



# NEWSLETTER

*wmflyfishingclub.com*

*Established 1996*

*P.O. Box 2187, Pinetop, AZ 85935*

*May 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:***

The upcoming meeting will be May 17th at The Nature Center on Woodland Road in Lakeside, AZ. Social Hour will begin at 5:30 PM and Meetings will start with a brief business meeting at 6:00-6:30 followed by a presentation by Ryan Follmuth, Fisheries Manager for Arizona Game and Fish Department, Pinetop Office.

Our joint outing this month is at Big Lake with Arizona Flycasters from Chandler. Some of our members will be camping in the Fir Group Campground in the Apache Campground site. If you don't camp come up for the day to fish.

Our guest speaker this month will be Ryan Follmuth, Aquatic Wildlife Program Manager with the Arizona Fish and Game Department in Pinetop. Many of you sent me what you would like to find out from Ryan and the list was lengthy so I advised him to pick from the list and if everything cannot be covered we may have Ryan or one of his subordinates join us for another meeting.

We had four new members join last month and I'm hoping for more this month. Doc Dockendorf, an old time member, has donated some of his gear as he is selling his place up here in the mountains. He wants to wish all you who've know him well.

Wishing you a tug at the end of you line.

***Dawn Hewitt***

President



## 2021-22 WMFFC Board Members

<b>President:</b>	Dawn Hewitt	(480) 695-3965
<b>Past President:</b>	Barry Curseaden	(623) 398-5242
<b>Vice President:</b>	Gary Hall	(480) 510-6362
<b>Secretary:</b>	Marcie Greenberg	(480) 993-4623
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Marge Dennis	(928) 358-1901
<b>Board Member at Large:</b>	John Potts	(480)766-8020
<b>Board Member at Large:</b>	Gary Miller	(602)478-0883
<b>Board Member at Large:</b>	Rick Tesinsky	(928)288-3881
<b>Membership Chairman:</b>	Peggy Sherman	(480) 203-6414
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<b>Newsletter Chairman:</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>Outings Chairman:</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>IFFF Representative:</b>	Gary Hall	(480) 510-7381
<b>AZG&amp;F Liaison &amp; Website Coordinator</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>Banquet Committee</b>	Gary Miller, Rick Tesinsky, Kitty Wiemelt, Marcy Greenberg, Dawn Hewitt, Gary Hall and Mary	

### 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.

May 20:	Big Lake come on up for the day
June 24:	Greer Lakes
July 22:	Hawley Lake
August 19:	Reservation Lake
September 23:	Possible Trip to the San Juan
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 not we bring the club trailer depending on the number of participants.

A little tidbit from Capt. Kirk Eberhard—How not to break your fly rod:

1. It's difficult to break a rod stored in a tube or case. Delay stringing the rod until you are ready to go fishing. First thing after fishing put the rod back in the case. Simple advise that will eliminate many breakage issues.
2. Keeping ferrules clean and lightly waxed insures a strong assembly and easy take down. Periodically check ferrules for tightness, especially after the first couple dozen casts. Loose ferrules cause unsightly cracks, blank failure and even lost rod tips.

The following is an interesting article that was sent to me by Mike Styveart. I hope you enjoy reading it.

## If You Can't Fish Dry Flies, You're Missing the Point

by [Domenick Swentosky](#) | Apr 2, 2023

The fundamental kernel of fly fishing lies in the angler's ability to cast and manipulate line, leader and tippet, to send not just a fly to the target, but to also control what that fly is attached to, both in the cast and throughout the drift. This is what separates fly fishing from conventional tackle. And nothing teaches or trains an angler better in this concept, revealing the options inherent, better than fishing dry flies.

Decades ago, nymphing was a mystery to most fly fishers, and the streamers were tied on when trout wouldn't play ball. But much has changed within the thirty years or so that I've been paying attention to industry trends and angler interest. And now, more than ever, we see fly fishers specializing in every facet of the game, from wet fly devotees to streamer junkies and euro nymphers.

