

ON THE COVER



She Went Catchin'!

BY CAROL L. ALLEN

Kelsee Haws shows the fish that she caught in Luna Lake; it later became part of a delicious meal. Her outdoors experience is typical of many throughout the state and one of those that we can continue to enjoy even if pandemic restrictions return. (Please, no!)

In fact, a whole new group of women anglers will probably be inspired by the great program “Becoming An Outdoors Woman” to be held in Prescott, Ariz., later this month. And, fishing is just one focus of the event; it includes hiking, archery, outdoor cooking, etc. — literally a buffet of outdoor experiences and learning to savor .

And, as many wonderful opportunities that our outdoors offer, there are also dangers in the wild. Margie Anderson offers a great summary of what to watch for and what to do if you encounter a problem. She ends her article with a note about a basic kit that she and her husband take with them whenever they leave their vehicle and set out on foot. Great advice!

So, as always, continue to enjoy and treasure what the outdoors offers you. However, be safe and responsible as you do. ■

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A variety of events fills September calendar.

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Rent a “swan” and cruise Tempe Town Lake.

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Snakes and spiders, oh, my.

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WESTERN WILDLIFE

AZGFD wants to discuss wildlife future



Bayou Bandits

Country Music To ROCK LAKE PLEASANT

Pleasant Harbor at Lake Pleasant and the City of Peoria will host the Peoria Country Fest on Saturday, Oct. 9, featuring live country music from three popular country artists. The event also features food trucks, a beer garden and *live* bull riding. The event runs from 2 p.m. –10 p.m.

Headlining this year’s country fest is David Nail, a country music artist whose multiple albums have produced seven chart entries on Hot Country Songs and Country Airplay, including two that have reached Number 1. Bayou Bandits, the hottest southern rock band in the Southwest, will be performing, as well as Ivan Harshman.

Tickets

Tickets are \$25.00 per person and admission is *free* for children, 12 and under. A limited number of VIP tickets are available at \$75.00. VIP ticket holders will enjoy a separate seating area and bathrooms, private cash bar and meal.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.pleasantharbor.com. Ticket prices do not include entry into Pleasant Harbor, which is an additional \$7.00 fee per vehicle for this event. No coolers or alcohol are allowed. However, unopened plastic water bottles, lawn chairs and blankets are welcome. Festival attendees are encouraged to buy tickets in advance.

Camping

For those wanting a weekend camping experience, both full



David Nail

hook-up campsites (electric, water, sewer and internet access), as well as dry camping spaces are available. Showers, convenience store, pool and clubhouse amenities are available to weekend campers at Pleasant Harbor RV Resort.

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Women Learn Outdoor Skills



Arizona Game & Fish and the Arizona Wildlife Federation sponsor ‘Becoming an Outdoors Woman’.

Openings are still available for the “Becoming an Outdoors Woman” (BOW) workshop Sept. 10-12 at Friendly Pines Camp near Prescott.

The program introduces women to out-

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State Employees’ Campaign Raises Money For Charities

Public can enter raffle for 2021 Polaris Ranger Crew or Sea-Doo Fish Pro .

The State Employees Charitable Campaign (SECC) annually provides Arizona state employees with an opportunity to voluntarily contribute monetary donations that support hundreds of nonprofit charities.

The public can show its support for three

of those 501(c)(3) nonprofits by purchasing raffle tickets for a chance to win from a wide selection of brand-name outdoors equipment, which includes the grand-prize winner’s choice of a 2021 Polaris Ranger Crew XP 1000 EPS or a 2021 Sea-Doo Fish Pro and trailer.

Proceeds from the raffle will benefit Wildlife for Tomorrow and the Arizona Elk Society, both of which work closely

CAHRITY, continued on page 17

Nominations Sought For 2021 AZGFC Awards

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission is soliciting nominations for its 2021 Commission Awards. 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.

The nomination deadline is Sept. 8, 2021. There are 12 award categories (see list below), and nominations may include individuals, organizations, clubs, foundations or government agencies. Arizona Game and Fish Department employees are not eligible for nomination.

To submit a nomination, download and complete a nomination form and return by email to sbernal@azgfd.gov or by mail to Arizona Game and Fish Department, Attn: Shay Bernal, Director’s Office, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85028.

The commission will select the 2021 Commission Award recipients at its Sept. 24, 2021 meeting. The awards will be presented at the annual Arizona Game and Fish Commission Awards Banquet on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, at the Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort, 11111 N. 7th

NOMINATIONS, continued on page 19

Many Events Fill The Fall Into Winter Calendars

COMMISSION NOMINATIONS

September 8

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission is soliciting nominations for its 2021 Commission Awards. 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. The nomination deadline is Sept. 8, 2021. To submit a nomination, download and complete a nomination form and return by email to sbernal@azgfd.gov or by mail to Arizona Game and Fish Department, Attn: Shay Bernal, Director’s Office, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85028.



AN OUTDOORS WOMAN

September 10-12

At press time openings were still available for the “Becoming an Outdoors Woman” (BOW) workshop Sept. 10-12 at Friendly Pines Camp near Prescott. The program is sponsored by the Arizona Wildlife Federation in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. For more information and to register, visit azwildlife.org/bow or contact Kim at 480-201-7456 or Linda at 623-979-4612.

GRANDPARENTS’ SAIL DAY

September 12

Californian tall ship adventure sail is a perfect Grandparents Day treat. Maritime Museum of San Diego is proud to announce our schooner *Californian* Captain and Sail Crew depart for this Tall Ship Adventure Sunday, Sept. 12! <https://sdmaritime.org/visit/on-the-water-adventures/tall-ship-adventure-aboard-californian/>

UPDATING CONSERVATION PLAN

September 20, 7-8 p.m.
September 21, noon-1 p.m.,
September 22, 7-8 p.m.:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) is updating its 10-year conservation plan — the Arizona Wildlife Conservation Strategy (AWCS) — and is sharing the core elements of the new strategy based on public input to date. The department will host three virtual meetings in September to discuss enhancements to the AWCS and obtain feedback from the public. To attend a meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone, visit <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/938773205>. Those who haven’t previously used the GoToMeeting app can download it from that link. Alternatively, people can dial in by phone at 1-669-224-



3412, access code 938-773-205. For more information on the AWCS, including survey results, summaries of focus group discussions, and a link to the 2012-2022 Arizona State Wildlife Action Plan, visit <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/action-plan/>.



PEORIA COUNTRY FEST

October 9

Pleasant Harbor at Lake Pleasant and the City of Peoria will host the Peoria Country Fest on Saturday, October 9, 2021, featuring live country music from three popular country artists. The event also features food trucks, a beer garden and LIVE bull riding. The event runs from 2:00 p.m. –10:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.pleasantharbor.com.

CHECK YOUR PORTAL

October 12

Open an AZGFD portal account. Just visit accounts.azgfd.com/Account/Register and fill in the required information. Applicants must possess a valid Arizona hunting license (or combination hunt and fish license) to apply online for a hunt permit-tag. That license must be valid on the last day of the online application period (Oct. 12). Licenses are available online, and at any AZGFD office or license dealers statewide. Note: When purchasing an Arizona hunting (or combination hunt and fish) license online, the license number will appear at the bottom of the customer’s receipt. Don’t throw it away! That license number will be required as part of the draw application process. Know your Department ID or Customer ID. This is a must to submit an application. There are three ways to locate a Department ID or Customer ID: Log into your AZGFD portal account, and click on “View Details” under “My AZGFD Dashboard;” check your hunting or combination hunt and fish license, if it was purchased online or at any AZGFD office; or call AZGFD at 602-942-3000 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CHARITABLE RAFFLE

November 28, December 11

The State Employees Charitable Campaign (SECC) annually provides Arizona state employees with an opportunity to voluntarily contribute monetary donations that support hundreds of nonprofit charities. The public can show its support for three of those 501(c)(3) nonprofits by purchasing raffle tickets for a chance to win from a wide selection of brand-name outdoors equipment, which includes the grand-prize winner’s choice of a 2021 Polaris Ranger Crew XP 1000 EPS or a 2021 Sea-Doo Fish Pro and trailer. Pro-



ceeds from the raffle will benefit Wildlife for Tomorrow and the Arizona Elk Society, both of which work closely with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The raffle ends Nov. 28, with a live drawing scheduled for Dec. 11 at RideNow Powersports in Phoenix at 17202 N. Cave Creek Road. For more information, and to participate, visit <https://aesraffles.org/>.



