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## Arizona Boating & Watersports<sup>TM</sup>

April - May 2012

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# 'Boats R Us'!

- Lake Havasu Boat Show: April 20-22
- Desert Storm: April 23-28



**Tight Lines** Pages 7-9

**Game Bag** Page 10

**Western Wildlife** Page 11

**Land Cruising** Page 12

PHOTO BY LAKERACER LLC

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COMMOTION**

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THE  
BOAT**



# Got Boats? Arizona Does!



## It's Paddle Fest Time At Lake Pleasant

The Lake Pleasant Paddle Fest will be on Saturday, April 28. Save the date and put on your calendar for a wonderful, water-filled experience. There will again be a wide selection of watercraft to try out and many fun contests, demos, and free instruction as well.

Time to checkout the cool equipment, new boats, listen to the clinics on various subjects and meet with fellow paddlers.

Some plan on camping Friday night to be in place with help for Saturday events.

From the organizers, a word on dinner arrangements follows: Friday, food will be available at the event by "Pork on a Fork BBQ." Saturday, there will be a Dutch Oven cookoff, and attendees are asked to bring other food to share for a community meal.

See **PADDLEFEST** on page 18

### LADIES, GENTS: START YOUR ENGINES

## A Fantastic Storm Looms In The Arizona Desert

Popular annual LakeRacer, LLC performance-boat event runs concurrently with the Lake Havasu Boat Show.

From Jim Nichols  
LakeRacer, LLC

We're only days away from Desert Storm 2012: April 23-28.

After Desert Storm 2011, ideas of incor-

porating the Lake Havasu Boat Show into the same timeframe as Desert Storm were popping up as a way to keep growing the Lake Havasu boat show.

For boating manufacturers and vendors, who normally wouldn't display in a West



Coast event, but do attend Desert Storm, it would be a great incentive to attend both and get more exposure than ever before. Plus it really puts the Desert Storm Performance Boat Week (nine days) as one of the biggest events in the country.

With Teague Custom Marine as Title Sponsor of both events, I think we've got a "home run" here.

### Positive Reactions From The Industry

Recently, I have attended both the Los Angeles Boat Show and the Miami International Boat Show, and I must say adding the two events together has been the buzz of the

See **STORM** on page 14

### THE TIME IS NOW

## Head Over To Havasu For a 'Really Big Show'

Thanks to repositioning annual boat show dates to run concurrently with Desert Storm, the Lake Havasu Boat Show, sponsored by Teague Custom Marine of Valencia, Calif., will be 2-1/2 times larger than last year, and is jam-packed with much-awaited new model offerings. Come see for yourself April 20-22 at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4.



Water Car



Legends By The Lake Car Show

powered by one of Mercury Racing's new 565EFI packages.

No word on whether an M285 will be ready in time for Desert Storm or not. We'll just have to wait and see.

### Doug Wright Poker Run Edition

A boat that has been burning up the Internet boating forum boards is the new Doug Wright Poker Run Edition from Florida, a close cousin to the highly successful 32 Doug Wright cat which has been dominate on the offshore outboard racing circuit for the past decade.

The new Poker Run Edition is said to be a five-passenger beauty, powered by a pair of 300XS Merc outboards with a completely restyled deck and larger cockpit. Lots of eyes will be on this one at the boat show.

### West Coast Builders

West Coast builders, Nordic, Hallett, and Howard are also looking to grab plenty of attention with new models of their own.



Fishing Pavillion

Nordic has a brand new 39-foot vee-bottom that will be unveiled at the boat show, plus another possible surprise in the smaller (under 25-foot) cat category.

Hallett has a newly styled deckboat in its line-up for 2012 called the 285 Party Cruiser 2.0 which has already caught the attention of several buyers.

Howard Boats is putting the finishing touches on its new 28 SDS model, a modified 28 Sportdeck with a total deck redesign and a family-friendly cockpit reconfiguration.

### East Coast Manufacturers

East coast manufacturers like Mystic, Frisini and MTI are also coming to the Havasu show with ample new product ammunition. Mystic will dazzle the crowd with a new 50-foot cat build sporting a pair of Mercury Racing 1350s.

See **HAVASU** on page 14



Powerboat Racing

### DCB's New M41

One of the most awaited new intros slated for the Havasu show is the debut of DCB's new M41, a much-talked-about widebody catamaran that will be the largest model in the current DCB fleet. It is also reported that DCB is feverishly working on a new M285 smaller version that, when complete, will be

### In This Month's Issue

Rock The Boat .....	2
Boating .....	4-6
Tight Lines .....	7-9
Game Bag .....	10
Western Wildlife .....	11
RV/Land Cruising .....	12
Downstream .....	15
Classifieds .....	16

### Tight Lines

#### 'Dottie DeVille' Derby Queen

Delanie Gomes has been selected as 2012 Yellowtail Derby royalty. See story Page 7.



### Western Wildlife

#### The Ghost And The Guardian

Pennsylvania freelance writer Eric Dennison is inspired by Arizona coyote. See story Page 11.



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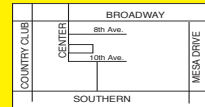
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# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## Update your boating safety knowledge

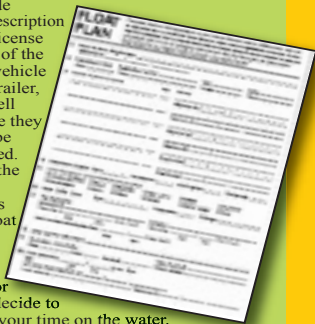
### Filing A Float Plan

Before going out on a vessel, it is always a good idea to leave a float plan with a relative or friend, or at least with a local marina.

◆ A float plan should:

- Describe the vessel, including its registration number, length, make, horse power, and engine type.
- State where you are going, the detailed route, and your expected return time.
- Give the name, address, and telephone number of each person on board and an emergency contact.
- Include the description and license plate of the tow vehicle and trailer, and tell where they will be located.

- ◆ Notify the person who has your float plan when you return or if you decide to extend your time on the water.



## BE A SAFE BOATER, GO ONLINE

Boat Safe, Boat Smart, Boat Sober and take a boating safety class online at your convenience.

Visit  
[www.azgfd.gov/boat-ed](http://www.azgfd.gov/boat-ed)

### Statewide Boating Safety Education Classes

#### April 2012

Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
United States Power Squadron	April 18 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Sportsman's Warehouse 19205 N. 27th Ave. Phoenix	\$40	(602) 361-3932
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary	April 21 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Bass Pro Shop 1133 N. Dobson Road Mesa	\$30	(602) 490-8076
United States Power Squadron	April 25 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Sportsman's Warehouse 19205 N. 27th Ave. Phoenix	\$40	(602) 361-3932
United States Power Squadron	April 28 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Los Lagos Club House 6102 Lago Grande Drive Mort Mohave	\$30 per family	(928) 768-1522

#### May 2012

Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game and Fish Department	May 14 & 16 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. (Must attend both)	Arizona Game & Fish Tucson Office 555 N. Greasewood Road Tucson	\$0	(520) 429-6106
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary	May 19 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Bass Pro Shop 1133 N. Dobson Road Mesa	\$30	(602) 490-8076

### ATTENTION BOATERS Don't Pick Up Hitchhikers!

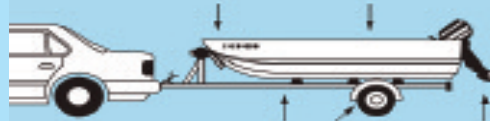
You can PREVENT destruction of fish habitat and loss of boating opportunities by helping to eliminate the spread of nuisance aquatic weeds, quagga mussels, and other unwanted aquatic pests.

#### What can you do? Inspect your boat!

**Inspecting** — Thoroughly inspect your boat's hull, outdrives, trim plates, trolling plates, prop guards, transducers, and trailer. If you see any "hitchhikers," remove them. Remove aquatic plants and

plant fragments clinging to the trailer frame, axles, wheels, hitch, motor's lower unit, and interior boat spaces. Spray down your boat and trailer before leaving any lake or stream or at home before setting out for a new boating location.

**Draining** — Drain all bilge water, live wells, and bait buckets before leaving any waterway. Leftover bait should not be released or transported.



