

NEWSLETTER

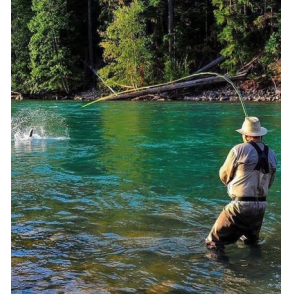
wmflyfishingclub.com-flyfishingwmclub.com

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

Presidents Column

“Tight Lines”

Well, we are under Stage 2 fire Precautions. I hope everyone is heeding the warning and avoiding any issues. The Greer fire should be a wakeup for all.



I have so many projects at home, let alone ongoing PT for my right shoulder (casting arm), I have not been able to get any at home fishing in. If you have, please fill us in at our June meeting and don't forget to get some pictures to Kitty for the newsletter for all to see.

It was interesting to see and hear our May speaker, Steve Barry talked about the West's fishing destinations. My growing up in Oregon, and living in Wyoming, Montana and Colorado and fishing them all to include Idaho, sure brought back a lot of good memories with friends past and present. It reminded me of the fact that we don't have an infinite amount of time here on Mother Earth and to get out and enjoy as much as we can.

The weather folks are sure playing up this years monsoon season, with good reason I hope, we sure need the moisture. Let's keep our collective fingers crossed,

Take Care,

Mike W – Your President

June WMF meeting—

Program: Cinda Howard, Fly Fish Arizona and Beyond

“Local Guide”

Held at White Mountain Nature Center

425 S. Woodland Rd. Lakeside

June 18th, 5:30 Raffle and chatting

Continuing Raffle—Fundraiser—Rod and Reel

********All members (new and renewed) have to fill out a liability sheet for our files.***

JUNE PROGRAM: Fly Fishing Arizona and Beyond

CINDA HOWARD, LOCAL GUIDE

flyfisharizonaandbeyond.com

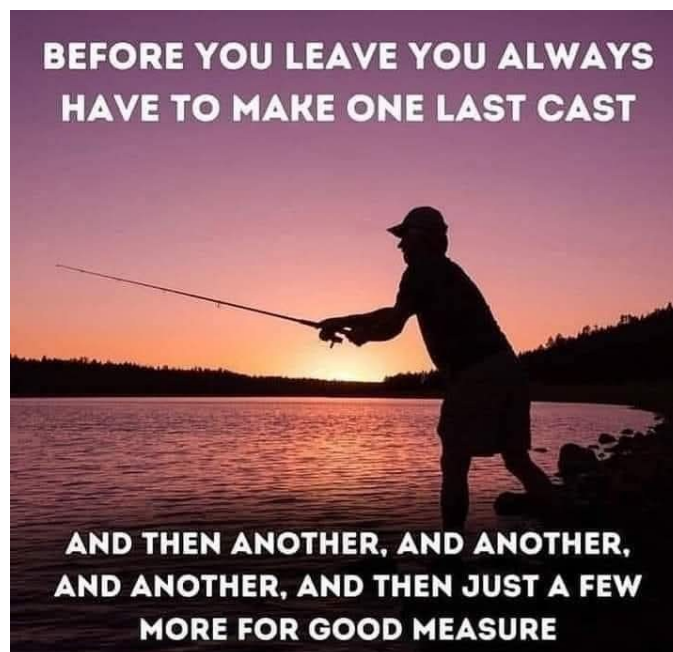
Cinda Howard has been an Arizona fly fishing guide for several years. She's spent her whole life fishing and picked up a fly rod in 1996. She worked for the Orvis Company as a Fly Fishing Manager for eight years before branching off and starting her own business in 2012. Cinda spends a considerable amount of time instructing people on the sport of fly fishing.

Cinda has been featured in several fly fishing articles and books ("Fly Fisher's Guide to Arizona" by Will Jordan, "Arizona's Official Fishing Guide" by Arizona Highways and Arizona Game and Fish Department) as an expert on fly fishing Arizona. She is extremely passionate not only about fly fishing but also about teaching others. She hosts trips all across the world and has taken customers fly fishing in Alaska, Belize, Oregon, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and The Bahamas. Cinda loves to fish for trout, steelhead, pike, carp, bonefish, tarpon and anything else that will eat a fly. She is a past President of Deserters and is a Zane Grey Trout board member.