SIT, STAY BRUNCH

December 5:

Unleash Your Sparkle as Lost Our Home celebrates 13 years of helping people and saving pets! Our adoptable dogs will be breaking out the latest festive fashion and strutting their stuff on the catwalk! Enjoy a delicious brunch, sparkling champagne, and a huge silent auction with gifts for everyone’s holiday shopping list. The afternoon will be emceed by John Holmberg, host of KUP-Ds «Morning Sickness» show; he also hosts a weekly «Pick of the Litter» on his show promoting one of LOH’s adoptable dogs or cats each week! In addition, you will be treated to a rousing live auction with Auctiontainer Letitia Frye. You will witness inspiring stories, see adorable pets, enjoy our photo booth and doggy kissing booth, and so much more. Join us at the Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch for our 12th Annual Sit. Stay. Brunch. Early bird tickets are now on sale. <https://www.lostourhome.org/events>



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2008 & 2013
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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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Arizona’s Debbie Huntsman Is A Featured Presenter

Virtual and in-person women’s event shares sailing secrets, camaraderie, fun with unparalleled on- and off-water learning experiences.

Women sailors from all over the country will be heading to Jackson Park Yacht Club, Chicago, on Saturday, September 11 for the 20th annual Women’s Sailing Conference. The National Women’s Sailing Association (NWSA) event sponsored by Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) offers a day of fun, camaraderie and exceptional learning experiences. A wide array of sessions will be offered — from diesel engine basics and knot tying to reefing and racing. For the first time, both in-person and online attendance options are offered.

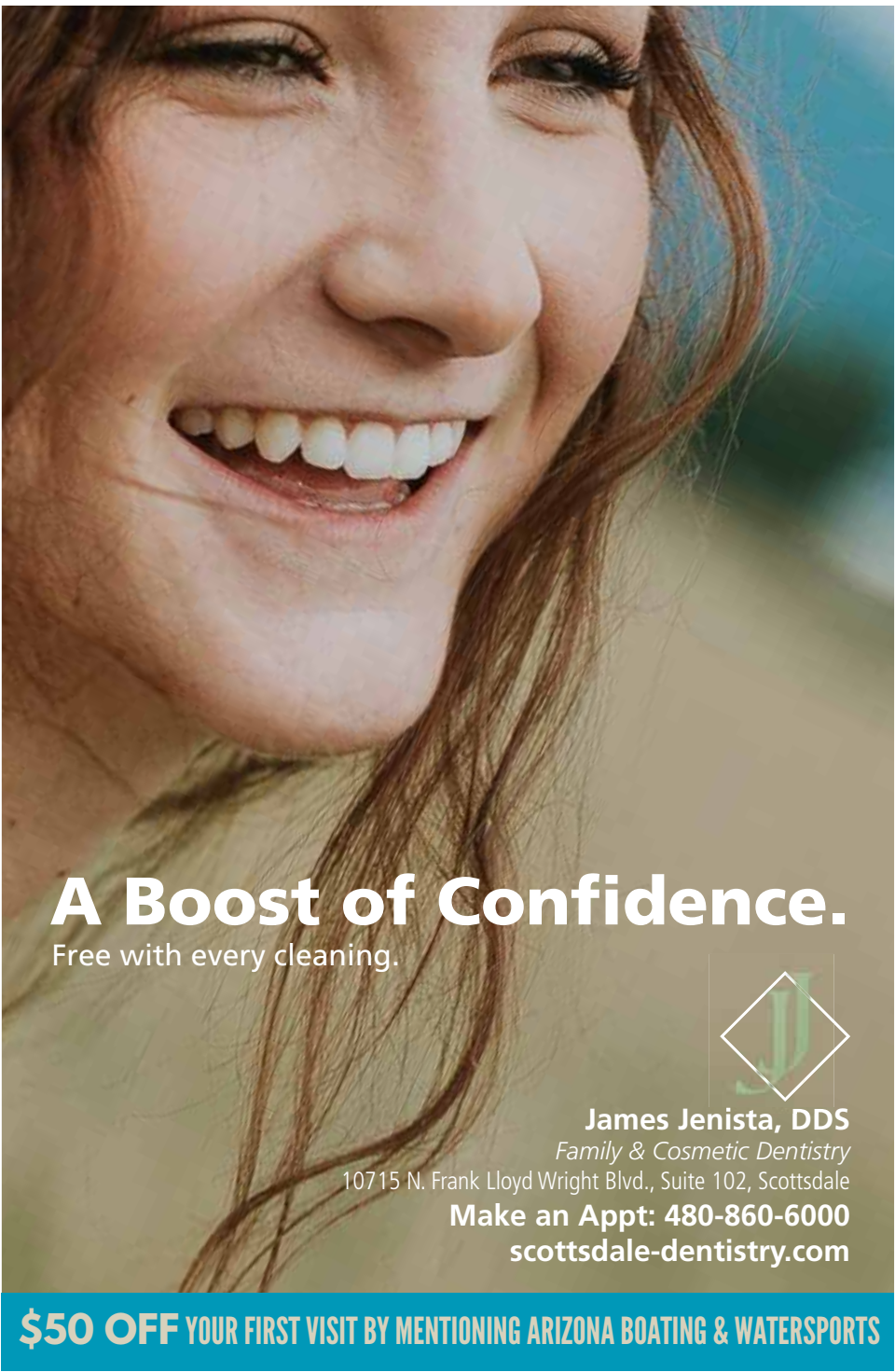
Said conference Co-Chair Capt. Chia-ka Patterson, “Join an amazing group of fabulous women as we attend a day long, enriching sailing event, hear inspirational women speakers who are national leaders in the sport, and make new friends along the way. There is something for everyone whether you are completely new to sailing, intermediate, or advanced in your knowledge.”



SAIL WELL — Lots of fun and learning will be in store for attendees of the National Women’s Sailing Association Conference to be held Saturday, September 11, at Chicago’s Jackson Park Yacht Club.


This year’s conference theme, “Sharing Sailing,” spotlights the issue that minority sailors represent a small fraction of sailors nationwide. However, this year’s conference site, Jackson Park Yacht Club, based in Jackson Park Harbor on the city’s South Side makes claim to the largest community of minority sailors in the country with three-hundred of the club’s 400 members of African-American descent. In recent years, the club’s community outreach included a free kids sailing

HUNTSMAN, continued on page 5



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Want to Make Your Local Waterway Safer or Cleaner for Boaters?

‘Think big’ and apply for a BoatUS Foundation Grassroots Grant.

Do you have an out-of-the-box idea that could improve boating safety or the environmental health of local waters? The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water Grassroots Grant program provides local groups up to \$10,000 each to help educate boaters on safe and clean-boating topics. A 365-day rolling grant application process allows applicants to apply at any time throughout the year. To get started, all a local group has to do is submit a short letter of intent explaining its idea.

The goal of the BoatUS member-funded program is to facilitate behavioral changes in the boating community through grassroots projects, some of which have ranged from hands-on education about the effects of marine debris, video public service announcements on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species, and a unique pilot study of fiberglass recycling.

“Think big. Think never-been-done-before,” said BoatUS Foundation Director of Outreach Alanna Keating. “Is the project potentially scalable? Is there extensive outreach to boaters? Does it include hands-on work with the boating community? Does it offer quantifiable measures of success?”



AYLA FOX

Instead of going to a landfill, these small particles made from deconstructed, ground-up fiberglass boats will soon be recycled to make concrete for construction projects. A \$10,000 BoatUS Foundation Grant helped fund the project.

Added Keating, “Over the past year we have seen a surge in new boat owners who have never owned or operated a boat before. Is there a way our grant program can help these first-time boaters improve their focus on safety or clean water, which can have an impact over the course of their boating life?”

Boat and yacht clubs, environmental

groups, nonprofit organizations, student groups or local chapters of national organizations such as BASS, U.S. Power Squadrons and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary are encouraged to apply. The timeline for grant projects is one year or less.

Grant funding is not designed for capital improvements or general operating funds, projects that include lobbying ef-

orts or political action, or those that provide specialized training or equipment for the recipient group members. Expenses for transportation, meals or lodging, purchase of electronic hardware/software, or boats and other boating gear are also not covered.

Since 1989, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.3 million in boating safety and clean water grants to organizations. For more information or to apply, go to BoatUS.org/Grants. ■

Jim & Carol Allen and VFW 3513 Auxiliary would like to thank
A & A Materials
for all of their help with our Post.

HUNTSMAN

Continued from page 4

camp and affordable sailing lessons for adults.