### Remove and dispose of plants on dry land

**Stop the spread of aquatic pests!**

*Giant salvinia, quagga mussels, crayfish, and mud snails most often spread between waterways by hitching a ride on vessels and trailers. When transplanted into new waters, these organisms proliferate, displacing native species and damaging the water resources and your vessel.*

## 9th Annual Tri-State Boating Safety Fair



**Go Boating Safely!**

### Events for the whole family:

- Giveaways
- Information booths
- Life jacket trade-in
- Courtesy vessel safety checks
- ...and a lot more!

### Life jacket trade-in:

- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Bring in your unsafe or outgrown life jackets
- New life jackets will be available (while supplies last)
- One per family

## Saturday May 19th

London Bridge Beach Park  
1340 McCulloch Blvd.  
Along the Bridgewater Channel

For more information:  
[www.BoatColoradoRiver.com](http://www.BoatColoradoRiver.com)



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# Western Outdoor Times

## Arizona Boating & Watersports



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Thank you to Don McDowell and all the sponsors of Bill Luke Bass Days 2012 and to the Arizona Game & Fish Department for a fantastic Expo 2012. March was a wonderful month for outdoors enthusiasts!

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## Safety Is Paramount When You're Out On A Boat

Be "situationally aware," advises Kevin Bergersen, state boating-law administrator with AZGFD.

From AZGFD

Temperatures are warming up, and that means more people will be taking to Arizona's waterways for boating fun in the sun.

While a day on the water offers relaxation and recreation, safe-boating practices are key to enjoying your outing.

The most important thing to do when on the water is to be "situationally aware," said Kevin Bergersen, state boating law administrator with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. That means know what is going on around you, and that conditions on the water can change quickly.

"In high winds, rough conditions, stormy weather and at night, break out the life jackets and put them on," Bergersen said. "When things start to look bad, it could be bad."

Already this year a 21-year-old man drowned on March 24 after he fell off an inner tube while being towed by a boat near Windsor Beach on Lake Havasu. Preliminary indications are that the man, whose body was found Monday, was not wearing a life jacket, according to the Mo-



L.L. Bean

have County Sheriff's Office. The accident is still under investigation.

Bergersen said to remember to Boat Safe, Boat Smart and Boat Sober.

### Boat Safe

Boat safe by avoiding waterskiing in congested areas, steering clear of nearby boaters, avoiding excessive speeds while towing skiers, knowing your limits, and re-

See SAFETY on page 5

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## A REMINDER TO BOATERS

# Don't Try To 'Mussel' In

From Glen Canyon Recreation Area

PAGE, Ariz. — A vessel with adult mussels attached was intercepted Wednesday at the Bullfrog Marina inspection station at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The vessel was thoroughly decontaminated by National Park Service staff and will be held in quarantine until the boat no longer poses a threat to Lake Powell or any other water body.

The vessel had been moored on Lake Mead — where mussels are known to exist — before being hauled to Bullfrog. This is the first vessel with mussels intercepted

prior to launching on Lake Powell this year.

Invasive quagga and zebra mussels are a major threat to our quality of life. They are small, clam-like creatures that reproduce rapidly and deplete food in the water. As such, they jeopardize fish populations, damage power and water infrastructures, and decrease the health of ecosystems.

As the boating season begins, visitors are reminded to prevent the spread of mussels and other aquatic invasive species by always cleaning, draining, and drying their vessels, anchors, and other equipment each time they are used.



Sixteen boats harboring mussels were intercepted prior to launching on Lake Powell last year. Coming to Lake Powell with vessels and equipment properly prepared to launch will ensure every boater's ability to get on the water more quickly.

While a typical decontamination takes less than ten minutes and is offered at no cost to Glen Canyon visitors, when mussels are found, the vessel will be decontaminated and held in quarantine for up to



a 30-day drying period to make sure any hidden mussels have not survived.

For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/glca](http://www.nps.gov/glca)



**PARTY TIME!** — As the Arizona weather warms, boating season gets into full swing. As do parties. If you want a fantastic day on the water with a group of family, friends, or co-workers, there is no better way than to rent this party boat and spend the day on beautiful Bartlett Lake. All the amenities you'll ever need are already on board; just bring your group, some food and drink, and be ready to enjoy! To ensure the dates you wish are available, call early to make your reservations: (602) 316-3378, [info@bartlettlake.com](mailto:info@bartlettlake.com). This is a very popular boat! To read more about it, visit [www.bartlettlake.com](http://www.bartlettlake.com).

## SAFETY

Continued from page 4

trieving skiers rapidly from busy waters. Boaters should always travel in a counter-clockwise direction while on the water.

"Boaters should keep the closest shore over their right shoulder, and they shouldn't cut blind corners where oncoming boaters can't see them," Bergersen said.

In addition, he said, all people on board must have a readily available, properly sized U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket. Children 12 and younger must wear them anytime a boat is under way; there is no mandatory wear law for those older than 12. If you don't want to wear a life jacket all the time, Bergersen said, it is critical that you put one on at night, in storms and when the water is cold.

## Boat Smart

Boat smart by taking a boating safety education class and learning the navigation rules of the waterways. Educated boaters are safer boaters. Boating accident statistics show that more than 70 percent of all boat operators involved in accidents have not attended any formal boating safety ed-

ucation classes. An online course may be found at [boat-ed.com/Arizona](http://boat-ed.com/Arizona).

## Boat Sober

Boat sober by having a designated boat operator. Consuming alcohol is allowed on a boat, but the operator cannot be under the influence of alcohol (known as Operating Under the Influence, or OUI). Just like driving a motor vehicle under the influence, the legal limit for blood alcohol while operating a boat is .08. OUI is a Class One misdemeanor. You can be arrested.

"Booze and boats don't mix," Bergersen said, noting that alcohol is a contributing factor in 40 percent of all fatal recreational boating accidents in Arizona.

For more information, please visit: [www.azgfd.gov/boating\\_0](http://www.azgfd.gov/boating_0)

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**CRUISE & COMFORT**

4/20 thru 4/22 - Lake Havasu Boat Show at Windsor Beach

- Water Ski Racing
- POPRA Offshore Racing

4/23 Monday - Lake Havasu Boat Show

- Demo Rides
- Performance Boat Magazine Boat Tests

4/24 Tuesday

- Morning - Performance Boat Magazine Boat Test
- Afternoon - Desert Storm Manufactures Fun Run

4/25 Wednesday - Desert Storm

- Kruisin For Kids Charity Boat Rides
- Evening Welcome Party and Open House

4/26 Thursday - Noon till Nine

- Desert Storm Street Party and Boat Display

4/27 Friday - Desert Storm Poker Run

- Evening Outdoor Party and Card Turn-in

4/28 Saturday - Desert Storm Shootout

- Evening Awards Party and Concert

4/29 Sunday - TBD -

- Unlimited Light Hydroplane Races (maybe on a different weekend)

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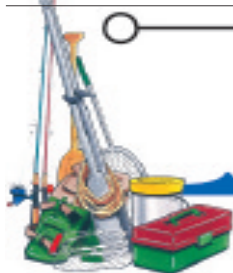
**GO**  
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MARINE

**40**  
COOLERS



Event Photos - Schedule, Forms, On-line Reg and Desert Storm Apparel Info [www.LakeRacer.com](http://www.LakeRacer.com)  
For Sponsorships, Vendor and Event Magazine Advertising - Contact [jimm@LakeRacerllc.com](mailto:jimm@LakeRacerllc.com)



# LIGHT LINES

FISHING IN ARIZONA AND BEYOND



## ARIZONA ANGLERS ARE INVITED!

# Meet Miss Yellowtail Derby 2012

*The 2012 Yellowtail Derby will run for 36 days: May 5-June 10.*

The 2012 Yellowtail Derby Committee has selected Miss Delanie Gomes as their 2012 Miss Yellowtail Derby. Delanie is the daughter of Tommy Gomes, general manager of Catalina Offshore Products. She was born and raised in San Diego, a fourth generation Point Loma High School graduate and has a B.A. from San Diego State.

She vividly recalls, "The very first fish I ever caught, was, and you guessed it, was a yellowtail!"

Delanie Gomes (aka "Dottie DeVille") is an accomplished model — her profession has taken her far and wide. She is currently specializing in representing Classic Custom Car Shows.

Committee members are pleased to have Delanie Gomes represent the 2012 Yellowtail Derby as Miss Yellowtail Derby.

