



# NEWSLETTER

[wmflyfishingclub.com](http://wmflyfishingclub.com)-[flyfishingwmclub.com](http://flyfishingwmclub.com)

Established 1996 P.O. Box 2187, Pinetop, AZ 85935 April 2025



## Presidents Column, Tight Lines

Well, Spring has Sprung with rain and snow showers, not as much we hoped for so far. We are still under Level One restrictions in our forests. Hopefully, we will get more moisture coming our way.

We are looking forward to getting back to our local waters to get some fishing in and hopefully catching that big one.

Kitty has been busy setting up speakers for the next few months. Be sure to watch your newsletters for the coming meetings scheduled speakers.

We have been working on a Fall banquet location and date to be announced soon. We will need membership participation to make this a successful event.

I received a message from Payson Fly Casters on a **June 3<sup>rd</sup> Silver Creek Restoration** project. They are asking for our membership assistance on this project. Please consider getting involved in this joint effort with PFC, TU and the Arizona Game and Fish folks. I will have more details soon.

Mike W - President

***APRIL WMFF meeting—***

***Held at White Mountain Nature Center***

***425 S. Woodland Rd. Lakeside***

***APRIL 16TH. 5:30 Raffle and chatting***

***Program: BRUCE BOWERS, “Entertaining History of Fly Fishing”***

***Continuing Raffle—Fundraiser—Rod and Reel***

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***Dues are being collected—We meet Jan-Dec.***

***Only new members have to fill out the liability sheet***

## April 16 -Bruce Bowers

### “Entertaining History of Fly Fishing”



Bruce Bowers grew up in Indiana and became a fisherman at the age of six using a fly rod given to him by his uncle. The first fly fishing adventure was catching bluegills over their beds with a small popper.

Bruce graduated with an Electronics degree and was hired by Motorola in Phoenix. Bruce was introduced to northern Arizona streams and lakes where rainbows, browns. And smallmouth bass were the targeted fish.

Bruce retired eight years ago and now is focused on fishing, art (oil painting) and traveling with his wife of 57 years—Dianne.



### Trout from the Salt

Bruce is a member of Desert Fly Casters and was responsible for programs—bringing in guest speakers from around the world for the past two and a half years. Bruce is the club artist where some of his work can be seen on the back of the club hoodies.

Bruce will present the history of fly fishing. Please sit back and enjoy...

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“I make it a rule never to weigh or measure a fish I’ve caught, but simply to estimate its dimensions as accurately as possible, and then, when telling about it, to improve those figures by roughly a fifth, or twenty percent. I do this mainly because most people believe all fisherman exaggerate by at least twenty percent, and so I allow for the discounting my audience is almost certain to apply. Ed Zern “Are Fishermen really Liars?”

### Fly Fishing at Lees Ferry By Marcie Greenberg

The first weekend in April, the Rim Country Campin’ Sisters and I were camping at Lees Ferry. Jen and I fished at several locations, on a couple different days; and we didn’t get a single bite. Thinking it was just our bad luck, or that we were using the wrong flies, we luckily met a young biologist who set us straight. He shared his opinion about happened to the fishery in that location. He thinks its gone and maybe not coming back due to the warm water, lack of midge production (lack of nutrients), and the fluctuating levels of the river. Jen told him that she and her son fished there for three days last Thanksgiving, and he caught one large trout at the Walk In. (Nice Fish! I saw the photo!) She told the biologist that for the past eight years of fishing there a couple of times a year, she only caught one large flannelmouth sucker. Before that she pulled them in ‘hand over fist’. We mostly fished at the Walk In and the Beach, and I fished the Paria and at the confluence trying to catch a flannelmouth sucker. The biologist told us that they spawn there, so, I thought I’d give it a try. I did see one breach! Yay! The weather was warm and nice during the two days we fished there, and we had a great time even though we came up empty. Two years ago in April, Dawn Hewitt, my friend Kat, and I fished with the guide, Dave Foster. We caught at least two dozen large trout by the dam. One of my long life’s, BEST DAYS EVER! So, if you’re planning a trip to Lees Ferry, bring a boat or hire a guide. Guaranteed you’ll have better luck than we did this year.



## WHY PURPLE FLIES?

According to an AI overview, Trout are attracted to purple flies because, while they see shades of blue best, purple appears as a flashy attractive hotspot, drawing their attention.

**Details:** Trout possess a strong sense of vision. Purple, situated between blue and red on the spectrum, appears as a bright, flashy color to trout, making it stand out and draw their attention. Purple flies can be effective in both clear and murky water conditions, as the natural shimmer flashy purple can attract fish. When trout aren't actively feeding on a specific hatch, using a purple fly can be a good way to "prospect: or "probe" for those fish that are.

