

MESA REPUBLIC

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2012

A GANNETT COMPANY

Z15 SECTION M

Weekend camp lets women experience outdoors living

Contributed by Paul Wolterbeek, who volunteers for Becoming an Outdoors Woman.

Over the weekend of April 20-22, Valley women will slide down a zipline. They'll learn how to bait a hook and fire a pistol, take better photos, build cleaner campfires and stay safe in the desert and Rim country woods.

There's still time to enroll in the annual Becoming an Outdoors Woman camp that offers a weekend getaway package to learn outdoor skills and activities.

Kathy Greene is among volunteer instructors, and she describes here how she got involved with BOW and the direction she has taken with advanced outdoor lessons, day trips and adventures.

Question: How did you get involved with BOW?

Answer: In 1996, I went to my first camp as a participant. I overheard some

BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN

When: April 20-22.

Where: Camp Friendly Pines near Prescott.

How much: \$250 for the weekend includes meals, lodging, equipment for classes and top-notch instructors (\$280 with horsemanship class).

To register: azwildlife.org or 480-644-0077.

ladies talking about their archery class. Being a certified archery instructor, I volunteered for the next BOW Camp and

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have been doing that now for 17 years.

Q: How does BOW live up to your expectations?

A: I love how I can give the ladies something new to learn and show them how much fun archery is. One of my biggest thrills is watching the ladies popping balloons by the end of our two-hour class. The excitement, the smiles on their faces — that makes my whole weekend a success.

Q: Name a few classes/activities you have taught or participated in.

A: Outdoor essentials, basic camp cooking, fly fishing. I love fly fishing, seeing if I can get that fish to take a hand-made fly that's supposed to look like a bug. The fun and artistic challenge of creating your own lure/fly and have a fish take it — now that's exciting!

Q: Some participants describe BOW camps as life-changing.

A: Many ladies arrive afraid of outdoor activities, but willing to try new things, and being around other women who feel the same way can help make those fears vanish.

Q: What is "Beyond BOW"? And tell us about arizonaoutdoorwomen.com, your own adventure planning service.

A: Arizona BOW camps, like our next one April 20-22, are made possible through the Arizona Wildlife Federation, which is a non-profit organization based in Mesa. As an instructor I keep hearing participants say they want more opportunities, and asking if there are more ways they can experience the outdoors all year long.

I decided to take some of our more popular classes to the next level and founded arizonaoutdoorwomen.com. Last June we had a macro photography workshop at Boyce Thompson Arboretum. In August we all went ATV riding in Sedona. September was a perfect month for advanced fly fishing at Woods Canyon Lake. And recently, on April 1, we whitewater rafted the Salt River north of Globe. On May 6 we're having a basic handgun class.

I was lucky, as a kid my mom loved the outdoors. We spent summertime in the White Mountains camping, fishing and hiking. During the winter my father was scuba diving in the Gulf of California.

As an adult I continue that love for the outdoors with my husband, Don, fishing, camping, and hunting together.