The conference begins on Friday evening the night before with a welcome mixer for early arrivals. Saturday’s continental breakfast is included, as is lunch where the 2021 Women’s Sailing Award honoree, avid West Coast sailboat racer and the first Black woman to serve as commodore of the historic Los Angeles Yacht Club, Capt. Marie Rogers, will speak on her experiences in sharing sailing. A fundraising raffle to support the Women’s Sailing Foundation and an op-

portunity for social networking cap off the event Saturday evening.

Some of the conference presenters slated to lead hands-on land- and water-based workshops and seminars include Capts. Patterson and Rogers as well as Beth Burlingame, Nancy Early, Debbie Huntsman, Margaret Pommert, Rachel Zoe Miller and Lynda Stephens. Also slated to present are Barbara Robertson, Doris Colgate, Gail Turluck, Pat Dieselman, Debby Grimm and Chris Garbacz.

In-person conference attendance is \$210 (\$170 for NWSA members), and online l-only passes \$75 (\$35 for NWSA members). To register go to nwsa.quent.com. ■

Jim & Carol Allen and VFW 3513 Auxiliary would like to thank
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Tickets include general admission to the Maritime Museum of San Diego. Arrive early to tour the historic fleet and below deck exhibits before heading out on the Bay. We are open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dockside Tours

Join us for dockside tours of this historic fleet, below-deck exhibits and daily Bay cruises! Looking for an activity to enjoy with friends or family visiting San Diego?

Our daily 45-minute narrated Historic Bay Cruises are only \$10with purchase of



general admission. Five tours to choose from at 11a.m., 12:45 p.m., 1:45 p.m., 2:45 p.m. or 3:45 p.m. Discover some of San Diego’s history and cruise by some of the region’s top attractions.

Location

The Maritime Museum of San Diego is located in downtown San Diego along the north embarcadero at 1492 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. We

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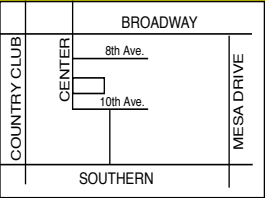
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RAYCHEL SANNER ON UNSPLASH

Be Aware Of Bolts And Boats

Recently, some visitors to the Grand Canyon were struck by lightning. This brought up the question of how boaters can stay safe during a thunderstorm. Mike Telleria of *Boating Magazine* gives 29 strategies for boating in a thunderstorm at — [Fehttps://www.boatingmag.com/surviving-lightning-strikes-while-boating-0](https://www.boatingmag.com/surviving-lightning-strikes-while-boating-0)What to do in a Lightning Storm on a Boat.

There are no specific warnings or advisories for lightning, but all thunderstorms produce lightning. A lightning strike to a vessel can be catastrophic, especially if it results in a fire or loss of electronics. If your boat has a cabin, then stay inside and avoid touching metal or electrical devices.

An open boat like a runabout is the most dangerous to human life during lightning storms, since you are the highest point and most likely to get hit if the boat is struck. If shore is out of reach, the advice is to drop anchor, remove all metal jewelry, put on life jackets and get low in the center of the boat. ■

IT'S A PERFECT TIME –

To Create Some Favorite Memories

Boat Rentals of America – Tempe Town Lake and Boat Rentals of America – Kiwanis Park are open for business. The weather is warm, not too hot, and perfect for a lovely boating excursion on Tempe’s urban oasis in the desert, Tempe Town Lake. Boats of all types can be rented at Tempe Town Lake, including kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, pontoon boats, pedal boats and electric boats. They open at 10 a.m. every day.

The Kiwanis Park location rents kayaks and pedal boats and is open on Mon.-Fri. from noon to 5 p.m. and Sat. and Sun. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Have your own watercraft? Online boating permits for Tempe Town Lake are now available. Visit the City of Tempe



website to purchase your permit and enjoy Tempe Town Lake on your own kayak, stand-up paddleboard, sailboat or canoe. Make sure to read all boating regulations before purchasing your permit.

Boat Rentals at Tempe Town Lake, 72 W. Rio Salado Pkwy.,

Tempe, AZ 85282 | (855) 690-0794
Boat Rentals at Kiwanis Lake | 5203 S. Ash Ave., Tempe, AZ 85283 | (855) 690-0794

Note: Boat Rentals of America’s first location opened April 1, 1992 in Newport Beach, Calif., which has remained their flagship location to this day. They pride themselves on providing a safe and enjoyable experience on the water and have done so for nearly thirty years. With a wide variety of watercraft, they’re sure to have something to make every member of your group happy. Boat Rentals of America is taking extra precautions during COVID-19 and sanitizing each boat and bike upon its return. Check out their website for additional information. ■

Nearly Two-Thirds Of Boat Trailer Failures Happen For Two Reasons

BoatUS shows how you can eliminate them.

To a boater, it’s a cringeworthy sight – a boat sitting on a disabled trailer untended on the side of the road, typically because the boat’s owner has gone to seek help. While it’s likely many of these incidents go unnoticed by the public, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) 24-hour dispatch centers reported 6,635 requests for BoatUS Trailer Assist roadside assistance service in 2020.

With the summer boat trailering season at its peak, the national advocacy, services and safety group looked into the top five reasons boat trailers break down. Surprisingly, just two preventive measures could eliminate nearly two-thirds of all poten-

tial breakdowns.

BoatUS reports the No. 1 reason (44 percent) BoatUS members requested roadside assistance was for trailer tire troubles, including owners who failed to carry a spare tire. Low tire pressure is the leading cause of a trailer tire’s early demise, so check the pressure often, and never leave home without a serviceable spare. (Don’t forget to check the pressure in the spare, too!)

Wheel bearings (21 percent) were the second largest cause of roadside assistance requests. If your hubs are sub-



HERE’S HELP — Boat owners with BoatUS Trailer Assist get the help they need when their rig breaks down.

BOATUS, continued on page 19



MUSEUM

Continued from page 6

are between Grape and Ash street, next to Portside Pier. Look for *Star of India*, the world’s oldest active sailing ship - just one of the legendary restored vessels preserved to share with you. **If you are looking for an entertaining and educational treat, please come aboard to step back into time for 500 years of seafaring history.**

Let our friendly staff at the Museum Ticket booth make your reservations today or visit <https://sdmaritime.org/visit/on-the-water-adventures/historic-bay-cruises-aboard-pilot/>

Open daily 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We hope to see you soon! ■





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AZ LAKES, AZ PROS: MARC TOWNSEND AT PLEASANT

This Angler Can Catch Fish Just About Anywhere

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

Marc Townsend is one of those guys who can catch fish just about anywhere, and Pleasant is no exception. We went out with him one September and started out fishing very shallow with Yamamoto buzzbaits, literally throwing them right on the bank and dragging them into the water. This works very well when the angler in the front of the boat is throwing the buzzbait, and the angler in the back follows up with a Yamamoto Senko.

To Fish A Senko

To fish a Senko, one of the most popu-



Marc Townsend

lar ways is to Wacky Rig it. This means simply using a small sort of circular hook – a “mosquito hook” – and just putting it right through the middle of the bait so it’s flapping around on either side of the hook. Then you simply toss it out on light line (using spinning gear) and let it sink to the bottom. Once it hits the bottom your line will go slack, so just pick it up and move it a bit and let it fall again or reel it in and cast to a different spot.

Fish generally take a Senko on the fall, so watch your line. Also, if it feels heavy when you start to pick it up, set the hook by simply pulling the rod to your side while reeling fast. The little hooks set easily.

A Trailer Hook

When Marc throws a buzzbait, he always uses a trailer hook. “It makes a difference – big time,” he says. He’ll even put a willow leaf blade behind the buzzbait to make more noise. When he catches a fish, he’ll stop and fish the area thoroughly. He says that usually there are a lot of fish all bunched up at Pleasant. And if a fish swipes at his buzzbait and misses it, he’ll throw in a white/sparkle Senko. That particular September day, we were fishing buzzbaits and Senkos in the back of Cottonwood Cove. Marc put two fish in the boat within ten minutes of starting.

Fish Roadbeds

Until he gets a hookup, Marc moves

down the bank at a good clip. The one thing that will slow him down is getting a bite or getting his buzzbait stuck on something. “Welcome to the world of trailer hooks,” he says. He keeps his eyes on the surroundings as well as his graph, and when we came to a roadbed that ran into the lake, he put the buzzbait down and picked up a Carolina rig.

“One thing I learned about Pleasant over the years,” he told us, “Is to fish roadbeds. Any road beds.” Other than that, Marc says it seems like you can fish a buzzbait all day every day at Pleasant from August to the end of November.