### More About The Derby

The Yellowtail Derby will be contested on private, as well as open party vessels and kayaks. It will run for 36 days, from

May 5 to June 10. Winners will be celebrated at the Gala Awards Party on June 10 at the Bali Hai Restaurant from 2 to 4 p.m., with exciting prizes and fun for all, including the "infamous" weighing-in of the winning angler.

The 2012 International Yellowtail Derby is sponsored and supported by: the Port of San Diego, The Bali Hai Restaurant, Boyce Image, Maritime Institute, Seatow Services, West Marine, Everingham Bros, Fisherman's Landing, H&M Landing, Point Loma Sportfishing, Pacific Beach Fish Shop, Angler's Arsenal, Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant, AFTCO, To The Point Café, Silverfish Press, SportClips, UniButter, Ramona Cafe, Angler's Choice Tackle, Fisherman's Landing Tackle, Int'l Ballyhood "Top Gun," Western Plastics, *Western Outdoor Times/Arizona Boating & Watersports*, Steve Crouch Ins. Agency, Sunroad Resort Marina, Sunroad San Diego Boat Show, BlueSkyNews.com, Let's Talk Hook UP Radio, Rod and Reel Radio. Shake Rattle & Troll Radio.

### Cash And Prizes

Based on 500 entries, there will be \$30,000 in cash and prizes. The entry fee is \$60 for all 36 days, with juniors' (8-14)

fee at \$40.

IGFA rules will apply to all fish (yellowtail, white seabass, albacore) caught; California Department of Fish & Game rules and regulations apply.

Prizes in each category (both junior and adult categories): Special prizes are awarded for the largest fish caught each week.

The fishing area is from 80 miles south and west of Point Loma and north to south of the Orange County Line.

The daily "catch" results will be available on the Website as well as through the media.

Benefiting charities are IGFA Junior Fishing Program and The Coast Guard Foundation.

The derby headquarters are located at the Outboard Boating Club at the Trailer Boat Ramp on Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, in San Diego. The derby mailing address is 3960 W. Point Loma Blvd. Suite H347, San Diego 92110.

Enter online @ [www.InternationalYellowtailDerby.com](http://www.InternationalYellowtailDerby.com).

For more information, contact John L. Campbell, Yellowtail Derby director, at [johnncinsd@gmail.com](mailto:johnncinsd@gmail.com) or (619) 991-5480.



**THINK YELLOW!** — Leading the publicity for the Yellowtail Derby in San Diego is Delanie Gomes, Miss Yellowtail Derby 2012. Arizona Anglers are invited to participate any time during the 36-day derby, from May 5-June 10.



**LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON** — Wayne and Mark Gustaveson had a fun day fishing for bass. Water is warming, allowing bass to move into shallow water to spawn. The fish can be readily seen and caught. As of press time, bass fishing will be great for spawning bass for the next three weeks.

### LAKE POWELL FISH REPORT

## Between Spring Storms, Fishing Will Be Excellent

By Wayne Gustaveson

Fishing is fantastic as long as you are fishing for bass in the afternoon. Bass spawning is imminent. It may take a little while longer due to unsettled weather, but fishing will remain very good for bass for the rest of the month.

Water temperature still declines into the mid 50s overnight, but by afternoon, water in the backs of the canyons and coves warms to the mid 60s. This warming and cooling cycle produces the best bass fishing of the year.

### Sight Fishing

Sight fishing for very big bass makes fishing very exciting. Bass are cruising

the shallow shoreline looking for nest sites. Water is often crystal clear, making bass very visible as they leisurely swim from one clump of brush to the next.

The secret to actually catching bass is to put the lure in front of them before you see each other. Bass can see you as well as you can see them.

One approach is to mark the spot where a large bass or nest is seen. Return a few hours later. Throw a long cast to the bush where the bass lives. Let the bait rest on bottom for at least a minute or two and then twitch it once. That should result in a hook up if the bass is still there.

The best lure this week was a 5 or 6 inch Yamamoto Senko fished on an offset

See **FISHING** on page 9

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## Tight Lines

### AZGFD Launches New Interactive Online Fishing Map

Can a mouse help you catch fish? It can if it's a computer mouse.

Finding out where to fish and lots of other great information is just a mouse click away thanks to a new interactive online fishing map just launched by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Just visit [gis.azgfd.gov/fishandboat](http://gis.azgfd.gov/fishandboat) or [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov) and you will find 150 of Arizona's best fishing lakes, streams and rivers.

Besides showing how to get there, the interactive fishing map also provides lots of other useful information, including the type



of fish species, the available facilities and concessions, and even special regulations that might apply.

"This is an interactive Google map, which is very user friendly, so finding information about a fishery is just a click away, or maybe a touch away if you have a touch screen," says Eric Swanson, the fisheries biologist who spearheaded creating the new site.

Swanson added that the map navigation is also keyed to other things, such as fish species. "For instance, if you want to know where to catch native Apache trout, then just click on the box and on the map it will

See **MAP** on page 9

### Summer Trout Stocking Schedule Goes Hi-Tech

Ever wondered where the feisty rainbow trout are stocked along Christopher Creek or Tonto Creek by the Arizona Game and Fish Department? Well, just click here.

Thanks to a new hi-tech online interactive trout stocking schedule just released by Arizona Game and Fish, you can now find out where trout are stocked — especially along streams — and also see maps of the fisheries as well.

The full address is — [http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/h\\_f/fishing/stocking/2012SumTroutStockSchedule.pdf](http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/h_f/fishing/stocking/2012SumTroutStockSchedule.pdf)

"Anglers routinely call asking, 'Where do you stock trout' at one water or another, especially the streams. This interactive stocking schedule goes a long way toward answering that question," said Scott Gurtin, the hatcheries program manager for Game and Fish.

The map was Scott's brain child. "An-

other cool feature is you can enter your starting address and have Google maps show you the way to the fishing spot," Gurtin said.

So, not only has the spring-summer trout stocking season kicked into gear, but also it's easier than ever to find out where the fisheries are located, how to get to them, and when feasible, know when and

See **STOCKING** on page 9



Christian Borucki, Brandon Koon

### Arizona Has Two New High School State Champion Anglers

Christian Borucki and Brandon Koon of the Bad Bass Fishing Club in Phoenix won the second-ever Arizona High School Fishing State Championship at Lake Pleasant on Saturday, April 6 by weighing in five bass totaling 12.08 pounds.

These two talented high school anglers targeted mostly post-spawn bass on what started out as a windy day at Lake Pleasant. Their coach and mentor for the event was Mike McFarland, a veteran tournament angler and guide.

Borucki and Koon will advance to the FLW Outdoors/Bass Federation High School Fishing Conference Championship that will be held in conjunction with the National Guard FLW College Fishing Conference Championship.

### Cactus Shadows, Mountain Shadows

Ironically, these two champion teammates attend rival schools, at least when it comes to traditional sports. Borucki goes to Cactus Shadows High School in Cave Creek and Koon goes to Mountain Shadows High School in Phoenix.

Koon is rapidly making a name for himself — he and his former teammate, Thomas Chambers, won the 2011 National High School Fishing Championship.

For the Arizona championship last weekend, there were 16 two-person high school teams (grades 9-12) from throughout Arizona participating in this major state championship, which was conducted by the Bass Federation in partnership with FLW Outdoors and the Arizona Bass Federation.

All state championship participants qualify for the largest event in high school fishing, the 2012 High School Fishing World Finals where they can compete for thousands of dollars in college scholarship and prizes.

### Ultimately, A \$5,000 Scholarship

Each team that qualifies for a conference and/or national championship will receive a travel allowance to help offset expenses. Ultimately, the national champions will each receive a \$5,000 scholarship to use at whatever university they choose.

See **CHAMPS** on page 9

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# Tight Lines

## LEES FERRY FISHING REPORT

# Spring Has Arrived; Fish Are Waiting

By Terry Gunn

After more than two decades we decided it was time to upgrade our Web site, leesferry.com. Our new site is live and I invite you visit us.

You will find this new site to be loaded with information about our river and fishing. The site will continue to grow and change so check back often.

The weather in late March has been

clear and warm ('70s). Spring has arrived at Lees Ferry and the trees are budding out and the birds are migrating.

A spring cold front is expected, which will bring moisture and cooler temperatures for a few days. However, the fishing has been so good that the fish have even been happy in crummy weather!