According to Gary Lewis, he wrote: The ribbon of blue water wound down out of a steep mountain range. East to cross or wade in almost any of its reaches and emerging from a deep gorge, this river held trout—rainbows and browns—that were seldom fished over. The river was new to me, but the trout were as old as time. Someone handed me a Purple Haze to try, a dry fly tied for Montana waters. Similar to a Parachute Adams tied in purple, it moved like a Blue Winged Olive. That day, trout loved this fly.



## *2024-25 WMFFC Board Members*

<b>President:</b>	Mike Whitney	(541) 390-5389
<b>Past President:</b>	Barry Curseaden	(623) 398-5242
<b>Vice President:</b>	Gary Hall	(480) 510-6362
<b>Secretary:</b>	Kitty Wiemelt	(480) 329-6996
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Marcie Greenberg	(480) 993-4623
<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>	Margie Dennis	(602) 203-6414
<b>Board Member at Large:</b>	Jon Wallace	(480) 694-9865
<b>Membership Chairman</b>	Marcie Greenberg	(480) 993-4623
<b>Conservation and Community Projects Chairman:</b>		Unfilled
<b>Education Chairman:</b>	Gary Miller	(602) 478-0883
<b>Newsletter Chairman/Website:</b>	Kitty Wiemelt	(480) 329-6996
<b>Outings Chairman:</b>	John Potts	(480) 766-8020
<b>IFFF Representative:</b>	Gary Hall	(480) 510-7381
<b>AZG&amp;F Liaison</b>	Larry Kivela	(480) 695-5162
<b>Inventory Chairman</b>	Scott Dennis	(602) 339-7518

#### 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.

## April outing—Fools Hollow-April 18th-7a.m.

**Get the pink tag and mark you are only going fishing-you take a left so we can fish for free on the west side only. Pete says fishing is good.**

### A Family Adventure in the Wilds of Alaska by Larry Kivela

In August 2024 I flew out from Phoenix at about 8 p.m. on a Friday and had a hold over in Seattle Washington for 4 hours where I met up with my son Cameron. We then flew up to Anchorage Alaska and then caught a connecting flight out to Bethel Alaska where we waited for five hours hoping the cloud ceiling would lift so we could fly out and not have to find a hotel for the night. We were finally able to fly out at 5 p.m. on a twin engine turbo prop. We each had a cooler full of food to eat and duffle bag of clothes along with two fishing rods each. I had tied up many flies for the trip. The pilot flew at about 600' elevation to the southeast to a Eskimo village close to the Good News River about 1 hour south where we met Jeff a fishing buddy from Desert Fly Casters and our fishing guide who's place we stayed at. We cooked our own meals each day along with making sandwiches for our lunch. The guide had a jet boat that we went out on each day and fished from the boat. It had rained so much just before we got there and the river was up about 3' higher than normal. We then could only fish from the boat since there was no shore or sand bars to fish from. The guide stated that in prior years they were always able to fish from the river shore area or sand bars. At the edge of the river is high brush or trees with no room for a back cast. The silver salmon were hitting on large flies in white, green and pink with silver or gold flash with a trailing hook.

We left camp each morning at 7 a.m. for a very cool ride along the ocean to the river and up river for 3 miles. We fished several river eddies and mouths of creeks flowing into the river. Since there were three fishermen in the boat only two people could fish at the same time. When a person caught a fish, he rotated to a sitting area and then the person waiting his turn got to catch a fish either up front or at the back of the boat. We kept the guide busy since each of us were catching a fish every 2 to 4 minutes. So, you only had to make two casts at most to catch a fish and then rotate out for the next guy to catch a fish. My hands ended up getting very sore and my back just ached so bad. The Tylenol only helped a little bit. We were catching from thirty to forty-five fish a day each. The fish ranged in size from ten pounds to 15 pounds each. Most days were cloudy with only two days having light rain.

We would come in at about 5 p.m. and Jeff would clean the four or five fish we brought back each day. The fish would then be washed off and vacuum sealed to be put in the freezer. My son Cameron cracked both of his eight weight rods with his big strong arms. So, he ended up borrowing one of my rods or one of Jeff's rods for the last three days of the trip. When we left on the following Sunday, we were able to get the only flight out that day back up to Bethel.

I then built two new eight-weight fly rods for my son and took them up to him in January where he lives in upstate New York. Gary Miller from our own fishing club was instrumental in helping me build those two rods. I want to thank Gary personally for his expertise and help. I spent about 32 hours on each rod.

It was such a great and memorable trip to be with my son Cameron along with my good friend Jeff who put the entire trip together for the three of us and I thank him tremendously. It was a fishing trip of a life time for me and my son and neither of us will ever forget it.