Deep Water, Shad, Birds

That said, he usually buzzes his way into a cove and flips his way out. He looks for deep water and shad – watching for balls of shad on the graph – and he likes coves with steep sides, like Jackass, etc. He also watches for birds like grebes that eat shad. If a cove is full of feeding grebes, it’s full of fish.

He likes to drive the lake when it is low, and he also has a good lake map that he uses to find the steep banks that he likes. Banks with chunk rock, an area



Marc Townsend At Pleasant

TOWNSEND, continued on page 19

We Had A Delicious Dinner From Luna Lake

And we salute a beautiful Arizona town nearby.

BY KELSEE P. HAWS

Kelsee Haws, Mesa, Ariz., says “I hooked roughly a 10 1/2 inch cutthroat trout using an Abu Garcia — Black Max 6’6” pole with a double Power Bait egg setup. A garlic red salmon egg was stacked on over a garlic rainbow glitter power egg. This fish was a fun fight and I was appreciative of the sacrifice made for the game and the food it provided.”

Haws continued, “From lake to plate in three hours, my wife Syklar Mahaffey and I completed this beautiful fishing tradition. We cooked our catches in a tin foil wrap on a little portable propane grill. The fish was seasoned with half a lemon, garlic powder, onion powder, black pepper. We then stuffed slices of lemon and butter



SKYLAR MAHAFFEY



KELSEE HAWS

into the fish to keep the fish moist when cooked in the tin foil.

“When the tin foil was opened and the fish was placed on the plate, my fork literally melted through the fish, and the meat just fell on to the plate. It was absolutely an amazing dinner provided by nature that evening!”

Looking To Visit Alpine, Ariz.?

After our weekend adventure up to Luna Lake and this beautiful town, we instantly became fans. It has one gas station and one grocery store and residents pride

LUNA LAKE, continued on page 19

Learning To Hunt In Arizona Just Got Easier

AZGFD webpage guides newcomers to hunting, dozens of mentored events.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) has created a new webpage that offers a simplified and logical learning approach to hunting in Arizona, whether a person is new to hunting, just moved to this state, or wants to expand their skills.

Visitors to www.azgfd.gov/outdoor-skills can quickly access topics such as where, how and what to hunt, seasons and regulations. Visitors to the webpage also can view YouTube videos, connect with local conservation organizations, and register for one of more than 50 mentored events organized by skill level from beginner to advanced.

“This resource provides everything you need for learning how to hunt in Arizona in one place,” said Doug Burt, the

department’s recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) manager. “With the tremendous interest in the outdoors this past year, and the growing need for on-line content, this new resource should be a great place to start if you’re interested in hunting.”

There is no cost to state taxpayers for the Outdoor Skills Network program. AZGFD does not receive any general tax funds and operates under a user-pay, public-benefit model. The program is an investment in the continuance of wildlife conservation efforts and outdoors recreation participation in Arizona.

To learn more about how hunters, anglers, shooters and boaters fund wildlife conservation, visit www.azgfd.com/hunting/wsfr/.

Did You Know?

The Arizona Game and Fish Department conserves and protects Arizona’s 800+ wildlife species but receives no Arizona general fund tax dollars. Contribute to our on-the-ground conservation efforts at www.AzWildlifeHero.com. ■



SKYLAR MAHAFFEY

BONUS! — Kelsee Haws enjoys the bonus of a beautiful sunset on Luna Lake after a successful day of fishing. She also was impressed by the hidden-away town of nearby Alpine, Ariz.



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

DOVES AND SHOTGUNS

Here Are Tips For Getting More Birds In The Bag

BY JOHN ANDERSON

Dove season runs September 1 – 15, with a late season from November 19 of this year until January 2, 2022 for mourning dove and white-winged doves. The Eurasian Collared-Dove Season is September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022, so it's year-round. For mourning doves and white-wings, the bag limit is 15 total, with no more than 10 being white-winged doves, and the possession limit is 45, no more than 30 of which can be white-winged doves. However, for the Eurasian collared-doves, there is no limit at all. These limits seem fairly liberal, especially for the collared-doves, but I read somewhere that the average hunter only gets one bird for every seven shells he fires. With the current ammunition situation, dove hunting can quickly become a pricey adventure. The cure for this is to shoot better. I've got some tips for you for not only finding doves, but for getting fewer misses and more birds in the bag.

Finding Doves

There is no question about it – open-



White-Winged Dove



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Doves In A Tree

ing day is the best day for hunting doves. Once you've blasted away at them at a certain spot, they are usually pretty scarce around there from then on – at least in my experience. The closer you are to a large city, the harder and farther you have to look for good dove hunting. When I was a kid, we hunted doves near McCormick Ranch in Scottsdale. Margie and her dad hunted doves off Cave Creek and Jomax Roads. Now the city has covered those areas and moved miles further. Seems like every year we have to find new areas, so scouting is essential.

Good Conditions

Decent summer rains turned much of the desert green, resulting in good seed production, and most cattle tanks have plenty of water, so conditions are good for the birds. This does mean that the doves are likely to be more scattered instead of concentrated around man-made water and food sources, but the good thing about that is that the hunters can scatter, too. Traditionally, I've scouted for doves by trying to find a water source that is off the beaten path and preferably not on the maps. Granted, this gets more difficult all the time, but it can be done. If you've watched the birds early in the morning,



My shotgun (top) and Margie's Syren. Her shotgun is slightly shorter, has a higher comb, a thinner grip, and a little bit shorter reach to the trigger. We went through several guns finding one to fit her.

you know that they follow almost the same flight path day after day. Doves use washes, tree lines, canals, and even fences like highways, flying over them in the same pattern to and from the roost and feeding/watering areas.

Watching The Wet Spots

Margie and I begin scouting by finding a streambed, or dry wash. We park near where it crosses a Jeep trail and hike the wash, looking for places where the water comes to the surface. Sometimes these places are marked on maps as springs, but

sometimes they aren't marked at all. We like to watch these wet spots early in the morning or late in the afternoon to see if doves fly in. If so, I save these kinds of things for after opening day. We also have a book from the Arizona Game and Fish that tells you where the water catchments are too.

By the way, the Game and Fish plans to haul close to 3 million gallons of water to these catchments this year, and if you'd like to help with the cost, text SENDWATER to 41444.

Bad Manners

On opening day, you can pretty much position yourself at any water hole and have at least a few birds fly in over you. The best ones have plenty of trees around them to disguise your silhouette. The only problem with water holes is that nearly every one of them is marked on maps, and the ones by decent roads can be crowded on opening day. If you get to a hole and there are already hunters around it, be aware that putting yourself on the flight path ahead of a guy who was there first is bad manners.

Your Best Bet

Your best bet is to position yourself somewhere along one of these dove flight paths before dawn, facing the roosting area. You don't have to do anything elaborate, just wear clothing that will blend with the background and stand in front of some brush so you don't stick out like a sore thumb. All you have to do now is wait for them to start flying over, (you can start shooting half an hour before sunrise) and pray that you brought enough shells. I've had decent luck just setting up along a wash that has good trees – it doesn't even have to be near a water hole because they'll fly along the wash for a long way to get to a water hole. If you look at topo maps, you can see dotted blue lines that show washes. Try to get on one that leads to a water hole at some point.

Youth Dove Hunt

There's a youth-only dove hunt on September 4th and 5th at Robbins Butte, and you can find the details at www.azgfd.gov/OutdoorSkills. Also, be sure to go to www.azgfd.gov and download the 2021-2022 Dove and Band-Tailed Pigeon regulations booklet. It will tell you sunrise and sunset times as well as all the regulations for hunting doves – the complete where, when, and how.

DOVES, continued on page 11

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Step one: Get in the right stance and shift your weight slightly to the front foot.



Step two: Push the gun up and out.



Step Three: Pull the gun up to your cheek bone and back to the pocket of your shoulder.

DOVES

Continued from page 10

Shooting Doves

First of all, you need to be able to identify doves when they fly over. Mourning doves have V-shaped tails, while white-winged doves have rounded tails. When mourning doves take off, they make a squeaky or whistling sound with their wings.

The Churchill Method

Once you know how to identify doves, you'll want to be able to hit your target. The best way to learn to shoot a shotgun that I know of is the Churchill method. This involves first of all a properly fitting gun. Once you have that, the correct mounting technique is essential. After that, it's just letting your eye and your front hand take over – you follow the bird

with the gun and shoot instinctively. If you pay attention, you'll probably realize that most of the birds you actually hit have sort of snuck up on you, not giving you time to think about things like how far to lead, etc. Your eye and hand know what to do; you just have to let it happen. I learned a lot from a DVD by Gil and Vicki Ash called "You Gotta Be Out of Your Mind!". They have a book by the same title.