### Fly Fishing Up-River

New water flows began well over a

month ago, and the river is running 7,000cfs to 13,000cfs; the water is slowly and steadily rising throughout the day and not dropping until late in the evening.

This flow is very different from the flows in February, which were rising and then dropping at noon and then rising again after 5 p.m. The current flows are better for fishing as fish are much happier with rising water than falling water.

See **SPRING** on page 15

### MAP

Continued from page 8

show all the waters with these wonderful native trout. It's simple, easy and very intuitive to use."

itive to use."

The map also contains lots of information for recreational boaters as well. "By May we will be posting more detailed boating information, so from that standpoint, it's

a work in progress. The fishing information, however, is very robust," Swanson says.

This is shaping up to be a good fishing year, so be sure to purchase your 2012 fishing license.

### FISHING

Continued from page 7

worm hook. Fish it very patiently.

The good news about early warming and small runoff is that sight fishing for cruising and nesting bass may be prolonged into May. Bass nests made this week may still be visible and only a foot or two deeper during May.

Bass fishing will be good enough that all anglers will be successful. So, remember to release largemouth bass and male smallmouth bass that are guarding nests. It is fine to keep smallmouth bass 12 inches and smaller.

### Crappie Ready To Nest

Crappie are hanging in the submerged trees and are visible in clear water. They too will be on nests by the third week of April if not earlier.

Crappie limit is 10 fish as we try to protect the population for future years when brush inevitably declines and survival of young crappie will be more difficult.

Keep 10 crappie and release the rest for another day.

### Striped Bass: A Mystery

Striped bass are a bit of a mystery. Yearling stripers up to 15 inches are eating plankton in the back of the canyons in treetops where bottom depth is 15-25 feet. Trees stick up to 5-10 feet under the surface.

Trolling and casting very shallow-running crankbaits is most effective during morning and evening hours. Larger stripers make occasional appearances in the treetops but most of the time they are missing in action.

Finding big stripers is a random event. The most successful pattern is to troll or fish deep-running spoons and jigs along drop-offs where depth changes rapidly from 40 to 25 feet. Isolated schools are co-operative when found but very difficult to locate.

Adult stripers are not often seen on the graph in deep water, and are more likely to be found toward the back of the canyon

or along the edge of the main channel. They have not moved toward the channel or the dam.

Do not expect to find large numbers of stripers in the deep water channel this spring. They are fat and lazy, living off stored fat from the many shad that were eaten last fall. They will stay in the backs of canyons until water warms into the 70s.

Fishing will be excellent during the rest of April in between the cold storm fronts of springtime.

At press time, lake elevation was 3,635, and water temperature was 52-60F.

### CHAMPS

Continued from page 8

Launched in 2011 by FLW and The Bass Federation Student Angler Federation, High School Fishing is the largest student-angler initiative in history. It offers students at more than 23,000 high schools across the United States and Canada the opportunity to compete in club, state, conference and national bass tournaments for the chance to earn college scholarships. Visit [www.highschoolfishing.org](http://www.highschoolfishing.org) for additional information.

### STOCKING

Continued from page 8

where the trout are stocked.

It's time to get your trout fishing gear ready because this is the leading edge of the great spring fishing.

"To me, it's pretty exciting. Today's technological advances and applications such as Google maps allow us to better serve our angling customers," Gurtin said. "Be sure to get your 2012 fishing license."

There is also a new interactive online fishing map available at <http://gis.azgfd.gov/fishandboat> to make it even easier to gather information about fishing locations, and to travel to them.

Don't forget that you can also sign up at [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov) to have the weekly fishing report delivered directly to your computer, smart phone or other e-mail-friendly device.

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# Game Bag Write On Target

## Hunters' Passion For Draw Results Overwhelms Web Site

*Draw results site for elk, pronghorn antelope hunts is now accessible.*

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's online hunt draw system Web site, hosted by an outside vendor, became unavailable from Monday afternoon through early Tuesday morning as thousands of hopeful hunters tried to log on and learn whether their applications had been drawn for the upcoming elk and pronghorn antelope season.

Officials have attributed the problem to extraordinary demand on the system to view draw results, and not a failure of the hunt draw or application processes.

Draw results were posted early Monday afternoon, and the draw results system initially worked as planned. But, as large numbers of people tried to access the system simultaneously, it slowed dramatically and ultimately shut down, which impacted the ability of the public to access it. The vendor temporarily dis-

abled the site to work on the problem.

### Higher Demand Than Any Other Site

The high demand not only temporarily disabled the draw results Web site, but also temporarily affected other Arizona state agency Web sites served by the vendor. Neither the vendor nor the Arizona Strategic Enterprise Technology Office (ASET - Arizona's IT agency), had seen that magnitude of load, as no other state Web site draws it.

Department officials stated the vendor and ASET worked on the problem through the night to implement measures enabling hunters to access their draw results, and the draw results site is now available.

The department worked extensively with its vendor to prepare for this draw. Officials emphasize that the online application process went smoothly and the draw itself worked exactly as it was intended.

The problem occurred with the system for accessing results. The vendor was advised of the potential demand to which the system would be subjected once draw re-

sults became available. But, despite estimates of heavy demand and the vendor's assurances that the system had been adequately load-tested, the actual demand far exceeded those estimates.

### Review To Be Conducted

"Hunters are passionate about their sport, and they were so eager to discover the draw results that the power of numbers was simply overwhelming," said Larry Voyles, director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "But this situation is unacceptable and our customers deserved better."

We'll be conducting a detailed review of the process and procedures internally and with the vendor to fix problems to ensure they don't occur in the future."

On another front, department officials also addressed an inaccurate rumor circulating on some online chat boards that there was a security breach of the department's customer information database. This did NOT happen. Arizona Game and Fish customer information remains secure.

Some large credit card processors and bank-issued debit and credit card holders across the nation were affected by a data

breach discovered in late March. Shortly thereafter, the department was contacted by a small number of people (fewer than 10 at this point) who used credit cards for the draw that were denied by their banks as a result of the breach. Those people contacted us to advise that the credit card they used for the draw had been compromised and they had to cancel their cards.

For those individuals, this occurred after the cut-off date for changing/updating their method of payment for the draw. The department is researching options for the commission and department to deal with the loss of bonus points that could result from a denied credit card and will work on the rules necessary to enable us to deal with identity-theft-driven bonus point issues in the future.

While we believe the number of our customers affected by the credit card data breach is small, we will continue to monitor this situation.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department apologizes for any inconvenience customers experienced as a result of the problems with the draw results Web site.

## Important Information For Sportsmen, Other Wildlife Enthusiasts – Part 1

Provided By AZGFD

A great deal of discussion has occurred over the past few months on important issues related to hunting, fishing and wildlife management. As part of its promotion of the partial privatization or diversion of Arizona's wildlife resources, one constituent group recently circulated an "open letter" regarding problems, or challenges, facing sportsmen.

One of the topics the open letter listed was loss of wildlife. To illustrate their point, the circulators of the letter included some

data that compared the number of permits and harvest of six big game species in the years 1994 and 2010.

While the numbers for each year are accurate, the comparison is still artificial. Quite simply, if this were 1994 Arizona, it would still look like 1994 Arizona. The same could be said of 1964. Or 1934. Or ...?

### Healthy Wildlife Populations Are Important Challenge

Having healthy, viable wildlife populations is an important and enduring challenge for all who enjoy our wildlife

resources, and that challenge is not something new.

For example, if data were plucked from the year 1929, an examination of the minutes of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission meeting on Nov. 29-30, 1929, would show that the Commission voted to close the area south of the Gila River to the hunting of deer for an indefinite period of time.

The choice of 1994 as a comparison point (as opposed to any other year) is interesting, and only the circulators of the data can explain their rationale for choosing that year. While their figures may be accurate for each of the two chosen years, their use in a two-point comparison alone neglects information that might provide context and give people a better understanding of the situation.

### A Very Different Place

Our state was a very different place in 1994 than in 2010. Arizona had about 2 million fewer residents; the average price of gas nationally was around \$1.11 per gallon; the Dow Jones industrial average had a high of about 3,900, and the state was still in the midst of a notable "wet period," with above-average precipitation from the post-1976 period until approximately 1998.

The two-point comparison of 1994 and 2010 suggests a strictly linear decline in permits during the 1994-2010 time period, which is not accurate. Here are some additional facts sportsmen/women and other wildlife enthusiasts should know.

