Email: orderdesk@beckson.com; Visit www.beckson.com. ■

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Our Road Trip Had Some Surprises

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

John and I love Arizona because you can cruise the deserts in winter and the mountains in summer. That's why we decided to visit the ruins of Swansea, an old mining town in February. It never occurred to me that I would need to check for any major events on Swansea Road, so off we went, taking 60 through Wickensburg, Aguila, Vicksburg, and Bouse.

Bouse

We planned to fill the Jeep in Bouse then head north on Swansea Road to the remains of the town. I was stoked because the map showed a natural arch just before the town, and I love finding arches almost as much as finding springs!



Bouse Jail

We were starting to get nervous in Bouse because Apple Maps wasn't showing any gas stations, but we spotted a little store with a couple of gas pumps out front and pulled in. After paying, I asked the lady if they had a restroom, and she said they didn't but there were public restrooms at the rest stop across the road. We were heading in that direction anyway, so after gassing up we pulled into the dirt parking lot.

Old Mining Machines

There were a bunch of old mining machines there, including a railroad car, and also the old Bouse Train Depot office, and even a jail! We wandered around and looked at everything and let Mochi stretch



We stopped in Bouse to get gas and right across from the little store with the gas pumps is a parking lot with a couple of public restrooms and a bunch of historic items from the old mining days. A fun stop!



Bouse Depot



Right after you turn onto the road to Hillside from Highway 89, you'll see this huge rock painted as a skull on the north side of the road. Drive slowly until you find a spot that is not obscured by bushes and trees.

road closed.

Apparently, in the early part of the year there are a lot of off-road competitions between Parker and Bouse, so if you want to see Swansea, be sure to check to see if the road will be open! I imagine it might be open at least Monday – Wednesday, but I don't know. So much for those plans!

What Now?

That kind of threw us for a loop. There isn't a whole lot out that way, so we didn't have a plan B. But we still wanted to go camping, so we headed back the way we came, but when we got to Highway 71, just east of Aguila, we headed north toward Congress. It's beautiful country up there.

Road 62 – Date Creek Road

Once you're in Congress, 71 is gone and you're on Highway 89. About a mile and half past Congress, Date Creek Road (also called 62) heads north to Hillside while 89 continues to Yarnell. We had been quail hunting in that area many times and we knew some great places to camp, so we took the road to Hillside. Shortly after turning off the 89 onto 62, you'll see a huge boulder painted like a skull off the road a ways on the right. Drive slowly to find a spot where the view isn't hidden by brush. Since the day was early and we weren't hunting, we took the time to explore.

Our first stop was less than a mile and

ROAD TRIP, continued on page 15

her legs, then headed up toward Swansea Road, which comes out to 60 right there at the rest stop/Bouse Museum.

Right away we noticed something was weird. Little orange signs were posted on the side of the road every couple of hundred feet that said "No Parking No Spectating". I was wondering what the heck there was to spectate out there. It's just an empty desert.

Off-Road Race

Then suddenly there was a large parking area next to the road full of RV's and all kinds of trailers – and the road was blocked off. Turns out there was a giant off-road race the coming weekend. This was Thursday but they already had the