How You Can't Lose

Basically, if your shotgun fits and you mount it correctly you can't lose. How do you get a gun that fits? Try before you buy. Shotguns are not one size fits all. Learn the Churchill method of mounting the gun: get the correct stance (see the photo), and push the gun out away from your body, then draw it back in and plant the stock against your cheek so that your eye is directly over the rib, then draw it back further and nestle it into the pocket

of your shoulder. It shouldn't be sticking out over the top of your shoulder, and you shouldn't have to contort yourself to get your eye in the right position. You should be looking straight down the barrel, with pretty much no rib showing, just the front sight.

For Women

There are shotguns made to fit women, and Margie swears by her Syren. Women's shotguns have a higher comb (top of the stock) to fit their longer necks, narrower grips, and usually a little shorter reach from the grip to the trigger. For kids, you can't go wrong with a Mossberg youth 500, 505, or 510 mini. Get a gun with stock spacers to allow the gun to grow with your kid. These also work very well for smaller adults.

Practice At Home

Once you get a gun that fits you cor-

DOVES, continued on page 12

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U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service Will Continue Funding

Over the next ten years the service will support Arizona’s sport fish stocking program.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) as part of the Environmental Assessment (EA) of its proposal to continue to fund, in part, the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s (AZGFD) sport fish stocking program over the next 10 years.

The FONSI decision means that FWS can continue funding to support AZGFD’s hatchery operations and fish stocking activities that provide recreational opportunities for anglers.

Conservation Measures

As part of the Proposed Action, conservation measures were incorporated that will offset or reduce the effects of the stocking action to the level that is not significant to the human environment and ultimately contribute to conservation



AZGFD

and recovery of native species. The conservation measures were developed as a coordinated effort between the FWS’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), FWS Arizona Ecological Services Office, and AZGFD.

The FONSI decision followed an EA process that analyzed two alternatives, the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative. After review of public and agency comments received on the Draft EA, WSFR and the Arizona Ecological Services Office and AZGFD revised the conservation measures to provide additional detail and clarification. The final EA reflects these modifications, provides corrections to the document where warranted, and adds clarification as requested in public and agency comments.

Stocking In 186 Sites

Under the Proposed Action, funding will support stocking of sport fish at 186 individual sites in selected rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, ponds and tanks in the state. It will also support continued operations and maintenance of five AZGFD hatcheries that rear sport fish (primarily trout) for stocking. The actions in this alternative are the most comparable to the stocking program that has been in place since 2011.

Hundreds of thousands of Arizona residents and nonresidents take advantage of the state’s recreational fishing opportunities each year. There were 6,009,716 angler use days (AUDs) of fishing in Arizona, with a total annual economic impact of \$1.47 billion based on 2013 numbers (Duda 2014; Fedler 2014). The demand for angling opportunities in Arizona is anticipated to further increase given current trends and projected models of population growth, especially in close proximity to urban areas.

Arizona Received About \$8 Million

Under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950, FWS has the authority to provide federal funding to state wildlife agencies for management and restoration of sport fish, as well as public use and benefit from those resources. Funding is provided on a match basis through the WSFR program. Sport Fish Restoration funds through that program come from a federal excise tax on certain fishing equipment and a portion of motorboat fuel tax revenues. In July 2021, Arizona received about \$8 million in Sport Fish Restoration Act funds.

- View the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
- View the final Environmental Assessment (EA)

The above documents are posted on the AZGFD website at —<https://www.azgfd.com/fishing/fisheriesmanagement/>.

Join In Conserving

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

DOVES

Continued from page 11

rectly, you can actually practice your mount at home. Get a small flashlight that will fit in the barrel of your gun, and wrap it with tape so it won’t damage the barrel. Turn the flashlight on, and practice mounting the gun and following the line where the ceiling and wall meet. Practice until you can smoothly mount the shotgun with the light right where you want it to be. You shouldn’t have to look at the gun

to mount it – practice until you get muscle memory. Once you get this down, your shooting will improve immensely.

Steps To Mounting A Shotgun

Shift your weight slightly to your forward foot. Do not lean back.

Push the gun forward toward the target, watching the target ONLY.

Bring the butt into your shoulder pocket and the comb against your face just under your cheek bone.

Don’t roll your head – you want your eye directly over the rib and seeing just the bead and target.



Your eye should be directly over the barrel, looking straight down the top rib, with almost no rib showing, just the front sight. You should keep your eye on the target at all times while mounting the gun.



Dominant Eye?

Dominant eye problem? Here’s how to find out. Pick out a target like a light switch on the wall and point at it. Keep pointing at it with your dominant hand index finger while you close one eye at a time. If you are right-handed, close your left eye. Is your finger still pointing directly at the target? If so, you’re good to go. If your finger is off when you close your left eye, then your left eye is dominant and that makes it a bit more difficult to shoot a shotgun.

In a perfect world, your dominant eye will be the one over the shotgun. If not, people suggest things like putting petroleum jelly on your left lens (or right, if you are left-handed with a dominant right eye), or using a piece of tape or something to blur the dominant eye so the other one

will take over. You can also look online for a variety of front sights that will help.

Introducing Kids

As for shells, doves are easy to drop, so I use 1oz of #8 shot for a 12gauge or ¾ ounce #8 shot for a 20 or 28 gauge. Hunting doves is a great way to introduce kids to hunting, but don’t handicap them by handing them a gun that won’t fit. Practice the mount and follow thing at home with them, and take them to the clays range a few times so they get confident about knocking flying things out of the sky. You’ll probably be surprised – kids haven’t had time to develop bad habits, and they are usually really good shots with a shotgun. Above all, have fun. ■

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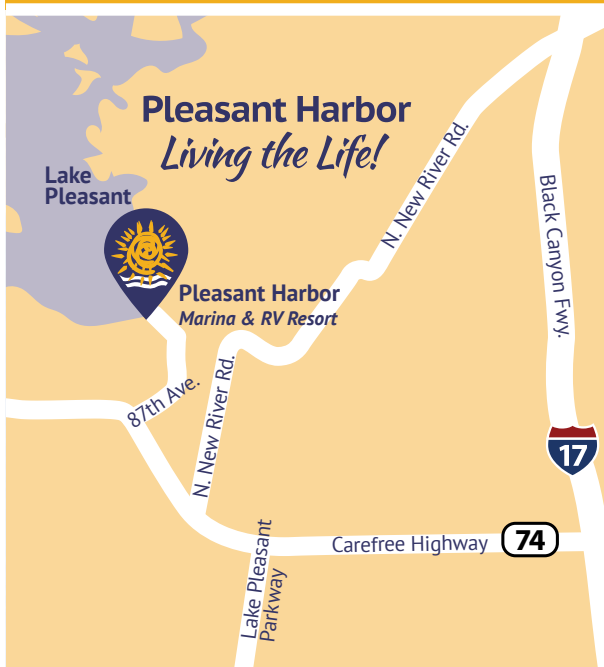
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Gila monsters will try to get away from you and won't bite unless you mess with them. Enjoy them from a distance.

When I was a kid, the only things I worried about when I was camping or hunting were bears and mountain lions. As it happens, I've only seen lions two or three times in my life, and each time the lion was hightailing it away from me. And sad to say, I've never seen a bear in the wild.

However, I have had plenty of narrow escapes and a few times when I didn't escape some of the dangers that you might run into when you're enjoying Arizona's great outdoors. Most can be avoided if you simply pay attention to where you are going and what is around you. Here are



Teddy bear cholla drops pieces that can cover the ground around a stand of cactus. It's best to just stay away from areas with this stuff.

DANGER

Enjoy But Stay Aware Of Your Surroundings

OUTDOORS

BY MARGIE ANDERSON



Sign Near Montezuma Well

some dangers you might not think of, as well as how to avoid them and what to do if you get into trouble.



Somewhere in here is the poison ivy that made my life miserable for several days. I never expected poison ivy in the desert.

smart enough to stay back and let me bushwhack through the underbrush.

Careful Of The Cactus!

Another plant that can get you into trouble is, of course, cactus. Most of them are benign if you keep your distance, but teddy bear cholla is another thing. Pieces of teddy bear fall off and the ground around a stand of them can be completely covered. If your dog gets into them, he'll try to take them out, using his mouth, which only makes things worse.

Quail hunting can be great in cholla, but we just don't go around that stuff at all. When I was a kid, our dog got into cholla, got it in his mouth and all over. A trip to the vet got the cactus out of him, but he was sick for days. It's nasty stuff, so keep away from it.