### Deer

Although deer permits have declined since achieving a high-water milestone in 1986, the number of permits since 2003 has been increasing annually (from 61,432 to 68,078, at about 900 permits per year).

### Pronghorn

Pronghorn permits have been highly variable through time, but a recent high point was in 1994 with 1,483 permits, and a recent low point was in 2004 with 861 permits. In 2010, 949 permits were authorized, which reflects a growing trend in permits for pronghorn.

### Bighorn Sheep

In 1994, bighorn sheep permits reached a milestone at the second greatest number of permits issued. Permit numbers declined to 82 in 2005, but have since increased to 99 in 2011.

### Elk

Elk permit numbers increased over time, peaking at 24,195 in 2002. Permit numbers have been reduced since, largely in response to hunter desires after that date. Still, the permit numbers continue to increase with time.

### Standardized Survey Protocols

It should be noted that with regard to deer surveys, the department established standardized survey protocols beginning in the mid-2000s. Surveyed animals per hour (Catch per Unit Effort) provide a standardized index as to population trajectory, similar to permit numbers. Survey data suggests that the population of deer in Arizona is growing.

### Drought

Drought is a factor that has contributed to declines in wildlife populations:

*Decadal-scale Pacific Ocean circulation persistence can result in long-term drought in the Southwest, including Arizona, and may be reflected in wildlife productivity.*

*These patterns resulted in extremely dry conditions between 1999 and 2005. During the past two decades, several La Niña episodes (1989-90, 1995-96, and 1998-2001) have initiated Arizona droughts. The La Niña of 2005-06 resulted in virtually no snowpack in Arizona until mid-March, with 29 of the 34 snow-measuring sites monitored by the NRCS reporting no snow as of March 1, 2006, the least amount recorded since measurements began in the late 1930s.*

*While drought of the last decade may have similar precipitation conditions to the drought of the late 1940s and 1950s, temperatures during the last decade are almost two degrees higher. This warming trend may have affected the severity of drought conditions and productivity.*

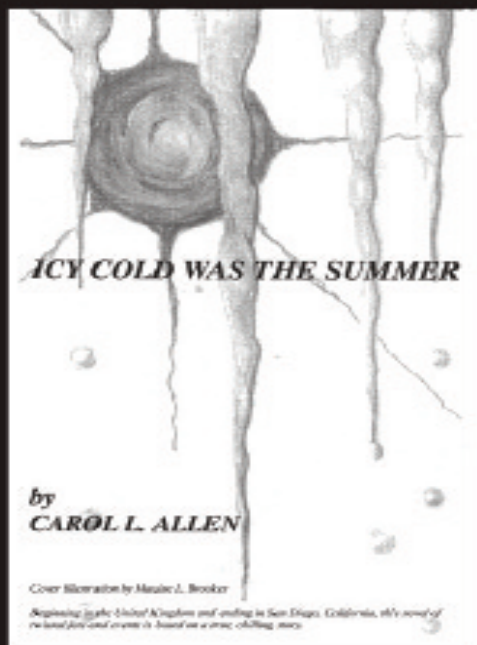
*The last notable "wet period" with above-average precipitation was the post-1976 period which lasted until approximately 1998, which may have affected productivity during the period 1999 through 2006.*

### Desired Population Structure

Permit numbers are influenced by desired population structure. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission currently manages for 20-30 bucks per 100 does. There is a range in which the decision does not influence the biological capability of a population.

See SPORTSMEN on page 18

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# Western Wildlife



## The Ghost And The Guardian

By Eric Dennison

*Editor's Note: Eric Dennison is an aspiring freelance writer who lives in Hatfield, Pa., a small suburb just outside Philadelphia. Dennison is an outdoor enthusiast who loves to fish and chronicle his experiences in print. We at Western Outdoor Times/Arizona Boating & Watersports thank him for his insightful and moving recollections inspired by his visit to our state.*

Wander the worlds suspended between this one and the next long enough and you are bound to see ghosts. One second they are standing right in front of you and the next they are gone.

Cloaking themselves with unearthly shades of light and merging themselves into dark, elongated shadows, they suddenly become mysterious and obscure shapes in a mystical, panoramic landscape. And you are only left to wonder if they were ever really there at all.

And so it goes with ghosts — nature being full of them. Real nature — not the semi-vacant lot of trees or small patch of grass and weeds left over by the suburban landslide that continually steamrolls over society's almost depleted sense of rustic aesthetics.

But real nature in the form of an untamable rush of water that rampages forever at the base of a river valley or canyon wall, a tapestry of green hills and rugged forests draped across an entire mountain side, or the eternal expanse of sky mirroring the wide open plains that run endlessly beneath it.

Real nature. Where heaven meets earth and man — if he is lucky enough — touches the ethereal plane.

### I Reached Out To It In Arizona

I reached out to it in Arizona. After a six-hour flight from Pennsylvania and a five-hour drive from the hotel with my friend and his family, I found myself in a whole different world — the Grand Canyon to be more precise. The place

where my own almost-depleted sense of aesthetics was elevated to new heights.

Staring like a child into a large window filled with amazing natural creations, face and hands pressed firmly up against invisible glass, will do that to you, I suppose. So will an apparition staring back at you.

Of course, a place such as the Canyon with its immense and unearthly configurations must surely have a spirit or two lurking somewhere within its majestic confines. And it does.

### A Coyote Emerges

The outline and shape of the coyote first emerged a few hundred feet ahead of us, slowly crossing the nearby road that would eventually take us out of the Canyon's gravitational pull — the coyote itself now being drawn in.

My friend Joe, who was driving, pulled the car over to the side and came quickly to a stop, allowing me to get out with my camera in tow. Having taken pictures all day of the Canyon from every conceivable angle, I suppose it was only natural to have it handy should nature turn suddenly on its side again and show off another startling profile.

The coyote was still a distance away when I began to take pictures — perhaps out of fear that the animal would bolt at any time, leaving me absolutely no trace that it ever existed. Remarkably, the coyote kept coming closer, occasionally disappearing behind trees, re-emerging and slowly trotting over small patches of snow splashed intermittently over a canvas of green grass.

### Hop For One Perfect Shot

I continued to take pictures, doing my best to keep the animal in focus. I am by no means a wildlife photographer; I also didn't do myself any favors by having nothing more than a no-frills, point-and-shoot camera. For whatever reason, I was hesitant to jump headlong into the digital age.

If I could just get one shot perfectly

showcasing the animal as a lone, solitary figure frozen in a landscape that itself would never change over time, I would be pleased. What I needed was the coyote to idle itself and remain completely still, suspending itself above the laws of nature.

Miraculously, the animal halted at a distance where we could look into each other's eyes. Face to face, we each cautiously studied the strange shape that was displacing a small piece of the world in front of us.

What it thought of me, I can't say for sure, of course. If I had to venture a guess, I was barely something inconsequential to its existence. For me, the coyote was an aberration of my suburban-honed senses, long since dulled by my limited exposure to real and rugged nature.

### A Thin Veneer Of Nature

How limited? How about the menagerie of squirrels, rabbits and groundhogs running up and down trees, bustling in and out of bushes in parks and playgrounds, with hawks circling above; or the occasional run-in with a rogue fox or small group of roving deer bullied and bulldozed out of their own personal terrain by the vast expansion of apartments, townhouses and condos, and reduced from their natural state to nothing more than a living, breathing attraction on someone's freshly mowed lawn. That's not nature, but a thin veneer.

The coyote was real nature — an animal embedded in a landscape where it could navigate by impulse and instinct, the currents of which reverberated endlessly through forests and woods and ran ceaselessly alongside rivers and streams, and they were not to be interfered with by the overbearing hum created by the continuing expansion of the human hive.

The Canyon, besides being a geological phenomenon was, I figured out, a symbolic oasis whose vast edge and rim and deep abyss prevented man from "progressing" any farther. The line in the rock had been drawn, and, this time, I was the in-



**GHOST AND GUARDIAN** — From a Pennsylvania visitor's perspective, Arizona's familiar coyote is both. Eric Dennison has provided us with an insightful consideration of true nature and of the coyote as one symbol of that. His thoughts were stirred by his recent visit to the Grand Canyon and his encounter there with the ghost and the guardian.

truder. I could sense it immediately. The animal stood erect on all fours, posturing itself as a stern guardian of the land, never to be removed from its post.