Fly Cast-
Unlimited

Gotta be a story behind this one, right Cinda?



**BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOU ALWAYS
HAVE TO MAKE ONE LAST CAST**

**AND THEN ANOTHER, AND ANOTHER,
AND ANOTHER, AND THEN JUST A FEW
MORE FOR GOOD MEASURE**



**SIILVER
CREEK
CLEANUP**



**SIX GUYS
FROM
WMFF**



**LOTS OF WORK!!
LOTS OF LAUGHS!
WHITE MOUNTAIN,
PAYSON & AZGF**

- ⇒ Clean up at Nelson Reservoir on July 3 from 8-11. Requesting help. Doug Benford, 602-329-2355. Chair of the Friends of Lunda Lake in Alpine.
- ⇒ Desert Fly Casters has said they would like to do more with White Mountain Fly Fishers, Gerry and I went out a couple of weekends ago and had a really good time. There were about 35 boats and a lot of camaraderie.

I caught a Rainbow in the second inlet at South Cove. It was the biggest I've caught In an Arizona lake. My net is 26 inches and it wouldn't fit in my net. I couldn't get to my Camera without killing the fish do you'll have to take my word for it:-Kitty



I HOOKED A BIG ONE!! WHY WE USE BARBLESS HOOKS.

First trip out this year, I had a beautiful cast. BUT, as it came back the Wooley Buzzer and hook caught the end of my nose!! (They only make a small prick. Kitty W.



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.

June outing—Becker Lake June 20th-7a.m. (We need an outing chair) HELP!!

-2025 Banquet is ON-

The banquet committee has secured a place for the fundraising banquet-**September 13th at the Casino-MARK YOUR CALENDARS.** We're really excited and are starting to collect donated items. If you have items or know of any company's (I know Don had some ideas to send away for donated things) that would like to share in building our local community fishing club, we'd love your help. We did not have a fundraising banquet in 2024 so our funds could be higher.

Gary Miller is in charge of the committee. We could also use items for our monthly raffle along with our special rod raffle. See Gary Miller or members helping (Richard Dreyer. Ed Shatto, or Jon Wallace.) We can always use banquet help.

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
Secretary:	Kitty Wiemelt	(480) 329-6996
Treasurer:	Marcie Greenberg	(480) 993-4623
Board Member at Large:	John Potts	(480) 766-8020
Board Member at Large:	Gary Miller	(602) 478-0883
Board Member at Large:	Margie Dennis	(602) 203-6414
Board Member at Large:	Jon Wallace	(480) 694-9865
Membership Chairman	Marcie Greenberg	(480) 993-4623
Conservation and Community Projects Chairman:		Unfilled
Education Chairman:	Gary Miller	(602) 478-0883
Newsletter Chairman/Website:	Kitty Wiemelt	(480) 329-6996
Outings Chairman:	John Potts	(480) 766-8020
IFFF Representative:	Gary Hall	(480) 510-7381
AZG&F Liaison	Larry Kivela	(480) 695-5162
Inventory Chairman	Scott Dennis	(602) 339-7518

HOW MUCH DO YOU NEED TO TAKE FISHING by Jim Stroger

I owned a tackle box when I was a kid, but I don't recall ever taking it with me when I went fishing. Instead, I had a six-compartment box that fit into my pocket. I am sure I raided the tackle box for lures or hooks from time to time, but it was important to me even then to travel light.

As a kid, I often walked to my fishing destinations. My favorite stream was about two miles from my house, and my favorite lake was about two miles from my grandparents' house. I would spend the better part of the day at either spot, and traipse through some thick brush to get to the water; no place for a tackle box.

My little box had a compartment for hooks, weights, small spinners, small spoons, clippers, and flies. On some trips I took my spin-cast rod, and others I took my fly rod.

I am still very much a minimalist in terms of the gear that I decide to take on a fishing outing. That is not to say that I don't have a lot of fly fishing stuff. Like most fly fishers, I have several fly rods, reels, nets, fishing vests, boots, fly fishing equipment, and a lot of flies; but I am very strategic about what I bring on any given trip.

My first decision is which fly rod I will bring. About ninety-eight percent of the time, I choose to fish with my 9 foot, 5 weight, 4 piece fly rod. This rod is ideal for a wide variety of types of fish and fishing settings.