Plants

I love to search for springs, and when I see one on a topo map I can't resist searching for it. This got me into big trouble a year or so ago, in the desert north of Lake Pleasant. Believe it or not, I got into poison ivy. In the desert. I never even knew it until the next day, when my face and eyes started to turn red and swell up, along with my hands. The doctor at the Urgent Care knew what it was, but it took quite a while for it to go away. Yes, there is poison ivy in Arizona. Don't find out the hard way like I did. Remember: Leaves of three, let it be.

If You Do Get Into Poison Ivy

Now I carry alcohol wipes with me – if you do get into poison ivy, clean your skin with soap and water or alcohol as soon as possible. If your dog gets into it, wipe his fur down so it doesn't get on you or your kids. I had to wash all my clothes and my hat with very hot water, plus wash down everything else I thought I may have brushed against in the Jeep. I washed the dog, too, even though she and John were

Reptiles

Every year when we are dove hunting I see rattlesnakes. They seem to be everywhere in warm weather. I know a lot of professional quail guides who won't take their dogs out until late November when it's cold enough for the snakes to be sleeping. Dogs are curious, and will walk right up to a rattler, so your best bet for a desert or hunting dog is to take him to Snake Avoidance Training. Desert Creek Sportsman's Club does it a few times a year, and you can call them at 623-512-8496.


Also, Midwestern University's Animal Clinic has rattlesnake vaccine. We had Mochi vaccinated, but that doesn't mean if she gets bit we don't have to take her to the vet immediately. But we want to do everything we can to keep her safe. We've even seen rattlesnakes on the trail at the Ben Avery Sporting Clays Facility. If you do see a snake, just go away. I've never had one chase me. And do be aware that unless your dog has had avoidance training, he will most likely go straight for it,

DANGER, continued on page 15

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This is appropriately named Cactus Hill. Teddy bear cholla cactus is the worst!



Rattlesnake: They don’t always rattle before they strike.

DANGER

Continued from page 14

so even when your dog is leashed, keep an eye out for snakes.

Stay Safe From Rattlers

To keep yourself and your kids safe from rattlers, keep your eyes and ears open. Don’t put your hands down anywhere until you’ve looked, and be especially careful around holes and caves. Wear over-the-ankle boots, thick socks, and long pants. Avoid tall grass and underbrush. If you need to go over a log, step on instead of over in case a snake is on the other side. If you hear the rattle, take off.

Here are two things to know about rattlesnakes: They don’t always rattle before they bite, and they can swim. If you or someone else in your party is bitten, stay calm; call 911; wash the bite area gently if possible; remove any jewelry or clothing that might cause problems with swelling; keep the bite below heart level, and get the victim to medical care ASAP. DON’T do any cutting, sucking, icing, or anything else to the bite wound. Try to stay calm. According to the Forest Service, fewer than 1 in 600 snake bites results in death, and almost a third of them don’t even contain any venom.

Gila Monsters: Admire From A Distance

Gila Monsters rarely bite unless you mess with them. They will try to get away first, and they’ll hiss and open their mouth wide to scare you off if you get too close. I’ve seen many of them, and never had one hiss or gape at me, but I’ve never tried to touch one either. They are venomous and the venom is channeled in their teeth, so when they bite, they hang on and chew. Just leave them alone. They are beautiful, but admire them from a distance.

Insects

We have come across bees many times on our adventures, but I’ve only been stung once. I tend to keep my ears attuned to the sound of buzzing, and we haven’t gotten close enough to a big hive to trigger them into an attack. Thank goodness. We saw a huge hive in the cleft of a big cliff on the Verde River once – it had enormous slabs of honeycomb and thousands of bees. We got out of there in a big hurry.

Bees Buzzing

Also, we were exploring a natural arch we saw on a topo map of the Vulture Mountains, and when we got to the arch, it turned out to be a big cave that had three entrances. It was at the top of a hill so you could see right through, but when I got near the back of the cave to take a photo of the entrances, I heard buzzing behind me. The photo suddenly seemed unimportant, and we got the heck out of there.

Yellow Jackets, Hornets

Yellow Jackets and hornets can also be a problem, but there are things you can do to avoid getting stinging insects riled up. Wear light-colored clothing with a smooth finish. Don’t use scents – the last thing you want is to smell like a flower. Don’t bring bananas. Seriously. Cover as much of our body as you can and stay away from flowering plants.

If just one insect is flying around, stay calm. Swatting at them might make them



This photo shows just part of the huge masses of honeycomb we saw in this cleft of rock on the shore of the Verde River.



An adit is a horizontal mine entrance, but there could be shafts inside, as well as bees, snakes, spiders — and it’s dark.

sting and release chemicals that call the rest of the hive. If you do get attacked by several, run away as fast as you can and get indoors or in a vehicle if possible. Africanized bees will even hover over water and wait for you to surface, so jumping in pond isn’t a good idea. If you’re allergic to bee stings, you should carry an EpiPen with you when you’re adventuring.

If You’re Stung

If you’re stung, wash the sting with soap and water. Remove bee stingers with a credit card or by scraping your nail over the site. Don’t use tweezers or squeeze the stinger – it can force more venom into the sting. I always carry children’s chewable Benadryl with me in case of a sting. You can also carry After Bite or a Stingeze pen with you – they help with mosquito bites too. You can get them at drug stores or outdoor stores.

Spiders

Black widows and brown recluse spiders are the main ones to avoid. The brown recluse has a dark head and an area on its back that is shaped like a violin. We all know the spooky black widow spider with its long smooth legs, solid black body (although not all of them are black), and the red hourglass on the bottom of the abdomen. The brown recluse is shaped similarly but is a dull brown color. They are most active at night and believe it or not, they are often in buildings.

Brown And Black Bites

Their bites can cause disfiguring, necrotic wounds. The black widow spider bite causes chest pain, muscle tightness, and cramping. Neither of these spider bites typically kills anyone, but they are nasty and best avoided if possible. Watch for the messy webs that black widows make, and keep your hands out of small dark crevices. Be especially careful if you are exploring old ruined buildings.

Tarantulas

Tarantulas live in deep burrows that they line with silk so the sides don’t collapse. They usually come out to hunt at night, and they can get to be as big as 4 inches long. They hardly ever bite, and their venom is not considered dangerous, but it might cause allergic reactions. In the fall, the males go out looking for female company, and you might see quite a few of them crossing the road. Coming home from Bartlett at night I’d get out and shoo them off the road with a paper cup or something so we didn’t run over them. They’ll leave you alone if you leave them alone.



This cave/arch had bees.

Inanimate Objects

There are mines all over Arizona and not all the mine shafts have been fenced off. Even some of the fenced-off ones are easy for a dog or a kid to get through to. Something about a big gaping hole in the ground just makes you want to go look in it. They are incredibly dangerous, not always marked on maps, and can be hundreds of feet deep. There are some in the Belmont Mountains that have been fenced off with large metal bars set in concrete because of people falling hundreds of feet to their deaths there.

Don’t let your kids wander around unsupervised, and keep your dog leashed. Hunting dogs are particularly prone to falling into shafts and over cliffs, because if they smell a bird, nothing else matters. They’ll follow it no matter what.

Mines Marked On Map

On a topo map, mines are marked with a symbol that looks like two picks crossed over each other to make an X. If you see an area on the map that has a lot of those, you might want to be extra vigilant. But remember, they are not all marked. Also, places where there used to be wells and windmills often have very deep holes and some of the pipes are big enough for a small kid to get stuck in. I’ve found deep cisterns with deep sides that would be nearly impossible to climb out of, some with water in them – who knows how deep?

So just keep your eyes open and be careful. If you see a pile of lumber on the ground, leave it alone. It could be covering a shaft. With adits, or shafts that go into the mountain horizontally, be very careful. There could be snakes, bees, or anything in there, including vertical shafts. Stay out and stay alive.

Widow Makers

Do you know what a “widow-maker” is? It’s a tree with big, overhanging branches that could break off in a wind and fall on you. Don’t pitch your tent under those. We like to find a spot that has plenty of trees around it, but a nice open area for the tent. Another thing to watch out for is cliffs, and believe me, there are plenty of them out there and you might not see them until you’re right up on the edge. I’ve lost count of how many of my friends have had their dogs go over a cliff. It can be a real job to rescue them.