The complete text of Dennison's "The Ghost And The Guardian" may be seen on the Web site: [www.azbw.com](http://www.azbw.com).

## Tips For Living With Wildlife, Avoiding Conflict

Mild winter and low rainfall may bring wildlife into urban fringe areas this spring.

From AZGFD

Arizona's mild winter and exceptionally low rainfall have wildlife on the move, especially in urban areas that are on the fringe of natural habitat. Greenbelts, yards and golf courses are particularly attractive as they provide an easier meal and shelter areas.

"Green areas bring in the small mammals like rabbits, which, in turn, attract coyotes and javelina when the desert is dry and lacks adequate food resources," said Darren Julian, an urban wildlife specialist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department's regional office in Mesa.

"Negative encounters with wildlife are almost always associated with a food source, so it's important to work with your neighbors to discourage wildlife from coming into close proximity to people."

### Coyotes, Javelina Most Often Seen

Coyotes and javelina are the large animals most frequently seen in populated areas. They are usually timid and run away if challenged, but they can pose a risk to people once they become comfortable around humans, usually as a result of feeding or indifference.

It is also important to use precaution in

the spring when many wildlife species breed. Animals with young can be very territorial and defensive, and may bite or otherwise attack humans when they feel their young are threatened.

Habituated animals such as coyotes and javelina lose their natural fear and learn to see humans, their yards and their pets as food sources and safe havens.

People have a responsibility to help keep wildlife "wild." While wild animals are already present in urban areas, they should not be allowed to become comfortable with human presence.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to remove all potential food sources and make wildlife feel unwelcome when they are spotted in urban areas. The following tips will help minimize encounters:

- Do not feed wildlife.
- Keep birdseed and water sources off the ground and out of reach.
- Store garbage inside and place trash containers outside at the last possible time on day of pickup.
- Feed pets inside and/or remove uneaten pet food between feedings.
- Keep pets indoors, in a secure outdoor enclosure with a roof, or on a leash.
- Supervise small children outdoors.
- If you see a coyote or javelina, discourage it from the area by using aggres-



Javelina (Collared Peccary)

sive gestures with your arms and legs, yelling, shaking a can filled with pennies, or spraying it with a hose or "Super-Soaker" filled with diluted ammonia.

• Trim back plants and bushes around the house to prevent hiding or resting places.

- Install outdoor lighting.
- Use fences and walls at least 6 feet high, with the bottom buried a few inches underground.
- Eliminate a coyote's ability to get over the top of a fence or wall by installing barbed wire, electric wire, or a pipe that spins around a wire.

For more information or questions on reducing wildlife conflicts in your area, visit the department's Web site at [www.azgfd.gov/urbanwildlife](http://www.azgfd.gov/urbanwildlife).

For Valley homeowners' associations that would like to schedule a nuisance wildlife presentation at their next homeowners' association meeting, contact the Game and Fish Mesa regional office at (480) 981-9400.

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# RV Land Cruising



## Grand Canyon's North Rim Opens May 15 For 2012 Summer Season

With the opening of Highway 67 on Tuesday, May 15, the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park will open for the 2012 summer season; and Grand Canyon Lodge North Rim, a Forever Resorts property, and Grand Canyon Trail Rides will commence their summer operations.

Grand Canyon Lodge North Rim operations include lodging, groceries, camper services, food services and a gas station. All concessioner facilities will open at 10 a.m. with the exception of the dining room, which will open at 11:30 a.m. for lunch. Lodge check-in will begin at 4 p.m.

All services are provided by the Na-



tional Park Service, including the Visitor Center, backcountry permitting office, and campground, as well as the Grand Canyon Association bookstore (available on May

15 at 8 a.m.).

The first scheduled ranger program, Grand Canyon Geology, will be on the back porch of the Grand Canyon Lodge at 3 p.m. followed by a program about the California condor at 4:30 p.m.

The first evening program will be held on May 15, at 8 p.m. in the Lodge auditorium. All ranger programs will be listed in "The Guide" (North Rim: 2012 Season), a free publication distributed at the North Entrance Station, the North Rim Visitor Center, other contact stations in the park and online at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca) once it is available.

The North Rim, which lies at the southern end of the Kaibab Plateau at approximately 8,500 feet in elevation, is only open during the summer and offers spectacular canyon views. Points of interest include Point Imperial, Cape Royal, Point Sublime, North Kaibab Trail, and Bright Angel Point. The South Rim, which sits at approximately 7,200 feet in elevation, is open year round.

Advance overnight lodging reservations for North Rim facilities may be made by contacting Forever Resorts at (877) 386-4383 or by visiting [www.grandcanyonforever.com](http://www.grandcanyonforever.com). (For advance reservations from outside of the United States, please call (480) 998-1981.) Advance reservations for the North Rim Campground may be made by calling (877) 444-6777 or online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). For information on Grand Canyon Trail Rides please call (435) 679-8665 or visit [www.canyonrides.com](http://www.canyonrides.com).



Rainbow Bridge

## Picture Yourself In A National Park

### National Park Week Is April 21-29.

Come enjoy your parks! Entrance into the parks and all National Park Service programs are FREE during National Park Week April 21-29. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area will be hosting the following events to celebrate:

**April 20, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.:** Glen Canyon National Recreation Area staff will join forces with Page High School students and teachers to plant native plants around the PHS Green Hogan in celebration of Earth Day. National Park Service staff will educate the students on the traditional uses of these native plants.

**April 21, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.:** Glen Canyon Artist-in-Park, Lyn Hart will conduct a weaving demonstration at Carl Hayden Visitor Center. Join Ms. Hart to practice some weaving techniques on a loom and to learn how the landscape provides inspiration for her artwork.

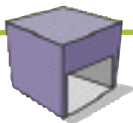
**April 21:** Glen Canyon will have solar activities set-up in Page City Park during the Page Attacks Trash event.

**April 28, 8 a.m. (all day event):** Glen Canyon volunteer Vivian Firlein will conduct a guided 4x4 drive to Alstrom Point, weather and road conditions permitting. Space is limited — call the Carl Hayden Visitor Center to sign-up or to get more information! Spring wildflowers make this a must-do event!

**April 28, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.:** Complete Junior Ranger activities and earn a Junior Ranger badge!

**April 28 and 29, 8 a.m.-12 noon:** Help move river rocks to better identify the trail. Join local Girl Scout Diana Greymountain at the Hanging Garden Trailhead for two mornings of volunteering. Water, snacks, and lunch provided. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather and bring your muscles.

For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/glca](http://www.nps.gov/glca)



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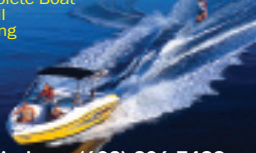
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PTEF® is Star brite's registered trademark name for polytetrafluoroethylene.



### Problem: Mildew Stains

**The Cause:** Mildew stains form on vinyl cushions, boat covers and in the head or other unvented areas of the boat.

**The Result:** Unsightly mildew stains make even the nicest boat look bad.



**Solution:** Spray Star brite® Mildew Stain Remover directly on stains, watch as they disappear and rinse well with fresh water. In most cases, just one application will whisk away mildew stains on contact.

### Problem: Rust Stains

**The Cause:** Rusting hardware leads to rust stains on unprotected fiberglass and painted surfaces.

**The Result:** Unsightly rust stains that run down the hull.



**Solution:** Spray Star brite® Rust Stain Remover directly on stains, watch as they disappear and rinse well with fresh water. In most cases, one application will whisk away rust stains on contact.

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## HAVASU

Continued from page 1

Frisini Motorsports, who opted to pass on the Miami Show, is bringing at least four and possibly five boats out West including a 43 Cat, a 38 Hypersonic vee, a 39 center console, a 32 Spectre cat and a 30 Vendetta open bow as part of the Oregon Custom Marine display.

MTI will not be outdone, thanks to a new catamaran which is making its out-west debut as well.

### Something For Everyone

With just days left before the boat show official opening, the exhibitor count has passed the 120 mark with more than 50 major boat brands represented on the show grounds. In addition to the high-performance boat bling, show visitors will have



Water Ski Racing

plenty to see in the way of new affordable family runabouts, fishing boats, pontoons, wakeboard/ski boats, personal watercraft and even some Hobie Kayaks.

