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Dream Jobs



AMERICANS MAY BE GROWING INCREASINGLY WEARY of their jobs, but it doesn't have to stay that way.

A survey by the Conference Board found that only 50 percent of working Americans were satisfied with their jobs in 2005, compared with 60 percent in 1995. It cites stress, lack of personal achievement and time away from their families, among other factors, for Americans' dissatisfaction.

Those ages 35 to 44 were the least happy with their jobs, and older workers, age 65 and older, were the most satisfied. While lower-income workers tended to be more dissatisfied, the downward trend was seen across all income groups.

People stay in unfulfilling jobs for a number of reasons, including fear, stoicism, indecision and being so busy they don't realize how dissatisfying their work really is.

But many others are breaking out and following their passions into the jobs of their dreams.

Meet a dozen Arizonans who have done just that. Some, such as spa critics Margaret Ancira and Kada Tierney, built businesses around their passions. Others, such as Phoenix Suns physical therapist Michael Clark and freelance photographer Alex Stricker, followed their passions into careers.

However they arrived at their dream jobs, they're doing what they love and reaping financial and personal rewards by following the mantra, "Do what you makes you happy, and the money will follow."

**By
Max Jarman**



BASS FISHERMAN AND FISHING GUIDE

BEN KOLLER

Ben Koller is not only a professional bass fisherman and fishing guide, he's also an entrepreneur.

His business, the Hook Up Outfitters in Phoenix, represents a cadre of local fishing guides, organizes fishing trips and runs corporate outings and team-building events.

In January, he plans to open a branch in San Diego that will specialize in saltwater fly-fishing.

Koller fishes more than 200 days a year, either competing on the FLW Tournament bass circuit or guiding fly fishermen to his secret spots in the White Mountains.

A Phoenix native, Koller, 31, learned how to fish for bass as a boy at Lake Pleasant and later spent summers trout fishing in the White Mountains.

"I loved fishing, and it became kind of an addiction for me," Koller says.

He looked for ways to make a living at it: "I thought I wanted to be a professional fisherman, and I was pretty successful at it."

But he also found he really enjoyed teaching people how to catch fish.

"It became kind of a passion to teach and watch people catch fish," he says, noting the guide service was a natural offshoot.

Koller continues to fish professionally, but he balances that with teaching fishing clinics and guiding.

"Making a living on the water is a lifestyle choice," Koller says. "Every day I get to go to a beautiful place, meet new people and share my excitement about catching fish with them." >>>