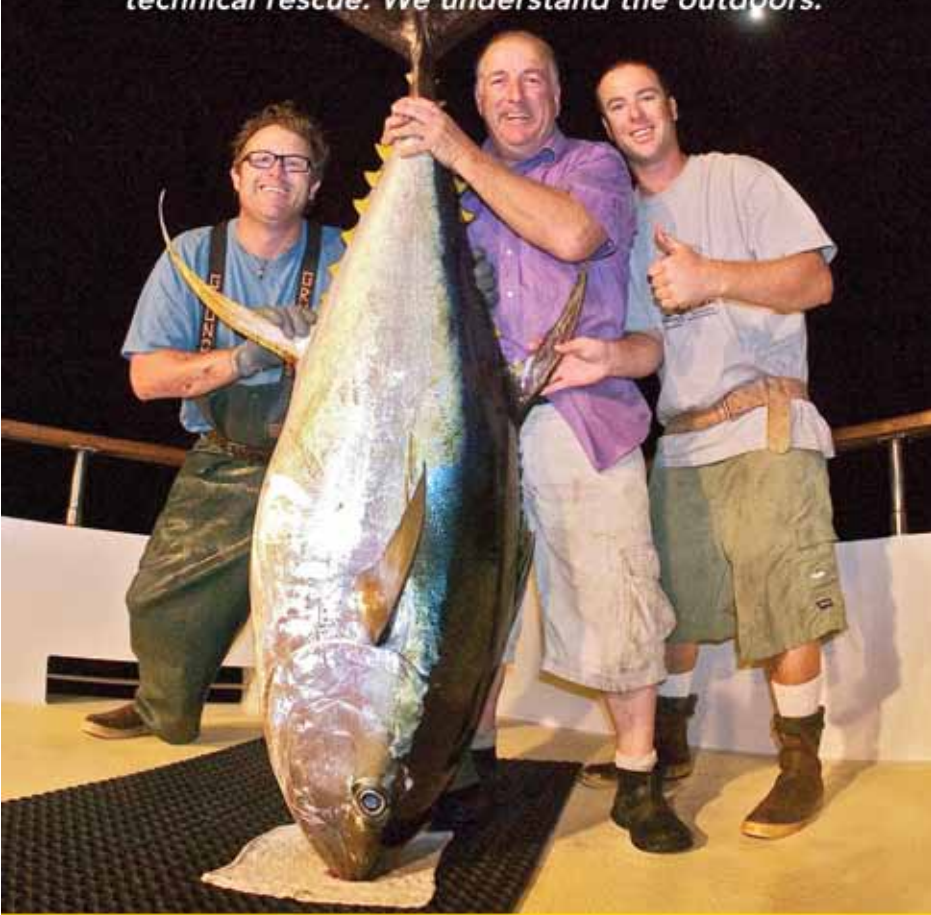


There is plenty of prickly pear in the area around Lawler Creek Road, which usually means it's good javelina and quail country.

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ROAD TRIP

Continued from page 14

a half after we got onto Lawler Creek Road, which is off to the left about three miles before you get to Hillside. I saw a water hole on the map and we decided to check it out. The road petered out near a barbed wire fence, and there was a steep wash with a cattle trail on it – it looked like the road had gone that way one time, but it was seriously washed out.



John and Mochi headed to the big water hole on Lawler Creek Road.

Big, Beautiful Waterhole

Of course, Mochi ran down there immediately, and John and I followed, even though there was no sign of water. But after getting to the bottom and following the cut a short way, it took a sharp turn to the right and opened up to reveal a beautiful, big waterhole that was like a pond or a small lake! It was so pretty! Mochi had a blast running into the water to chase bugs, and there were no cattle around so we just let her play. What a cool place – you never know what you’re going to find



We found an unnamed water hole about half a mile from the turnoff on Lawler Creek Road that you approach through a deep and steep little wash that curves to hide the water until you’re right there. It’s a nice big one and Mochi had a blast there.



I did manage to find Lawler Spring by looking around uphill from the cattle watering trough.

in the desert!

The last time we were in that area hunting, I had dropped a pin and put “good spot for a tent” on it, so that’s the first place we stopped. It was only a half mile or so from the water hole, down in a cut with lots of trees and shade. Nice. We pulled into a small clearing in the trees where we had found a bunch of quail last season and chased them up the hill. This time, though, we were looking for a place to camp.

It didn’t take long for us to decide to keep looking – I found a partially eaten javelina under a tree and we thought we’d leave that for whatever critter was having it for dinner, rather than have Mochi roll around on it and stink all night!

Lawler Spring

About a half mile past that site, we entered another low area that had a lot of trees and a trough being fed clean water through a pipe. John stopped again and we got out to find the spring I could see



The best thing about minimalist camping is that it hardly takes any time to pitch or to break camp!

on the map. Sometimes when the spring is piped you can’t find the actual place where the water comes out of the ground, but just a little ways uphill from the trough we found it.