Use A Topo Map

Use a topo map – there are apps for that. My favorite is simply called Topo Maps. If you see an area near you that has contour lines that are VERY close together, it’s a cliff. Leash your dog. This Topo Maps app is very useful because it shows water, mines (but not all!), cliffs, etc. Simply download the maps you need before you go out – I downloaded the whole state of Arizona – and they will work whether you have cell service or not. You’ll see exactly where you are on the map, and the dot will move when you do. It’s cool.

Don’t Stress

The point of all this is not to make you afraid or stress you out, but to remind you that you do need to keep your eyes open and recreate responsibly. In particular, keep an eye on pets and children. Like I said, I’ve spent untold hours outdoors hiking, camping, hunting, and fishing, and I’ve gotten poison ivy once and was stung by a bee once. That’s it. I’ve seen plenty of snakes and other creatures, as well as cliffs and mine shafts, but since I keep my distance from those things, I’ve been able to enjoy seeing them without getting hurt. If you stay aware of your surroundings you can enjoy the beauty of Arizona safely.

What We Bring Along

I have a small cross-body bag that I sling over my shoulder every time we hop out of the Jeep for a short stroll. Here’s what’s in it:

- First Aid Kit – just a small one
- Satellite phone – we have a Garmin InReach Mini that we can use to text our kids if we get into trouble and have no cell service. It was about \$300 and costs \$13/month for service. It’s worth it for us because we are out all the time. It also has an SOS button if we get in real trouble.
- Topo Maps app (on my phone, with entire state of Arizona downloaded)
- StingEze
- Chewable Benadryl
- Alcohol wipes or package of body cleansing wipes (in case of poison ivy)
- Metal comb – to get cactus off people and dogs
- Tweezers – for smaller bits of cactus spine, NOT for bee stings
- Unscented sunscreen ■

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

(4 hour minimum)

Carol Allen

editor@azbw.com

AZGFD To Discuss Plans For Future Of State’s Wildlife

The Department will host virtual public meetings in September.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) is updating its 10-year conservation plan — the Arizona Wildlife Conservation Strategy (AWCS) — and is sharing the core elements of the new strategy based on public input to date.

The department will host three virtual meetings in September to discuss enhancements to the AWCS and obtain feedback from the public. The meeting dates and times are:

- Monday, Sept. 20, 7-8 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 21, noon to 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 22, 7-8 p.m.

To attend a meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone, visit <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/938773205>. Those who haven’t previously used the GoToMeeting app can download it from that link. Alternatively, people can dial in by phone at 1-669-224-3412, access code 938-773-205.



ANDREW BARN

Each meeting will include information on proposed changes to the Strategy, including designation of Conservation Opportunity Areas, a Conservation Analysis Tool and Data Warehouse, and a new way for the public to engage with the Strategy online, followed by a Q&A session. The same content will be covered in all three meetings.

The AWCS encourages collaboration with partners to make focused strategic investments in the management, conservation, and mitigation of areas that will



I, BLUEAG9

have the greatest benefit for wildlife using the best available science.

Because everyone in Arizona is integral to the success of the AWCS revision, understanding mutual interests and needs, sharing data and information (where feasible), and developing collaborative implementation strategies will maximize the plan’s effectiveness and the collective efforts to conserve Arizona’s fish and wildlife resources.

Developing the AWCS included a statewide survey, focus groups, and meet-



VTORNET

ings with partner organizations. Following the public meetings, AZGFD will distribute another statewide survey for the public to share perspectives on the AWCS, which is slated to be completed in 2022.

For more information on the AWCS, including survey results, summaries of focus group discussions, and a link to the 2012-2022 Arizona State Wildlife Action Plan, visit <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/actionplan/>. ■

Public’s Help Needed To Detect, Prevent Spread Of Fungus Deadly To Bats

FROM AZGFD

Results from monitoring work this spring suggest that *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (Pd), the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome (WNS) in bats, may be present in samples collected from multiple species in five counties across California and northwestern Arizona.

The analytical results for these samples are considered “inconclusive” based on established national standards for the

disease, which means they do not provide definitive evidence of the fungus being present in those bat populations. However, officials note they do underscore the importance of increased surveillance for WNS and the public’s help in reporting sick or dead bats on the landscape.

Please Report

Federal and state agencies are asking the public to report any sick or dead bats found on the landscape. Sick or dying bats



JOHN MACGREGOR

The image depicts a big brown bat hanging from a cave wall.

observed during winter may be a sign of WNS and can lead scientists to important roosting locations.

The general public should not handle bats but can report bat sightings to park rangers or state biologists. In California, the public can help conserve bats by reporting bat colonies (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Bats/Report-Colony>) and sick or dead bats (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Health/Monitoring/WNS>). In Arizona, the public can report bat colonies or observations of sick or dead bats to bats@azgfd.gov.

Samples Collected

Natural resource managers in California and Arizona are monitoring the rapid spread of WNS across North America and watching local bat species for evidence of Pd. As part of routine surveillance conducted by the National Park Service (NPS) in April and May, biologists collected samples from bats in Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park, Death Valley National Park, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and a private property in Chester, Calif. The sites span a region that includes Inyo, San Bernardino, Shasta and Plumas counties in California and Mohave County in Arizona.

Findings

Samples were analyzed at Northern Arizona University (NAU) and suggest that DNA from the fungus may be present in very low amounts on seven bat species from these sites, including two species not previously known to carry Pd. However, it is also possible that these inconclusive results do not reflect a true presence of Pd on these bats.

Similar findings were first reported at Grand Canyon National Park in 2019 and one site in Plumas County, Calif., in 2018.

Serious Concern

White-nose syndrome is a serious concern for wildlife managers across North America, as it has caused significant population declines in several susceptible bat species. Bats become infected during hibernation through physical contact with other bats or a contaminated roost surface, enabling the disease to spread quickly through a colony. The disease is not known to pose a direct health risk to people, pets or wildlife other than bats.

Federal and state officials in Arizona and California have been collaborating and preparing for the possible arrival of the fungus for many years. In support of the national response to WNS, surveillance for Pd and WNS is administered by the U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the NPS, NAU, Bat Conservation International and many other state and federal agencies and partners.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has partnered with the NPS and others to screen bats for the fungus since 2016. These agencies, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Bureau of Land Management and other partner organizations will continue to work together to monitor for Pd and WNS in the region.

Help Protect Bats


People can protect bats and help slow the spread of the fungus by honoring closures in caves, old mine adits and other areas used by bats. Additionally, people can help slow the spread of WNS by decontaminating caving and climbing gear and other equipment used in areas where bats live, and avoiding the transport of this equipment to other locations used by bats. Visit <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org> for more information.

Bats Are Essential

Bats are essential for healthy ecosystems and contribute at least \$3 billion annually to the U.S. agriculture economy through pest control and pollination. White-nose syndrome has killed millions of bats in North America - with mortality rates of up to 100 percent observed at some colonies - since it was first seen in New York in 2006. To date, WNS has been confirmed in bats from 37 states and seven Canadian provinces. *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* has been found without confirmation of disease in two additional states (Mississippi and New Mexico). ■

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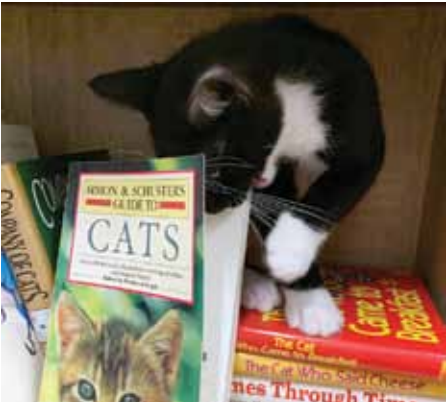
LOH Pet Foundation Comes To Life In 2008

As the economy took a great nose dive in 2008, Lost Our Home Pet Foundation (LOH) sprung to life to help pets in need. LOH was founded as a grassroots response to the thousands of pets in need as a direct result of the economic downturn in general, and the Phoenix-area foreclosure crisis in particular.

Then And Now

The economic crisis took its toll on Arizona’s homeowners and workers and saw serious, sometimes fatal consequences for thousands of dogs and cats often left abandoned, underfed and thirsty in foreclosed homes while others were relinquished to area shelters. Now our community is experiencing an Evictions Crisis.

LOH is the Valley’s only organization dedicated to rescuing those pets abandoned or at risk of homelessness due to foreclosure, eviction or other financial hardship. The most obvious recipients of our assistance are the pets we rescue, re-home, and feed; however, the mission of LOH is linked directly to the human-animal bond. As a result, our target audience extends beyond the pets to include owners



suffering financial hardship. Over the past 12 years, Lost Our Home Pet Rescue has grown substantially to become an integral part of the community, and today it fills the gap that once existed for pets and pet parents in crisis. Lost Our Home delivers not only life-changing but also life-saving, programs that are breaking new ground in how pet rescue organizations today are interfacing with many of society’s challenging needs.