In just a few years, the tables have turned. While once it was common to run into the dry-flies-only crew around every bend, I now talk with anglers, every day, who don't fish dry flies, don't tie dry flies and can't cast a fly line. Instead, they are dedicated to nymphs or streamers, either having no interest in fishing dries or, more often, are intimidated by the challenge of casting them.

That's too bad, because dry fly fishing is easier than nymphing, by a wide margin. Nymphing is an art of the unseen, played on a three-dimensional field of depths and angles, full of educated guesses and calculated coverage. Mastering the casting challenges of dry fly fishing is a significant hurdle, but once the fly lands, we can see success on the surface. There are fewer questions with a dry, and the results are observed. Good drift or bad? That's easily known on a dry fly.

Those who follow Troutbitten already understand that I'm not here to tell you my way is best. But I've been around the game long enough to see what works for people, what brings about struggles or boredom, and why anglers give up. So when people ask me the best way to get into fly fishing, I strongly suggest this, every time — learn to fish dry flies.

Troutbitten has become closely tied to Mono Rig and tight line tactics, so I field endless questions about euro nymphing from beginners. And I tell them the same thing — learn to fish dry flies, or you're missing the point.

Why? Not for aesthetics and not for tradition, neither of which I care a lick about. Learn to fish dry flies, or you'll miss *the point of fly fishing*. Meaning, you'll miss the ability to push line and leader through the air, under control, to manipulate and mend that tether to the fly through aerial maneuvers born of great speed and crisp rod tip motions, all of which hold tremendous value for the other styles of fly fishing, lending excellent presentations to nymphs and streamers.

So, learn to fish dry flies, and you'll fish nymphs and streamers a whole lot better too.

I'm a tireless advocate for long leader styles when weight is involved. I write and speak of [the Mono Rig](#) because [the tight line advantage](#) beats the handicap of a fly line once the weight of a nymph, streamer or split shot is involved. But I have never met an angler who casts a tight line system worth a damn, if they have no skill with fly line and a dry fly. As a guide, casting is the biggest struggle that I see, day to day. And when a new angler picks up the fly rod with a long leader and weight attached, they never learn to cast the leader itself. Instead, the weight of the fly or split shot becomes the focus.

I've encountered this so often and found so few exceptions, that I finally understand what ails many nymphing anglers. They can't cast dry flies. They lack the ingrained habit, the learned instinct for loading a fly rod and swiftly sending that flex in the other direction. I now believe it's a feeling that is only learned by spending time with dry flies and a fly line, *without* the weight of a tungsten bead or lead to do the work that the hands and a great casting stroke should be doing.

I recently spoke with Tom Rosenbauer about this, when [I was a guest on his Orvis podcast](#). And during that conversation, I realized this fact more clearly than ever. As I told Tom, the difference between fly casting and conventional casting is the ability to cast and place not just the fly, but the line and leader itself. And this is too often missed by anglers who have done no work with dries.

With conventional gear in hand, the line from rod tip to lure is straight and tight (generally), with no option to mend line on the water, to introduce meaningful slack or even change directions dramatically. Likewise, the cast finishes in a straight line on conventional tackle, without option for [a tuck cast](#), a curve cast or some other aerial mend.

That ability to manipulate and deliver the line and leader, in addition to the fly, has great value throughout all styles of fly fishing, from wets to dries, from nymphs to streamers. It's intuitively learned by casting dry flies but easily missed when casting the weighted setups of nymphs or streamers. And it is almost always missed when an angler learns by casting long leader systems only.

Again, Troutbitten regulars are familiar with my insistence on [casting and not lobbing](#), on treating the Mono Rig, for example, like a fly line — because it fishes better that way. Indeed, [I build my favorite tight line leader](#) so it has that performance capability. But most recently, I've finally come to believe this . . .

. . . If you can't fish dry flies, you're missing the point. I've yet to find an exception. Fish hard, friends.

#### **Good News:**

I have received 500 brochures so if you have a business or know of one that would be willing to display them let me know and I'll give you them and holders.

I have found a vendor here in the White Mountains that is in the process of making us patches. We will soon have patches with our real logo. New members will be given them free.