The spring was simply a few very old railroad ties held in place with pipes driven into the ground, and the water was just a small pool with a lot of algae floating on it. It looked like it hadn’t been tended in a long time! But it was shady and cool, and finding a spring is always rewarding. We didn’t spend long there as it was getting to be late afternoon and we wanted to find a camping spot before dark.

ChiliMac For Dinner

The Lawler Creek road is good in spots but iffy in others, so a 4WD is necessary – or at least a high-clearance vehicle. We bounced along for another mile or so and from a high point we could see a nice opening near some trees. Sure enough, a little ways further we found a faint road headed in the right direction and took it to the clear spot. There were a couple of narrow, shallow stream beds with lots of tracks in them, but it was flat and open, so we pitched our tent, lit the BioLite stove and the JetBoil, and I made dinner by pouring boiling water into a bag of Peak Refuel ChiliMac.

Our camps are fairly spartan. All we have is the KampRite tentcot but it’s super comfortable and we love it. Mochi sleeps inside it with us. Sometime during the night, something woke me up and Mochi was sitting straight up looking out through the mesh door with her hackles up, but not making a sound. A bobcat was strolling through our camp! I was so proud of Mochi for staying quiet. You don’t get to see a bobcat every day.

Into Wickenburg

The rest of the night passed peacefully and morning was chilly and beautiful. We



Bobcat: One walked through our camp on Lawler Creek Road.

decided to take the scenic way home and got back on 62 (Date Creek Road) and took it to Hillside. After Hillside we took 96 to 97, which goes to 93 and straight down into Wickenburg. Nicer than the Interstate, I think.

The only bad thing was that the traffic in Wickenburg was atrocious. They are doing some work on 93 and it’s a huge mess, especially with all the extra traffic to the race out by Bouse. Those roundabouts are awful – traffic was backed up for miles at that first roundabout and it made our trip home at least an hour longer. Once past that roundabout things opened up, but it was still very congested. Just something to remember if you’re headed out that way. Weekends are probably worse – we were trying to get through on a Friday.

A Road Not Traveled?

So there you have it – even if your plans get the kibosh, don’t let that ruin your trip. Why not look at the map and find a road you’ve never been on? It doesn’t have to be a dirt road either – lots of the smaller highways in Arizona have all kinds of interesting places and things to see. Rocks painted like skulls, frogs, and ducks are a few of the roadside attractions around Jerome, Hillside, and Kirkland Junction. Check it out sometime!

We Honor Those Who Made The Ultimate Sacrifice

Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30. Since 1971, it is observed on the last Monday of May.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day to honor and mourn those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Many volunteers place American flags on the graves of military personnel in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer.

First National Observance

The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as Decoration Day, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers who had died in the Civil War. This national observance was preceded by many local ones between the end of the Civil War and Logan's declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to be the first to observe it. However, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credits Mary Ann Williams with originating the "idea of strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers—Union and Confederate" with flowers.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every Union state had adopted it. The world wars turned it

into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service. In 1971, Congress standardized the holiday as "Memorial Day" and changed its observance to the last Monday in May.

Armed Forces, Veterans Days

Two other days celebrate those who have served or are serving in the U.S. military: Armed Forces Day (which is earlier in May), an unofficial U.S. holiday for honoring those currently serving in the armed forces, and Veterans Day (on November 11), which honors all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.



Arlington National Cemetery



RAUL654

Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier

In April 1865, following Lincoln's assassination, commemorations were extensive. The more than 600,000 soldiers of both sides who fought and died in the Civil War meant that burial and memorialization took on new cultural significance. Under the leadership of women during the war, an increasingly formal practice of decorating graves had taken shape. In 1865, the federal government also began creating the United States National Cemetery System for the Union war dead.

Ceremonies Become Consistent

By the 1880s, ceremonies were becoming more consistent across geography as the GAR provided handbooks that presented specific procedures, poems, and Bible verses for local post commanders to utilize in planning the local event. Historian Stuart McConnell reports:

on the day itself, the post assembled and marched to the local cemetery to decorate the graves of the fallen, an enterprise meticulously organized months in advance to assure that none were missed. Finally came a simple and subdued graveyard service involving prayers, short patriotic speeches, and music ... and at the end perhaps a rifle salute.