For those who are fuel conscious, several of the newest models in electric boats will be shown too.

### Make It A Full Day

When you attend the boat show, better plan on making a full day of it. In addition to the boats, there's also a "Legends by the Lake" car show on Saturday and Sunday with immaculate street rods and muscle

cars of the past plus a display of vintage "hot boats" that were responsible for building the Colorado River's reputation as the recreational boating capital of the Southwest.

### Speed Indeed!

If you enjoy boat racing, the world's fastest water skiers hit the water at 9 a.m. sharp on Saturday and Sunday for three rounds of marathon speed ski competition conducted by the National Water Ski Racing Association. Races will last up to an hour long each and reach speeds in excess of 100 miles an hour in the expert classes.

If you've never seen side-by-side water ski racing in person, it's a thrilling extreme sport with incredibly well-conditioned athletes.

Then, at 2 p.m., the race course is turned over to the offshore racers. Three-time world offshore champion, Bob

Teague in his 36-foot AMSOIL Skater catamaran, will be out to defend his 2011 Havasu Championship against a field of outstanding competitors.

### Details

Boat show hours are Friday, April 20 from noon to dusk; Saturday, 9 a.m. to dusk and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$2.00 for adults; kids 12 and under are free. Parking is also free. Food courts and two beer gardens will also be open to serve visitors.

For those interested in buying a new boat, boat demos are available on a by-appointment basis immediately following the boat show on Sunday afternoon and all day on Monday, April 23.

For additional boat show information and a complete directory listing of exhibitors, please log on to [www.lakehavasuboatshow.com](http://www.lakehavasuboatshow.com).

## STORM

Continued from page 1

entire industry. Everyone in the performance marine industry to whom I spoke was nothing but positive about the plan.

The Lake Havasu Marine Association, who has put on the boat show for last 20 years, picked Bob Brown to produce this year's event. And Brown, with deep connections in the entire performance-boating industry, has filled the show to overflowing.

### Activities For Everyone

So, the week has activities for everyone, with water ski racing, offshore powerboat racing, a classic car show and a fantastic display of boats during the boat show weekend April 20-22.

Then, we have on-the-water demo rides and *Performance Boat Magazine's* boat tests taking place on the 23 and 24, leading us into the Desert Storm activities.

Tuesday afternoon, April 24, we host an industry gathering with our invitational fun run and lunch at Pirate Cove Resort for our sponsors and the manufacturers who have attended the boat show.

On Wednesday, April 25, we kick off the first annual Desert Storm "Krusin" for Kids" event. Organized by our own Christina Crane and Cherilyn Teague and hosted by the Nautical Resort, special-needs children and adults will be coming from all over Arizona to have their DREAMS come true one KRUSE at a time.

Volunteer boat drivers will take our guests out on beautiful Lake Havasu for a "Kruise" and back into the Nautical Resort where they will enjoy a fun-filled day created just for them at Nautical's new infinity edge pool, Wet!

### Three Organizations To Benefit

We have teamed up with three different organizations — Havasu for Youth, New Horizons and Civitan Foundation; the three organizations are bringing their clients and families to enjoy the festivities.

LakeRacer will be hosting a silent and live auction at the Desert Storm open house on Wednesday night. The proceeds from the auction will be divided equally among the three organizations, so they can continue the amazing work they do for

families in need.

The open house will be hosted by Oregon Custom Marine, the newest performance boat dealership in Lake Havasu. Join us for "Beer and Brats" provided by Romer Beverage and the Lake Havasu Marine Association.

### More Information, Registration

Online registration for the 2012 event is available on the LakeRacer Online Store and is required for reserving your rooms at the Nautical Resort. A sponsor list has been provided to the hotel for those wanting to reserve their rooms. Please contact Jim Nichols at [jimm@lakeracerllc.com](mailto:jimm@lakeracerllc.com) for sponsorship and advertising information.

The 2012 event magazine will include the Lake Havasu Boat Show as well as all the Official Desert Storm Activities.

### And, A Thanks From Jim

"I would like to thank all of my staff and volunteers who gave so much of their personal time and effort, as well as our sponsors, who believe in this event and make it so much more than just another poker run!" (Jim Nichols)



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**MAY 10-12 AT BARTLETT LAKE MARINA**

## The 16th Annual Day-On-The-Lake Program

The Day on the Lake program is the only adapted watersports program for those with physical and neurological disabilities offered in Arizona. Summer 2011 marked our 15th year of helping people who suffer from a neurological disability ride the waves at one of the most accessible waterside facilities in Arizona—Bartlett Lake Marina.

Day on the Lake 2012 will be held from May 10-12. (Please call the Resource Link at 877-602-4111 to register or to sponsor a participant. Contact the Barrow Connection at 602-406-6280 with any questions.)

Day on the Lake provides instruction and participation in the following activities:

- waterskiing
- jet ski rides
- fishing
- kayaking
- boat rides

The Day on the Lake program is offered to —

- Children ages 3-8 (fishing and boat ride only)
  - Children and adults 8 years and older (all activities)
  - Those with physical and/or neurological challenges who are at least 1 year post-injury
  - Note: Scholarships are available
- All are welcome to come out and watch the day's events and activities.

### Sponsors

Thank you to our 2011 "Hit It" Day on the Lake sponsors!

- [Bartlett Lake Marina](#)
- [Century Marine](#)
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**DOWNSTREAM** Events Calendar Beginning Mid-April**1912-2012****BEYOND ARIZONA****2012 YELLOWTAIL DERBY** — May 5 to June 10; San Diego; john@azbw.com**2012 SEAWORLD FUN CARD: 2012**

— When guests purchase a full-priced single day admission ticket (\$73 ages 10 and older/\$65 for children 3-9), they'll get to return with their *Fun Card* until the end of 2012 again and again! SeaWorld has boatloads of reasons for every season to visit the marine-life park in 2012. Opening in the spring of 2012 is Manta, an amazing, immersive, new mega attraction that takes you deep into the world of rays. On Manta, you can soar, dive and twist like a ray on SeaWorld's first multi-media double-launch coaster. From live concerts and fireworks, to seasonal shows, holiday festivities, community events and summer camps, there's a whale-sized list of reasons to visit again and again. All rides and seasonal events are included with park admission. For more information visit [www.seaworldsandiego.com](http://www.seaworldsandiego.com) or call (800) 25-SHAMU.

**BOATING****LAKE PLEASANT PADDLE FEST: April 28** — For all who enjoy self-propelled boats; at Lake Pleasant; Terry Gerber, (602) 372-7460, ext. 202**THUNDER ON THE RIVER: April 28-29** — Lake Havasu City; Rotary Park & Thompson Bay, inaugural hydroplane races at Lake Havasu, supercharged big-block engines producing as much as 1500 HP & speeds in excess of 160 mph, 928-230-1769 or <http://www.golakehavasu.com>**DESERT STORM: April 23-29** — LakeRacer LLC, [jimm@lakeracerllc.com](mailto:jimm@lakeracerllc.com)**6TH ANNUAL LAKE HAVASU GRAND PRIZ: April 20-22** — Lake Havasu City; the London Bridge Resort Convention Center, (699 London Bridge Road, 86403), Pacific Offshore Powerboat Racing Assn. boat race on a closed course, competition from all around the U.S., million dollar 22-50 foot boats scream across the water at 150 miles per hour, free to spectators, <http://www.golakehavasu.com> or <http://www.pacificoffshore.com>**CAMPING/RVING/AZ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES****EARTH DAY/PICNIC FOR THE PLANET: April 22** — Wickenburg, Hassayampa River Preserve, (4961 N. Hwy 60, 85390); celebrate Earth Day and help the Nature Conservancy set a world record for the biggest picnic across the globe, includes docent led walk, bring your lunch, hands on activities and demonstrations for students, reservations required, \$5, children 12 and under are free, 10 am - 1:30 pm, 928-684-2772 or <http://www.nature.org/arizona/preserves>**BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN: April 20-22** — Prescott; Camp Friendly Pines, offers adventure and life skills, for women age 18 and older to learn to camp, fish, rappel, hike, cook with Dutch ovens, photograph wildlife & a range of outdoor recreation skills, "hawk talks" and nature hikes, \$235 includesmeals, lodging and classes, 480-644-0077 or <http://www.azwildlife.org>**GRAND CANYON NORTH RIM: May 15** — Open for the 2012 summer season; (877) 444-6777**NATIONAL PARK WEEK: April 21-29** — For information on planned activities, visit [www.nps.gov/gla](http://www.nps.gov/gla)**EARTH DAY AT THE GRAND CANYON: April 22** — Grand Canyon National Park will celebrate the 42nd anniversary of Earth Day with demonstrations, games, information on local and national environmental initiatives, and much more. All Earth Day activities are free of charge and will take place at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center near Mather Point between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.


