



NEWSLETTER

wmflyfishingclub.com

Established 1996

P.O. Box 2187, Pinetop, AZ 85935

July 2023

WMFFC MISSION STATEMENT:

The Mission Statement of the White Mountain Fly Fishing Club is: "To assist in the development and maintenance of fly fishing opportunities and to promote and participate in fly fishing in its many forms."

We support the practice of "Catch and Release." We support the use of barbless hooks and harmless netting-and-release practices. Fish should never be held out of water for longer than you can hold your breath.

"Tight Lines"—Column:

Well summer has arrived in the White Mountains. It is currently 88 degrees and has been in the 90's a few days this week. This means, of course, that the water temperatures are rising and the fish are going deeper. Remember to fish early in the day or in the late afternoon so you don't stress the fish.

At June's meeting our guest speaker was Tyler Forsberg with AZG&F from Silver Creek Hatchery. He gave us some updates of work that is being done on the creek to clear out reeds and rebuild some of the rock structures that were blown out during the last few years flooding. He also talked about some to the stocking that was being done and where they would not be stocking this year (Sheep's Crossing). There was a discussion on the New Zealand mudsnails that have been discovered in Tonto Creek. This has forced the closing of Tonto Creek Hatchery. Game and Fish are surveying the area to see how many snails spread in the creek.

It only takes one snail to start a new population. They have also been found in Oak Creek, the lower Verde River below Bartlett Dam and the lower Salt River at Granite Reef. In April they were discovered in Canyon Creek, forcing the Canyon Creek Hatchery to temporarily close.

This is a picture of the New Zealand Mud snails. Make sure to properly clean all your gear when you finish fishing and before to go to another location. New Zealand mud snails are not an alternative food source to native fish since they have very low nutritional value and most often pass through a fish's digestive track unharmed. After moving into a lake or stream, these mud snails are nearly impossible to remove without damaging other aspects of the habitat.



Fisheries Management Plans – Woodland Lake.

- Managed for Rainbow Trout under the Intensive Use Concept.
- Will continue to stock trout each year to meet this objective.
- Managed for Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, and Bluegill under General Opportunity Concept.
- Plan to stock Largemouth Bass and Bluegill when needed as determined by surveys.
- Plan to stock catchable Channel Catfish each year.
- Fish habitat added in 2021, potential to add more in the future if there is a need.
- Future plans to survey more often to evaluate fishery.

July's Guest speaker will be Josh Criswell, Arizona Conservation Project Manager for Trout Unlimited.



Wishing you a tug at the end of you line.



Dawn Hewitt
resident

PROPOSED OUTING SCHEDULE

We need a volunteer to be our Outings Chair. Please reach out to me if you will be willing to take this over. The previous Chair had to resign.

These are the proposed Outings for 2023: We are desperately in need to a volunteer to lead the Outings.

July 22:	Hawley Lake
August 19:	Reservation Lake
September 7	Annual Fund Raising Banquet at Hungry Buffalo in Lakeside
September 23:	TBF
October 21:	Becker Best Days
November 18:	Silver Creek

The Committee chair will need/appoint a Captain for each outing. The Captain will speak at the meeting prior to the Outing addressing where we will meet and what we can expect in the way of fishing. They will be responsible for putting out the signs showing the way. They will determine whether or

The annual fundraising Banquet will be held on Thursday September 7th at the Hungry Buffalo. The restaurant will have to close for the night to allow us to have our event. The menu choices will be 12oz Prime Rib or 8 oz Salmon with side salad, baked potato green beans with bacon and desert of lemon bars. The ticket price will be \$40 which is offset by a contribution from the club. Please tell all you friends and family as we need to make this a big success. There will be raffle prizes and several silent auction items including a Two seated Sea Eagle Fold Cat Inflatable Boat valued at over \$1,700. We have not had a banquet since 2019 and we desperately need to raise funds to continue to offer meetings, classes and fund other ventures.

Silver Creek maintenance Work day



Volunteers and AZGFD staff improve trout habitat and fishing access along lower meadow of Silver Creek

Silver Creek has received four "100-year" floods in the last three years. These floods have changed channel direction, eroded the streambanks (thus widening the creek), damaged existing rock dam structures, and deposited significant silt in the stream channel. All this has resulted in less habitat for trout, shallower water column (thus raising water temps), and invasion of marsh-like vegetation. Until a comprehensive plan can be designed and approved, short-term mitigation efforts must be deployed to maintain the trout fishery.