Early National History

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Relationship To Confederate Memorial Day

In 1868, some Southern public figures began adding the label "Confederate" to



My great grandfather George Van Beek served with the Union Army during the Civil War. His Bible is pierced with a musket ball (still embedded) that had been meant for him. (Carol Allen)

their commemorations and claimed that Northerners had appropriated the holiday. The first official celebration of Confederate Memorial Day as a public holiday occurred in 1874, following a proclamation by the Georgia legislature. By 1916, ten states celebrated it, on June 3, the birthday of CSA President Jefferson Davis. Other states chose late April dates, or May 10, commemorating Davis' capture.

The Ladies' Memorial Association played a key role in using Memorial Day rituals to preserve Confederate culture. Various dates ranging from April 25 to mid-June were adopted in different Southern states. Across the South, associations were founded, many by women, to establish and care for permanent cemeteries for the Confederate dead, organize commemorative ceremonies, and sponsor appropriate monuments as a permanent way of remembering the Confederate dead. The most important of these was the United Daughters of the Confederacy, which grew throughout the South. Changes in the ceremony's hymns and speeches reflect an evolution of the ritual into a symbol of cultural renewal and conservatism in the South. By 1913, David Blight argues, the theme of American nationalism shared equal time with the Confederate.

Renaming

By the 20th century, various Union memorial traditions, celebrated on dif-

HONOR, continued on page 19

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Protect Yourself, Protect A Bear

AZGFD offers essential tips for avoiding conflicts.

With Arizona's hottest months right around the corner, how black bears forage for typical food sources will become more challenging. As a result, the chances of them wandering into populated areas in search of an easier meal will be on the rise.

While bears are typically shy and tend to avoid humans, their excellent sense of smell can be problematic for both the animals and humans. Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) officials advise those living or visiting bear country to avoid feeding wildlife and to not leave trash, food or other attractants accessible (such as pet food or bird seed). Unfortunately, a fed bear is a dead bear.

"If a bear becomes habituated to getting food from trash cans and other human sources, it's only a matter of time before it loses its fear of humans and begins to actively search out human food sources," said Larry Phoenix, AZGFD regional supervisor in Flagstaff. "At that point, the bear becomes a threat to public safety."

Here Are Some Tips To Avoid Attracting Bears

Keep them away from your home —

- Keep all trash inside a secured area until collection day. If that's not possible, keep food waste in a bag in the freezer and place those in the trash as close to collection time as possible.
- Take bird feeders down at night.
- Keep pet and livestock food inside or remove all uneaten food.

When camping —

- Keep your food and attractants secured and inaccessible to bears. Do not



keep food in your tent.

- Don't burn left-over food or trash on the grill.
- Set up your campsite away from places where bears might forage for food, such as creeks, rivers and other bodies of water.

When hiking —

- Don't wear scented lotions, deodorant or perfumes.
- Make noise or hike in groups.
- Hiking with a pet? Keep it on a leash at all times.

In case of a bear encounter —

- Do NOT run.
- Back away slowly while keeping your eyes on the bear.
- Make yourself look bigger than you are by flaunting your arms or pulling your shirt/jacket up higher than your head.
- Throw items and yell at the bear.
- If attacked, fight back.

Bear sightings in areas where there is human activity should be reported to AZGFD's dispatch center at 623-236-7201. For questions, or to obtain a brochure on living with bears, visit www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/living-with-wildlife. ■

Rattlesnakes Typically Not A Threat Unless Provoked

Leaving venomous reptiles alone reduces risk of being bitten.

With more people getting outdoors to take advantage of the state's warm, spring weather, it's important to keep in mind that 13 species of rattlesnakes also call Arizona home.

Depending on location, the species that are encountered most often are the Western diamondback, sidewinder, Mojave, and black-tailed rattlesnakes.

