



NEWSLETTER

wmflyfishingclub.com-flyfishingwmclub.com

Established 1996

P.O. Box 2187, Pinetop, AZ 85935

March 2025



Presidents Column, Tight Lines

Well, here we are in March and finally got some measurable moisture. Not enough but we will take what we can get. Hopefully, the weather forecasters are correct, and we will get more snow and rain as we head into April.

Looking forward to the return of those who migrate to the valley for the winter.

Your club leadership is still in need of a Membership Officer and an Outings/Trips Officer. It is difficult to operate with vacancies. It does not take much time, but they are important positions to operate efficiently. We currently have Officers doing double duties and it is not efficient use of their time and duties.

If you have the means and desire to write a short column for the newsletter, it would be appreciated. There is a lot of knowledge among our membership to be shared. It can be forwarded to Kitty for publication, along with any pictures you would like to share.

I will continue to provide videos at meetings until we can schedule speakers at our meetings. Your club officers are working towards obtaining speakers for the Spring through Fall meetings.

Once again, if you have extra, good condition gear to donate for raffles, including those of you who tie flies, it is greatly appreciated and supports our club.

Mike W - President

March WMFF meeting—

Held at White Mountain Nature Center

425 S. Woodland Rd. Lakeside

March 19th. 5:30 Raffle and chatting

Program: Mike Whitney—Entertaining Videos

Continuing Raffle—Fundraiser—Rod and Reel

Dues are being collected—Jan-Dec. (Dues collected through end of March will be entered for a special gift)

Fill out liability sheet—new and renewals.

Remember WMFF will be continuing throughout the year.



My name is Cinda Howard and I am a full time fly fishing guide in the White Mountains. Kitty asked me to write an article for your newsletter. Below is my contribution. You can find me at www.flyfisharizona.com

I recently posted a comment where someone said they couldn't figure out how to catch fish and he was asking what fly he should be using. My answer was, "It doesn't matter what fly you're using, if your presentation isn't good. I fish in a world where people are using 5x and 6X, and I use nothing but 4x." Why? Because how we present a fly is the difference between catching and not catching. Learning how to get a good drift in moving water, or how a bug, bait

fish, leech, etc moves in stillwater are the most important things you can do to improve your fishing.

After we conquer that, then we need to pay attention to what food sources are in the water. Are you fishing a tail water where the average bug size is a #22? Or maybe a small stream where fish are more opportunistic about what they eat rather than selective. Or how about still water where fish might be cruising weed lines and sipping midges or chasing bait fish.

Too many anglers want a shortcut but the reality is that this is a detailed and complicated style of fishing that requires skill and knowledge and that will only come from time on the water, fishing with guides or experienced anglers, spending time in a fly shop and/ or joining a fly fishing club. You can also read books and watch videos but nothing beats standing in the water or sitting in a drift boat and learning from people who know the ends and outs of this sport.

Even after fly fishing for almost 30 years and guiding for over 15 of those years, I still learn something new almost every time I hit the water. Maybe I come up with a new fly that turns out to be killer. Or, there was the time at Becker when I discovered a white mayfly that I've never seen and have since learned that the nymph is orange but becomes white when it sheds its wing case and becomes an adult.

Fly fishing offers a lifetime of learning and it is constantly changing. The flies I'm using today are much different than what I used 20 years ago because for me, the sport is constantly evolving and we have to evolve with it.

So, rather looking for the magic fly that you think will catch ALL the fish, learn about the sport. Take the time to sit and watch a hatch and observe how the fish are reacting to it. Learn how to get a drag free drift so your fly drifts like a real bug would when floating through the current. Spend time on a piece of water until you learn it. If it's stillwater, locate the weed lines, drops, points, and any other variations because that is generally where you will find the fish. Learn what food sources reside in the fishery, and above all else work on your presentation. Nothing beats time on the water.



Invitation

Desert Fly Casters have invited WMFF 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.

DFC All Better Together Fly Fishing Club

Meet up with us...We'll talk Fly Fishing!
WEDNESDAY • MARCH 12, 2025
Join Guest Speaker...

CINDA HOWARD



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ELKS LODGE
1775 West Chandler Blvd. • Chandler, Arizona 85224
Chit/Chat at: 6:30 • Meeting and Club Speaker at: 7:00



Introducing Breeze!

Breeze is the bald eagle who is part of the Raptor Flight Show at the White Mountain Nature Center. She's a voracious eater and consumes at least one fish each and every day. If you, or anyone you know, catches a fish you can't or don't want to throw back, think about giving it to Breeze for dinner. Don't clean them! Don't remove the heads! Please remove the hook

whenever possible. They will double check the fish, too, to make sure there are no other hooks. Just put the fish in your freezer until you can drop it off at the White Mountain Nature Center. When you freeze them, put one to three fish in a ziplock bag and date the bag. That way they can feed Breeze the oldest fish first. You can drop it off any time they are open or make arrangements with John. And while you're dropping off the fish, stay for the show. It's so interesting, educational and just so amazing!

John M. Glitsos, President
White Mountain Nature Center
(480) 688-5101 Johnnglitsos@gmail.com

When, reviewing this article for publication, John said, "We so appreciate this! And by the way, she sometimes eats two fish a day! Safeway would own us if we had to buy fish for her!! So please express our sincere gratitude."



Fishing at Silver Creek in February

On February 25, my friend Jennifer and I went fly fishing at Silver Creek. It was a 70-degree day, hardly any wind, and clear. A perfect day! Almost, but the problem was the juniper pollen was blowing everywhere; so much, that it looked like little dust devils dancing around the trees. Sneezes abounded with all the fishermen we met and especially with us. We walked

the length, and stopped counting the big mama trout when we reached 3 dozen. They were located up and down the creek and not just at the last few pools where I've seen them in years past. Between us we tried eight flies. Jennifer only got one bite. And we caught nothing. One local fisherman we talked to has been fishing there a lot over the last 18 years. He said the big mama fish kept spitting out his flies, but we did watch him actually hook one and then lose it, sadly. He was using San Juan worms with the chamois ties and was fishing off the bottom. The other fisherman we talked to caught two. He was using very small gnats and zebra midges that he tied himself.

As for us, we settled for a beautiful day of fishing, and not catching, and looking at all these 20-inch beauties.

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	(480) 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

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.

March outing—Silver Creek-March 21st-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.



WMFF's treasurer, Marcie Greenberg, was our representative to check out our annual project of supporting the upper Silver Creek fly fishing from October to April every year with a porta-potty. She has reported our name is on the porta-potty and there are very-very big fish out at the creek. Join WMFF on the 21st of March (unless there is a snow storm) out at Silver Creek and enjoy a club day of fishing and sharing stories.

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. Your board has decided to support three areas: Arizona Game and Fish (stocking), White Mountain Nature Center and Arizona Veterans Fly Fishing Club (used to be Project Healing Waters, but they started their own in Phoenix. We do provide porta-pottys each year, as well.