Many fly fishers like to use smaller rods on the Rim streams, but I have always been partial to my nine footer because it allows me to do roll casts and sling shot casts much more effectively than a short rod. I use these two casts about ninety percent of the time on Rim streams. The other advantage of a nine foot rod is that it will reach the other side of a small stream much easier, so that I can cover a lot of water from one spot. I can make one cast downstream and work the many different seams across the entire width of the stream by mending, stripping in line, and releasing it in short spurts without having to make another cast.

If I am fishing for trout, I will always take a net. The size of the net varies depending on where I am fishing. If I am on a brushy stream, I will use a short-handled net to keep it from getting tangled in the bushes. On a steep bank, like at Silver Creek or Green Valley Lake, a long handled net helps land trout much easier. If I am fishing for bass, crappies, or bluegills, I feel confident that I can land and release the fish quickly without a net, so it is one less thing to carry.

Weather dictates my footwear choice. During the colder months, I will don chest waders to fish the Rim lakes from shore, or hip boots to fish the Rim creeks. For most of the year, I use muck boots or just wet wade in an old pair of hiking boots. I do all that I can to stay out of the water to minimize spooking fish, but on every stream trip, I am sure to have a walking stick or wading staff attached to my belt. It is an important piece of safety equipment even if I never get in the water.

I always wear a long-sleeved shirt, light fishing gloves, a brimmed hat, and polarized sun glasses. These items help in case of errant fly casts, as well as provide sun protection. I like to keep my gloves wet to help with fish releases if they haven't already worked themselves loose in the net from the barbless hook. Wet gloves help me stay cool in the summer too.

Fly fishing equipment choices really vary from angler to angler. Besides rod selection, another big decision is about what you will carry your fly fishing stuff in. There is quite a variety of vests, packs, and lanyards on the market. It is really important for you to decide what works best for you. Not all vests are the same, so be sure to check how the pockets are spaced, their sizes, and how easy it is to get into them while holding a rod in your hand or under your arm. Are the pockets proportioned for the kind of stuff that you would typically carry on a fishing trip? In Arizona, whether vests are lined or open-mesh to minimize perspiration is an important consideration.

How much stuff do you need to take fishing continued.

I almost always fish with a lanyard rather than a vest. I think it helps me stay cooler than wearing a vest. On it I have a spool of 5x and 4x tippet material, clippers, hemostats, emergency whistle, dry fly dressing, and a wipe rag for my hands after I release a fish. I also have a license holder with my license on my lanyard because some states require the fishing license to be displayed.

With that being said, I do wear a vest on certain occasions. If I plan to fish in colder weather, I appreciate the extra layer of protection against the wind. I will often pack a vest if I am planning to take a trip to water that I have never fished before, so that I have plenty of pockets of flies to choose from. A vest is handy for carrying water, first aid, a snack, or a rain parka for extended day trips.

I typically carry two 3x4 inch fly boxes in my shirt pocket that between them have a good variety of midges, bead-heads, unweighted wet flies, woolly buggers, and dry flies. There are plenty of times that I go even lighter and just take a small pill bottle with a few flies in it if I am pretty confident about what the fish will be biting on. There will also be a package of indicators in my pocket in case I chose to fish in that manner.

I encourage you to think about the flies and other stuff that you carry and see if you can lighten your load while fishing. I have several fly boxes, and most of them are organized as stand-alone boxes. Besides my two smaller fly boxes, I have a dry fly box, and a slightly larger one that probably holds 300 flies for any occasion imaginable. For particular destinations, I have a Lees Ferry box, a San Juan River box of tiny flies, and an Alaska box of large flies. I have a small pill bottle of zebra midges and bead-heads, another of dry flies and hoppers, and a third of woolly buggers and leeches so I can take just one when I want to go really light.

Much of this stuff is in my car. So I am ready to go fish in minutes, and can pick the lightest combination of equipment possible to have some fun on the water for a few hours.



Polarized sun glasses, hat to protect ears from sun and errant flies, and fishing gloves.

Fly boxes for my shirt pocket and packable rod.

Possible equipment holders: lanyard, short ventilated vest, vest with maximum storage capacity.

Short handled net (for most trout streams) and long handled net (for steep bank are as), wading staff (a must for me when I do any stream fishing), wading shoes, muck boots (for small stream fishing).