"Arizona has more rattlesnake species than any other state, and we can all celebrate that amazing biodiversity," said Thomas Jones, amphibians and reptiles program manager for the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

In warm desert areas, rattlesnakes are most active from March through October. During the spring, it's not uncommon for rattlesnakes to be out during daylight hours. As the days become increasingly hot, though, usually around early May, rattlesnakes tend to move around more at night.

April is typically an active month for rattlesnakes, as they are coming out of hibernation.

"We want people to know that there is a higher than average chance that they might encounter a rattlesnake when they are out recreating," Jones said.

Watch your step at home

Rattlesnakes can easily blend in with their surroundings, so a person should always be mindful where they are placing their feet and hands. Carry a flashlight at



night, especially on warmer nights when rattlesnakes can be most active.

Stay on the trail

Encounters with rattlesnakes and other venomous reptiles can take place anywhere, but they are more likely to occur when a person leaves a marked trail or wanders away from a heavily traveled area. Always stay on marked trails and be aware of your surroundings.

When encountering a rattlesnake, remember that the reptile is more concerned with being left alone. Back away from the rattlesnake, give it a wide berth, and continue on your way. An agitated rattlesnake will often hold its ground but will not give chase.

"Although accidents certainly happen, rattlesnakes are typically not dangerous unless provoked," Jones said.

If a rattlesnake bite occurs

- Remain calm and reassure the victim.
- Call 911 and seek medical attention without delay.
- Remove all jewelry, watches, etc. from the affected area.
- Immobilize the extremity and keep at

SNAKES, continued on page 19



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PORT WESTERN WILDLIFE

Arizona's Other Bighorn Sheep

Desert bighorn sheep are stunning — but what about Arizona's other bighorns? Eastern and central Arizona are home to Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, the stocky cousins of the desert dwellers.

AZGFD sought to reestablish the subspecies in 1979 and transplanted eight Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from Colorado to the upper Blue River area of eastern Arizona. Over the last 45 years, with the help of additional translocations, the population and the animals' distribution have expanded to include approximately 1,300 individuals.



SOUTH RIM

Continued from page 1

Delaware North

- Yavapai Lodge Tavern and Patio, 12-9 p.m., Yavapai Lodge Coffee Shop, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., Cafe, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., Yavapai Dining Hall: TEMPORARILY CLOSED
- Canyon Village Market, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., Deli 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Camper Services laundry and shower: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Other

- Grand Canyon Clinic: Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Bright Angel Bikes, Rental: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Café 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Grand Canyon Visitor Center (GCVC): Sunday, April 7 through Saturday, April 20: The visitor center will be open 5 days per week from 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays). Also, because of the reduction in staff, ranger programs will not be presented during this time.

- Grand Canyon Conservancy stores: Visitor Center Plaza, Verkamps and Yavapai Geology Museum 8 a.m.-7 p.m. daily, Kolb Studio is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and closed on Friday and Saturday.

- The Grand Canyon Community Library: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

- Grand Canyon Food Pantry: Monday 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday 5:30-7:30 p.m., Saturday 2-4 p.m.

- Canyon Closet: Every Wednesday from 12-2 p.m., first and third Saturday of each month from 12-3 p.m.

- Canyon Community Yoga & Wellness (at the Rec Center)- Yoga: Mondays

& Wednesdays 6:30 p.m., Fitness Classes: Strength Training Sundays 9 a.m., Core Strength Thursdays 6:30 p.m. View full schedule here: <https://www.canyoncommunityyoga.com/schedule>

Desert View

- Desert View Trading Post Coffee and Ice Cream and Market, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

- Desert View Watchtower, 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. daily

- The Desert View Deli, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- The Desert View Campground will reopen for the season on Saturday, April 13 and will close mid-October 2024. Again this year, reservations are solely booked through www.rec.gov and is nearly sold out every day until June.

Please visit the Grand Canyon National Park website for a complete list of closures and available amenities. ■

TIPS

Continued from page 1

Wear a life jacket. Make sure everyone wears a life jacket – every time. A stowed life jacket is no use in an emergency.