**The Just Trade Center Needs Your Help**

Café Justo is at a pivotal point. The cooperative has made great progress learning the operational aspects of running an international coffee business, managing the physical and financial needs and responding to crises in coffee supply and demands over the last 10 years.

The buildings in Chiapas and Sonora are paid for, the employees and growers have insurance and the day-to-day operations are getting better and better with respect to daily management, roasting operations and the logistics of moving the coffee between and across two countries.

The next focus area for the cooperative members will be marketing. In the next two years, the cooperative needs to learn the marketing and promotion of the coffee business, and they need our help.

Marketing in the USA is a lot more than learning English and how to use the Internet. Your donation to the Just Trade Center helps complete this final part of the transition from project to sustainable business. Can you help with a donation of \$20, \$50 or \$100?

To donate please e-mail: [tommy@fronteradecristo.org](mailto:tommy@fronteradecristo.org).

**CLASSES/SEMINARS****AZGFD, CG AUXILIARY, PHOENIX POWER SQUADRON BOATING CLASSES: Ongoing** (See page 3 of this issue.)**FISHING****29TH ANNUAL WESTERN OUTDOOR NEWS LAKE HAVASU STRIPER DERBY: May 12-13** — Lake Havasu City; Nautical Inn Resort, 2/person teams, \$100,000 in prizes, the largest of its kind anywhere in the West, perfect for novice and family teams, entry includes event shirt & hat, team goodie bag, Sat. BBQ & beach part and Sunday awards ceremony, 714-546-4370 or <http://www.golakehavasu.com> or <http://www.wonews.com>**HUNTING****BEN AVERY CLAY TARGET CENTER: Current** — Open seven days a week; (623) 434-8119**SHOWS/EXPOS****LAKE HAVASU BOAT SHOW: April 20-22, 2012** — Lake Havasu City; [www.lakehavasubootshow.com](http://www.lakehavasubootshow.com)**WATERSPORTS****Diving:****SAGUARO DIVING & SPORTS: Ongoing** — Learn to Scuba Dive, Open Water Certification Dives, Private Class & Pool, Private Lake Open Water Certification Dives, San Carlos, Mexico; Lake Pleasant, and more; Saguaro can plan your diving vacation for small groups or just one person. How about Grand Cayman, Curacao, Cozumel, Belize, Roatan, Bonaire, Turks & Caicos Contact Saguaro Diving & Sports, 908 E. Impala Ave., Mesa, AZ 85204; (480) 507-3988 or [sales@saguaroports.com](mailto:sales@saguaroports.com)**INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY CELEBRATION: May 13** — Wickenburg, Hassayampa River Preserve, (49614 Hwy 60 - Milepost 114, 85390), join for an early celebration of the journey of migratory birds between their wintering grounds to the south and their breeding grounds in North America, docent led bird walk 8-9:30 am, hourly bird banding demonstrations from 8-11 am, \$5 fee includes trail access all day, 12 and under free, reservations required, 928-684-2772 or [bmccollum@tnc.org](mailto:bmccollum@tnc.org)**17H ANNUAL PAYSON WILDLIFE FAIR: May 12** — Payson, Green Valley Park, wildlife-based activities, parents and kids can fish, play games and get a close-up look at wildlife, coop between the Arizona Game and Fish Dept., Mogollon Sporting Assn, US Forest Service & Parks & Rec., free, 9 am - 6 pm, 928-947-5242 ext 7 or <http://www.paysonparks.com> or <http://www.paysonrimcountry.com>**12TH ANNUAL FIESTA DE LAS AVES: April 29-May 5** — Bisbee; annual birding festival held in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day, includes birding tours in Southeastern Arizona and Northern Sonora, Mexico, birding seminars and birding vendors, owl prowls, lake walks, 520-432-1388 or <http://www.sabo.org>**NATURE AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL: May 3-6** — Rio Rico; Birding and History Along the Santa Cruz - Esplendor Resort, festival speakers include ornithologists, historians, archaeologists, border patrol officials, border community elected officials, and area residents, classes, tours, <http://www.santacruzheritage.org/HeritageFestival2012>**BUTTERFLY MAGIC: Through April 29, 2012** — Tucson Botanical Garden; be transported on a global quest for the most beautiful, exotic and rare butterflies of the world, hundreds of live, tropical butterflies in this intimate exhibit, \$6.50-12, 9:30 am - 3 pm, <http://www.tucsonbotanical.org/>

*Editor's Note: Please submit announcements for AZBW/WOT's calendar of events — "Downstream" — to [editor@azbw.com](mailto:editor@azbw.com). To guarantee placement, as room allows, items must be received by the 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.*

**SPRING**

Continued from page 9

These new flows have really opened up the river, creating an abundance of wading opportunities. To help put the current flow levels into perspective; our current high flow is approximately four vertical feet lower than the flows that we saw last year — the river is finally back to normal. It is really good to be back in the river, wading and sight casting.

**A Recent Fish Rating**

Upriver: 7.5 to 8.0  
Walk-In: 5 to 8.0

Spin-Fishing: 7

(Key: 1 = Go fish somewhere else 10 = Rent a helicopter and get here now!)

**A Recent Crowd Rating**

Upriver: 1 No Crowds during the week & 3.5 on the weekends

Walk In: 1 Nobody here during the week & 3 to 4 on the weekends

(Key: 1 = Sleep late and fish where you want. 10 = Very crowded, get up early)

**WILDLIFE-RELATED****VERDE VALLEY NATURE & BIRDING FESTIVAL: April 26-29** — Cottonwood, Dead Horse Ranch State Park, field trips, local tours, workshops & seminars, educational activities for kids, exhibits, key-note speaker, entertainment, \$10+, 5:30 am - 9 pm, 928-282-2202 or <http://www.birdyverde.org>**Frozen:****9TH ANNUAL DESERT ICE BONSPIEL: April 20-22** — Scottsdale, Alltel Ice Den, 24 curling teams from Canada and the U.S. will participate in the tournament, <http://www.coyotescurling.com> or <http://www.deserticebonspiel.com/>**Swimming:****11TH ANNUAL TEMPE INTERNATIONAL TRIATHLON: May 13** — Tempe Town Lake, the oldest triathlon at Tempe Town Lake and is an Arizona Classic, offers a completely shaded transition area, a beach start, custom finisher medals and women's specific sized tech T-shirts, swim 1500 meters, bike 24.9 miles, run 10 km; or swim 1/4 mile, bike 10 miles, run 3.1 miles, 6:30 am, 928-607-6737 or <http://www.trifind.net>



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## SPORTSMEN

Continued from page 10

lation to reproduce.

Research has demonstrated that with as few as 5-7 bucks per 100 does, reproduction and recruitment is not diminished.

Based upon public input and Commission guidance, the Department manages within a conservative range for buck-to-doe ratios, but could increase permits for deer or elk, without any negative consequences to recruitment, if there is a desire to increase the numbers of permits.

The Commission has chosen a conservative range because

sportsmen have requested a more conservative hunt structure, often focusing on public desires to pursue older-age class animals.

Arizona's guidelines for mule deer buck-to-doe ratios fall within the center of the ranges managed by other states. Selecting this conservative strategy reduced permit availability.

We hope this information broadens constituents' understanding of the data that was circulated in the open letter on this topic and gives a better understanding of harvestable big game numbers and the factors that influence those numbers. We look forward to continuing to work with you on these challenges and opportunities.

## PADDLEFEST

Continued from page 1

The event goes from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Lake Pleasant Regional Park. Take Highway 74 to Castle Hot Springs Road; go 5 miles and turn right; follow signs to Fireman's Cove, Peoria, Ariz. Use the north entrance.

There is no registration required, but park fees are as follow: \$6 per vehicle plus \$2 per paddle craft park entry.

For more information, contact Terry Gerber, interpretive ranger at (602) 372-7460 ext. 202.



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