Lost Our Home’s Programs

Temporary Care Program: provides up to 90 days of complete care for pets when their pet parents experience a life hardship and are unable to care for them temporarily. This relieves pet parents of the overwhelming fear of losing their pet and, in turn, allows them to solely focus on regaining stability in their lives so they can be reunited with their pet.

Pet Food Bank Program (Animeals on Wheels): provides pet food and supplies to financially struggling individuals so they do not have to give their pets up simply because they cannot afford pet food during their time of need.

Pet Rescue Program for Abandoned



and/or Owner-Surrendered Pets: provides medical care, shelter and food, all while trying to find forever loving homes.

Partnership with Sojourner Center in Phoenix: this is one of the largest domestic violence shelters in the U.S. Together with Sojourner Center, Lost Our Home opened and now manages a Pet Companion Shelter on the Soujourner campus so that women escaping domestic violence can keep their pets with them while they heal.

<https://www.mightycause.com/organization/Lostourhomepetrescue> ■



CHARITY

Continued from page 1

with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Together, the organizations provide needed support for habitat projects, water for wildlife, education and mentored activities where traditional resources aren’t adequate. Special Olympics Arizona also will benefit to help assist more than 22,000 Arizona athletes who participate in the program.

RideNow Powersports has donated a 2021 Polaris Ranger Crew XP 1000 EPS (\$18,837 MSRP) and a 2021 Sea-Doo

Fish Pro with trailer (\$16,199 MSRP) to be raffled as the grand prize. The Arizona Elk Society is hosting the fundraiser on behalf of the three charities and has donated six additional prizes to increase the number of winners — 55-quart Canyon coolers (second and third prizes), Vortex Diamondback 10x42 binoculars (fourth and fifth prizes), and Canyon Nomad soft-sided coolers (sixth and seventh prizes).

The raffle ends at 11:59 p.m. (Arizona time) Nov. 28, with a live drawing scheduled for Dec. 11 at RideNow Powersports in Phoenix at 17202 N. Cave Creek Road.

For more information, and to participate, visit <https://aesraffles.org/>. ■

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ROCK

Continued from page 1

Activities

Pleasant Harbor offers an array of watersports and lakeside activities featuring the world’s largest floating waterslide (H2-Whoa!), recreational sailboats, jet skis, kayaks, and paddle board rentals.

“I’m looking forward to another Peoria Country Fest with great music at a one-of-kind location,” said Council-member Bridget Binsbacher. “We are so proud to have beautiful Lake Pleasant in our city offering the perfect spot to kick up your heels for a great day of entertainment and fun!”

More Information

Pleasant Harbor at Lake Pleasant is less than a 45-minute drive from downtown Phoenix and the closest entry to the lake for most Phoenix-area residents. Located in the city of Peoria, Pleasant Harbor is open to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For more information about the Peoria Country Fest, camping and tickets, please visit www.pleasantharbor.com or call the Pleasant Harbor events line at 623-203-5173.

The Event In A Nutshell

What: Peoria Country Fest
When: Saturday, Oct. 9
2 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Where: Pleasant Harbor at Lake Pleasant, 8708 West Harbor Boulevard, Peoria, AZ 85383
Why: 1-day CountryFestival, w/optional Weekend Camping Experience
How: Purchase tickets or make camping reservations online: www.pleasantharbor.com
Tickets: Adult: \$25; Children: Free admission (12 and under)
Parking: \$7.00 (per vehicle)
VIP Tickets: \$75.00 (limited availability)
Camping: 623-235-6140 (call to re-



Ivan Hearness

serve your campsite)
More Info: Pleasant Harbor Event Line:623-203-5173

Getting There

Pleasant Harbor at Lake Pleasant, located in the City of Peoria, is less than a 45 minute drive from downtown Phoenix and conveniently located off Carefree Highway and 87th Avenue (8708 W. Harbor Boulevard, Peoria, AZ 85383). Visitors exiting the I-17 freeway, travel west on Carefree Highway, or take 99th Avenue North from Bell Road to Carefree Highway and then west to 87th Avenue to Harbor Boulevard.

About Pleasant Harbor

Pleasant Harbor, located on the southeastern shores of Lake Pleasant, conveniently adjacent to the metropolitan Phoenix area, is open to the public 365

days a year and located in the city of Peoria, Ariz. The full-service marina, features boat and slip rentals, as well as Jet Ski, kayak, paddle boat, and sailboat rentals. Additionally, the marina features H2-Whoa! – the world’s largest floating water slide and is home to *The Phoenix*, a 150-passenger boat cruise providing tours of majestic Lake Pleasant.

Pleasant Harbor also includes an RV Resort with 253 full hook-up sites, 60 partial hook-ups and dry camping sites featuring amenities such as a club house, pool and Jacuzzi, bocce ball, basketball, shuffleboard, horseshoes, laundry facilities, showers, convenience store and picnic grounds.

For more information, visit www.pleasantharbor.com or call the Pleasant Harbor RV Resort at 623-235-6140 or the Pleasant Harbor Marina at 623-235-6130. ■



SKILLS

Continued from page 1

doors skills in an enjoyable, non-threatening environment with expert instructors. Classes include rappelling, wilderness medicine, birding, hiking, archery, fly and warm-water fishing, paddling a kayak, and shotgun/rifle/pistol shooting, among more than 30 others.

Evenings and mornings are filled with fun and entertainment, including bird walks, yoga, fly tying, night fishing and presentations. Participants stay in rustic cabins, but there are showers and bathrooms in each cabin, and a central dining hall for meals.

Class materials, food and lodging are all included in the \$325 registration fee (ropes challenge and mountain biking cost an additional \$50 and \$60, respectively).

The program is sponsored by the Arizona Wildlife Federation in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

For more information and to register, visit azwildlife.org/bow or contact Kim at 480-201-7456 or Linda at 623-979-4612. ■

A large framed advertisement. At the top, a biplane flies across a blue sky, pulling a banner that reads "Uplift Your Advertising & Marketing Results". Below the banner are three logos: "Arizona Boating & Watersports", "Florida Boating & Watersports", and "Western Outdoor Times". In the center, the text reads "Affordable Prices • Newsletter Print Edition • Three Web Sites". Below this, it says "Contact Jim For Information - No Charge For Information jim@azbw.com or 480/947-6219". At the bottom, the text reads "What Have You Got To Lose?". At the very bottom, the same three logos are repeated.

Continued from page 9

Marc has been fishing since he was just a kid, and he is a regular on the radio show, formerly known as “Shake Rattle and Troll” with Don McDowell. You can find it live on *Facebook* Sunday mornings from 7a.m. to 9 a.m. – just look for *Don McDowell Outdoors*. ■

Continued from page 7

BoatUS offers a short video safety checklist to prevent boat trailer breakdowns, and for more information on BoatUS Trailer Assist go to BoatUS.com/TrailerAssist. ■

Continued from page 1

Any organization, group, foundation, or agency that has excelled in efforts to

Any individual who has acted in the role of a mentor and whose efforts have resulted in the promotion and support of future wildlife conservation efforts and

Past Award Recipients, 1991-2020:
https://azgfd-portal-wordpress-pantheon.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/archive/1991-2020-Past-Award-Recipients_Aug2021.pdf ■

Continued from page 9

themselves on being a peaceful retreat. This town is certainly a hidden gem and it deserves to stay hidden except to those who love the outdoors and the beauty of the past. This town is located right on the border of New Mexico and is about a 4 hour and 30 minute drive from Phoenix.

What makes Alpine so special? What is better than being able to star gaze at night while hearing the elk in the distance? Being able to hunt big game and watch 100 different bird species while in one of the largest Ponderosa pine forests? You can bait and fly fish, kayak, and boat in nearby lakes and streams. Alpine features a year-round adventure with outdoor sports all spring, summer, and fall including hiking, biking, ATV

Winter sports include cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, and downhill skiing at Sunrise Ski Resort , located 30 miles northwest towards Greer. For the best information on this town, I recommend visiting their website *www.alpine-arizona.com* for the best updates and history on this beautiful place! ■

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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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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.



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WESTERN

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OUTDOOR TIMES

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09

FEATURING DEBBIE HUNTSMAN

Arizona sailor is a national conference presenter.

04

Y'ALL COME!

Country Fest will rock at Lake Pleasant.

01





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