Use an engine cut-off switch – it's the law. An engine cut-off switch is a proven safety device to stop a powerboat engine should the operator unexpectedly fall overboard.

Watch the weather. Always check the forecast before departing on the water and frequently during the excursion.

Know what's going on around you at all times. Nearly a quarter of all reported boating incidents in 2022 were caused by operator inattention or improper lookout.

Know where you're going and travel at safe speeds. Be familiar with the area, local boating speed zones, and always travel at a safe speed.

Never boat under the influence. A BUI is involved in one-third of all recreational boating fatalities. Always designate a sober skipper.

Keep in touch. Have more than one communication device that works when wet. VHF radios, emergency locator beacons, satellite phones, and cell phones can all be important devices in an emergency.

The Safe Boating Campaign is produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The campaign offers a variety of free and paid resources to support local boating safety education efforts. Learn more at www.safeboatingcampaign.com.

About the National Safe Boating Council

Established in 1958, the National Safe Boating Council is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education, outreach, and training. For more information about NSBC programs and professional development opportunities, visit www.safeboatingcouncil.org. ■

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HONOR

Continued from page 16

ferent days, merged, and Memorial Day eventually extended to honor all Americans who fought and died while in the U.S. military service. Indiana from the 1860s to the 1920s saw numerous debates on how to expand the celebration. It was a favorite lobbying activity of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). An 1884 GAR handbook explained that Memorial Day was “the day of all days in the G.A.R. Calendar” in terms of mobilizing public support for pensions.

Memorial Day speeches became an occasion for veterans, politicians, and ministers to commemorate the Civil War and, at first, to rehash the “atrocities” of the enemy. They mixed religion and celebratory nationalism for the people to make sense of their history in terms of sacrifice for a better nation. People of all religious beliefs joined and the point was often made that German and Irish soldiers – ethnic minorities which faced discrimination in the United States – had become true Americans in the “baptism of blood” on the battlefield.

In the national capital in 1913 the four-day “Blue-Gray Reunion” featured parades, re-enactments, and speeches from a host of dignitaries, including President Woodrow Wilson, the first Southerner elected to the White House since the War. James Heflin of Alabama gave the main address. Heflin was a noted orator;

his choice as Memorial Day speaker was criticized, as he was opposed for his support of segregation; however, his speech was moderate in tone and stressed national unity and goodwill, gaining him praise from newspapers.

The name “Memorial Day”, which was first attested in 1882, gradually became more common than “Decoration Day” after World War II but was not declared the official name by federal law until 1967. On June 28, 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which moved four holidays, including Memorial Day, from their traditional dates to a specified Monday in order to create a convenient three-day weekend. The change moved Memorial Day from its traditional May 30 date to the last Monday in May. The law took effect at the federal level in 1971.

In 1913, one Indiana veteran complained that younger people born since the war had a “tendency ... to forget the purpose of Memorial Day and make it a day for games, races, and revelry, instead of a day of memory and tears”. Indeed, in 1911 the scheduling of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway car race (later named the Indianapolis 500) was vehemently opposed by the increasingly elderly GAR. The state legislature in 1923 rejected holding the race on the holiday. But the new American Legion and local officials wanted the big race to continue, so Governor Warren McCray vetoed the bill and the race went on. ■

SNAKES

Continued from page 17

level below the heart.

- Decrease total body activity as is feasible.

What NOT to do if get bit

- Do NOT apply ice to the bite area.
- Do NOT use an incision of any kind.
- Do NOT use a constriction band or

tourniquet.

- Do NOT administer alcohol or drugs.
- Do NOT use electric shock treatment.

Leaving a rattlesnake alone can significantly reduce the risk of being bitten. In fact, more than half of all rattlesnake bites are provoked by the person who was bitten.

For additional information and resources about rattlesnake bites, contact the Arizona Poison Drug and Information Center at 1-800-222-1222. ■



Post 720 celebrated its 100th anniversary in early 2021.



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



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Just Wear It!



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Maricopa County Parks set fire ban.

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