



# Arizona Game and Fish Department

## Wildlife Matters

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## Bills Supported by the Commission

The Following Bills are pending and are supported by the Game and Fish Commission:

- **HB 2443** *off-highway vehicles; user fee*

## Payson Wildlife Fair

Green Valley Park in Payson, Ariz., will undergo an amazing transformation on Saturday, May 12, when its sprawling grassy expanses turn into a carnival full of wildlife and fun outdoor activities. The 13th annual Payson Wildlife Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day, and organizers have been working hard to make it the best yet. Admission is free.

"This is a great way for the family to spend a Saturday," says Craig McMullen, Arizona Game and Fish Department wildlife manager in the Payson District. "Parents and kids can fish, play games and get a close-up look at lots of amazing animals, including raptors. The wildlife featured is magnificent."

In addition to birds of prey, other live animals on display will include rattlesnakes, Gila monsters, prairie dogs and alligators. Fair visitors can also test their skills at one of the casting booths, virtual fishing galleries, air gun or archery ranges, and they can visit booths from a variety of conservation groups, including the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Arizona Wildlife Federation, Arizona State Parks and the Phoenix Herpetological Society, to name a few.

Green Valley Lake will receive more than double its usual stocking of trout in preparation for this event. The park typically receives about 300 pounds of trout per stocking.

## Night Shooting



For this event, 800 pounds of fish will be released into the lake prior to the fair. No fishing license is required for fair attendees, and equipment and bait can be borrowed from the free fishing booth at the fair.

The Payson Wildlife Fair is a cooperative effort between the Arizona Game and Fish Department, USDA Forest Service, Mogollon Sporting Association, and Payson Parks and Recreation Department.

Green Valley Park is located at 1000 W. Country Club Drive, Payson (take State Route 87 to Main Street and go about one mile west).

### **Ben Avery Clay Target Center – Night Shooting**

#### ***Evening shooting to be offered***

PHOENIX - The Ben Avery Shooting Facility Main Range and the Ben Avery Clay Target Center will transition to new summer hours of operation for the public next week.

Beginning Tuesday, May 1, the hours of operation will be:

- Mondays: Closed
- Tuesdays: 5-9:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-9:30 p.m. (closed 1-5 p.m.)
- Thursdays: 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-9:30 p.m. (closed 1-5 p.m.)
- Fridays: 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Saturdays: 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- Sundays: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“The new hours will allow us to better serve our customers this time of year, when days are longer and the weather hotter,” says Dana Yost, assistant director of information and education for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. “The expanded hours and lighted range areas will let shooters take advantage of more comfortable evening temperatures.” The Ben Avery Clay Target Center will resume offering evening trap, skeet and sporting clays shooting on May 1. Evening shooting had been suspended last November when the Arizona Game and Fish Department began renovations on the westernmost trap and skeet fields. Those renovations, which included installation of a new electrical system and lights, have been completed on most of the fields.

Yost added that when daytime temperatures begin

## May Events

consistently exceeding 100 F, the Main Range and Clay Target Center will adjust Saturday hours to 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-9:30 p.m. (closed 1-5 p.m.) and Sunday hours to 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We'll post the changes well in advance at the range and on the Arizona Game and Fish Department Web site at [azgfd.gov/basf](http://azgfd.gov/basf) and [azgfd.gov/ctc](http://azgfd.gov/ctc)," says Yost.

The department also is planning on lighting some of the archery ranges and will announce archery evening hours in the coming weeks.

Winter hours for the Main Range and Clay Target Center will resume sometime in late fall 2007. Those hours will be posted in advance at the range and on the Arizona Game and Fish Department Web site.

The Ben Avery Shooting Facility Main Range is located at 4044 W. Black Canyon Blvd. in Phoenix. The Ben Avery Clay Target Center is located at 37016 N. Archery Drive in Phoenix. To get to either, take I-17 to the Carefree Highway exit (exit 223). Go west on Carefree Highway about 1/4 mile for the Main Range entrance, or go west about 1/2 mile for the Clay Target Center entrance and follow the signs.

## May Happenings

**May 1, 2007**

**7:30 p.m.**

### **Birding By Ear**

We are fortunate to have Larry Liese speak at our banquet. A long-time member of Tucson Audubon, Larry hails from Vermont and is a terrific guide whether in Mexico, Central America, or Arizona. He leads field trips, birding and natural history trips throughout southern Arizona, as well as Belize, Chihuahua, Jalisco, Mata Ortiz and other south of the border spots. Larry started the Dastardly Duos column for Tucson Audubon and teaches a course on birding by ear. He loves sharing his passion for birds with people of all levels and his excitement and enthusiasm are contagious. Come and learn about birding by ear just in time to practice. NOTE: The May program will be associated with our Annual Banquet. Although there is no charge to attend our general membership meetings, the annual banquet does require a dinner reservation and associated cost. Check our Web site, newsletter, or contact a board member for location information.

**May 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2007**

**7:30 a.m.**



### **Arboretum at Flagstaff Birdwalks**

Find out why The Arboretum is such a great place for birdwatching on one of the Saturday Morning Birdwalks. Volunteer guides from the Audubon Society will help visitors to identify many migratory and resident species of birds that enjoy the pond and plant diversity in the gardens. Visit [thearb.org](http://thearb.org) for more information.

**May 12, 2007**

**6:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

#### **Migratory Bird Day at the Arboretum**

Boyce Thompson Arboretum has a checklist with more than 270 species of birds. Learn to identify birds on a guided birdwalk from 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., then attend a classroom presentation about avian photography by EJ Peiker. Volunteer wildlife rehabbers will have a living exhibit of migratory birds as well as other injured or orphaned mammals and reptiles that have been rescued; local Audubon Societies will have field guides and gear available at their tent.

**May 18-20, 2007**

**Friday 12:00 p.m. to Sunday 12:00 p.m.**

#### **Becoming an Outdoor Woman Workshop**

Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) introduces women to outdoors skills in an enjoyable, non-threatening environment. Expert instructors teach women skills such as canoeing, rock climbing, using a compass, fly fishing, Dutch oven cooking, archery and many more. Classes are held during the day, and evenings are filled with fun and entertainment like night hikes, musicians, and storytellers. Scheduled for May 18-20, 2007 and again Aug. 17-19, 2007. The program is held at Friendly Pines Camp near Prescott. Meals are provided, and participants sleep in cabins. The event starts at noon on Friday and ends at noon on Sunday. Cost for entire workshop is \$235. Visit [azwildlife.org](http://azwildlife.org) for more information.

**May 26, 27 & 28, 2007**

**6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Bowhunter Happening**

"Bowhunter Happening" 28th annual Arizona 3-D shoot at Sunrise Park Resort Cyclone Base in Greer, Arizona. One of the largest family archery 3-D shoots in the west. Host of the "Western States Triple Crown" 3-D championship. Contact Arizona Bowhunters Association Web site for more information.



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*Department Staff have contributed to this publication in the form of articles and photographs.*

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