



NEWSLETTER

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Established 1996

P.O. Box 2187, Pinetop, AZ 85935

February 2025



Presidents Column – “Tight Lines”

Well, here we are into February and its already feeling like Spring with these warm temperatures. My neighbor is bummed because there is too thin ice on the lakes for his “ice fishing” outings.

I must apologize to you all. I brought up the topic of a February rod building class and neglected to put out the sign-up sheet, also the sign-up sheet for a weekly or monthly fly tying get together.

I will have them out at the February meeting if anyone is interested. If I forget them, I hope you will come forward and remind me.

Once again, my fly fishing is on hold as I check in next Monday, Feb 10 for a total replacement of my right shoulder. I had tripped and fell on the repair and totally wiped out my rotator cuff. Needless to say, my Dr. was not happy with me.

I hope some of you are able to get out with this weather and get some fishing in. I look forward to your stories at our Feb. meeting.

Mike W. - President

***February WMFF meeting—
Held at White Mountain Nature Center
425 S. Woodland Rd. Lakeside
February 19th. 5:30 Raffle and chatting
Program: Mike Whitney—Special Flies
Continuing Raffle—Fundraiser—Rod and Reel
Dues are being collected—Jan-Dec.
Fill out sheet—new and renewals.
Remember WMFF will be continuing throughout the year.***

Want to Learn How to Get Unsnagged? By Joe Mahler from FlyFisherman

We all get snagged from time to time-it's a fact of fishing. Knowing how to properly get unsnagged will save you time, flies, and frustration.

I think that the best anglers get snagged more than lesser-skilled because they fish closer to structures like mangroves, Lilly pads and root wads, and when trout fishing they are better at fishing close to the bottom where trout feed. But they get unsnagged more.

1. Your first gut reaction to a snag may be to jerk, or yank the hook to free it. This rarely does anything but bury the hook, or even break a rod tip. Instead, relax, assess the situation and make a plan.
2. When you're casting to a shoreline and overshoot your target, chances are the hook is not stuck at all it's just resting in the grass or branches. Stop. Take a breath, point the rod tip at the fly, and slowly tease the fly toward you. Most of the time the fly slides into the water or gently drops to the surface. If the leader is wrapped around a branch one revolution, putt the fly close to the branch and give it a quick pop. The fly often unwraps without snagging.
3. When the tease doesn't work and you feel resistance, try a slow, steady pull without bending the rod. If the fly is hooked on a leaf or grass, it should tear out. If you're using 15-pound-test tippet or stronger, you can likely break any small branches, save the fly, and preserve your rod tip.
4. This is the least dependable of the methods mentioned here but it sometimes works. Start by pointing the rod tip at the snag, and with your line hand, pull the line tight. Next, quickly release the line, resulting in sudden loss of tension. The initial tightening up can actually damage the point so check your fly..
5. When fishing a stream, underwater can be aggravating. If you were drawing the fly upstream, you probably need a downstream pull to free it. With the rod tip pointed downstream, let out enough line so that the fly line goes well beyond the snag the more line, the stronger the downstream pull. If the fly doesn't free from the pressure of the current, try giving a few short strips with the rod tip still pointed downstream and the belly of the fly line still below the snag.
6. Looking to get out of rock snags or logjams? Start with a few feet of loose fly line in your hands. From a low position, point the rod tip at the snag and start a gentle side-to-side motion while raising the rod , slipping some line out, and making the wiggles progressively wider. The motion is often enough to pull your fly free.
7. An underwater snag? If you can get close to it, you may want to try stripping the line in submerging the rod tip all the way to the fly and gently pushing it free. Don't damage the tip!!
8. For snags that are more out in the open, such as a single branch, log, or rock, a roll cast release often sets you free. Begin by stripping line off of the reel and lowering the rod with the tip pointing at the snag. Smoothly draw the rod tip back and to the side until the fly line is well behind you. Move the rod tip high enough that the fly line unrolls above and beyond the snag. A short haul on the forward stroke gives your roll cast extra zing.
9. Important!! If the fly is hopelessly stuck, and can't remove it by hand, breaking it off is your only choice Be careful when doing this, as the line and fly can come back at you with great force. To safely break it off, point the rod tip at the snag, turn your head away, clamp the line under your rod hand and create enough force to break the tippet. Lose a fly but don't break the rod.

Random Fishing Pictures:

Phil and Bonnie on fishing vacation



WOW!!! NICE!!



NOTHING LIKE FINE DINING.



WHITE MOUNTAIN WINTER FISHING. RAINBOW LAKE? NICE

2024-25 WMFFC Board Members

President:	Mike Whitney	(541-390-5389
Past President:	Barry Curseaden	(623) 398-5242
Vice President:	Gary Hall	(480) 510-6362
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Board Member at Large:	Gary Miller	(602) 478-0883
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IFFF Representative:	Gary Hall	(480) 510-7381
AZG&F Liaison	Larry Kivela	(480) 695-5162

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.

February outing—Rainbow Lake-Feb. 22-7a.m.

Membership Renewal

We are going from January to December for dues. If you aren't at the February meeting, you can send a check for \$30 (family membership) made out to WMFFC at P.O. Box 2187, Pinetop, AZ 85935.

As incentive for all who pay dues in the first three months of the year, you will be entered into a raffle for a gift certificate.

Invitation

Desert Fly Casters have invited us to their annual outing at Big Lake held on May 30-June 1. They've reserved a campground with warm showers and they share meals together.

DFC has indicated they would like to do more events with WMFF this year. Let's all go out and share some comradery and get to know other avid fly fishers like we are.

Does anyone know anything about what has to be done for a Christmas Tree outing? Who will call on it and tentatively set up something for WMFF to have that outing? The website is WMATOutdoors@wmat.us. It would be great to have a report on it at our meeting which is next Wednesday February 19th. Thanks. Kitty

It was brought to our attention that we really don't have a special cause (like Wounded Warriors) for our club and our upcoming banquet. Mike has brought forth a few ideas and they will be discussed in the upcoming WMFF meetings.