On June 27, members of the Payson Flycasters Gila Trout Unlimited Chapter and the **White Mountain Fly Fishing Club** met to complete a volunteer work day at Silver Creek to improve trout habitat and fishing access along the lower meadow. Including Silver Creek Hatchery staff, a total of 11 individuals completed stream restoration along the lower meadow. Over 1/4 mile of stream was mechanically treated on both shorelines to remove invasive bullrush, cattails, and hydrilla. In addition, four rock dam structures were repaired by hand so that flow was once again channeled down the center of the stream instead of out the sides of the dams as the flood had created. The hundreds of anglers that will visit Silver Creek this summer will have unobstructed angler access to the creek, thus improving their angling experience. The trout should also enjoy the more channeled water and slightly deeper pools due to the rock dam repairs.

White Mountains Fishing Report

At **Big Lake** (report courtesy of Sportsman's Warehouse), fishing has been rated as very good. If you do get a small boat on the lake, try trolling worms, spinners and flies. To attract cutthroat, use lures that resemble crayfish or their movement. Fly fishing intermediate and sinking line would be recommended; if fishing a little deeper, black woolly buggers and olive woolly buggers would work.

The **East Fork Black River** and **West Fork Little Colorado River-Greer** are scheduled to be stocked with Apache trout this week.

An increase in daytime temperatures and windy days are in the forecast this week for Flagstaff and Williams. Highs will be in the high 80s to the low 90s and lows will be in the 50s. Water temperatures will range from the 60s to the low 70s for the lakes around Williams, Flagstaff, and the Mogollon Rim.

This is the time of year when trout fishing starts to slow down and fishing for warmwater species such as bass, bluegill, crappie, walleye, perch, and catfish starts heating up. This is also the time of year when water quality parameters such as temperature, pH, and Dissolved Oxygen can reach levels that are not suitable for stocking and can be stressful to fish. Trout fishing will be best early in the morning and late in the evening. Trout will move away from shore and deeper in the lake as water temperatures increase.

Fly Anglers: Producing flies this week include #10 bead headed Simi-seal leeches (brown, black, olive, and dark purple), #10 bead headed woolly buggers (brown, black, olive, and dark purple), #18-16 zebra midge, #12 prince nymph, #14 renegade, #14 elk hair caddies, #16 pheasant tail, #12-14 San Juan worm, and hoppers. A double nymph or dry dropper combo are both worth trying out this week. Pay attention to the hatch and mix it up until you find what works. On windy afternoons, some flying ants have been showing up on some lakes. Hoppers are abundant on most of the waters right now. The cicadas are starting at some waters on the Mogollon Rim. Warmwater fish have moved close to shore on most lakes to spawn as water temps on most of the lakes are in the mid-60s to low 70s.



Daddy, do fish grow on trees? No, sweetie, they don't.
Then how do they get enough fish for Breeze?

As you can see, Breeze, our new immature Bald Eagle LOVES her fish! She is thankful to Tim Gatewood (Fisheries Program Manager, White Mountain Apache Tribe Game and Fish Department) and the Apache Trout Crew (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and Zachary Jackson, the Project Coordinator, AZ Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office. Instead of tossing invasive non-native trout, they have been providing some of them to Breeze. She eats a LOT of trout every day! We also thank the White Mountain Fly Fishing Club, the Rim Country Fishing Sisters, and individuals who have brought her trout. THANK YOU! With your help she will soon grow into a majestic American Bald Eagle!

2021-22 WMFFC Board Members

President:	Dawn Hewitt	(480) 695-3965
Past President:	Barry Curseaden	(623) 398-5242
Vice President:	Gary Hall	(480) 510-6362
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IFFF Representative:	Gary Hall	(480) 510-7381
AZG&F Liaison & Website Coordinator Banquet Committee	VACANT	
	Gary Miller, Kitty Wiemelt, Marcy Greenberg, Dawn Hewitt, Gary Hall and Mary	

PICTURE GALLERY



The Wiemelt's catches at the Big Horn River in Ft. Smith, Montana