



NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENTS COLUMN – October 2025

Here we are going into October, rain is expected and hopefully snow is not far behind to help restore our water levels.

Our Summer / Winter transition folks are in the process of relocating back down to lower levels for the winter. We wish them safe travels in their journey. Your BOD is looking forward to planning a 2025 Christmas Dinner get together in December, a Fly-Fishing Expo and Banquet in 2026.

Our 2025 Banquet at Hon-Dah was a successful venture and very well attended. Thanks to all who donated, assisted with set-up and participated in the event. We could not have had a successful outcome without all your efforts.

Several of our members made it to Silver Creek for the October 1 opening. I hope to hear some success stories at the October meeting. Unfortunately, I have had some difficult family issues and was unable to make it to Silver Creek as I had hoped, but there is still time.

We will have sign-up sheets at the October & November meetings for a rod building class and fly-tying class, with dates to be announced in November. Also, if you would like to assist in either class, your participation would be appreciated.

“Tight Lines” Mike Whitney – Your President

Meeting—November 19th

Held at White Mountain Nature Center

425 S. Woodland Rd. Lakeside

5:30 raffle and chatting

***Program: Mike Whitney—Educational Session on “FISHING KNOTS”
with display board (requested by members)***

Continuing Raffle—Fundraiser—Rod and Reel

Board is working on details of a Christmas Party

IN FISHERMAN NEWSLETTER—Steve Jenkins will probably never again skip checking the spot regardless of the conditions. You wouldn't either if it produced a potential state record bass. He was in a tournament and has reached out to Arizona Game and Fish to enter it into the record. It weighed 16 lb. 9.28 oz.

Steve played a hunch early on the morning of Saturday, Aug 2 as he and tournament partner, Mike Selvage competed in a Southwest Custom Tackle Summer Slam tournament at Roosevelt Lake in central Arizona. The hunch was to stop on a spot that had been good in years past, but oftentimes the water level seems to dictate if the bass are there or not.

As Jenkins studied his forward-facing sonar screen, he saw fish in and around some structure that's located in about 30 feet of water adjacent to a big drop off. Worth a few casts, he figured. He and Selvage caught a couple of keepers before Jenkins had one break his line, forcing him to retie.

Little did he know his next drop down toward that structure would (potentially) put his name in the Arizona bass fishing record books. So he rigged up another 6-inch Roboworm straight tail worm in the morning dawn hologram hue on a 1/0 EWG hook above a 14 oz weight. His 2500 sized spinning reel was spooled with 10-pound Berkley Nanofil paired with a 7-pound leader of Sunline Super FC Sniper.

"I never felt the bite. I just felt weight," said Jenkins in a phone interview. He wasn't sure how much weight.

"As soon as I hooked it, it headed directly east and into the sun," he said. "It pulled drag for 15 seconds then came up and jumped. We only saw its silhouette because it jumped right in line with where the sun was hitting the water. Mike saw it for a moment and said, "Holy crap! It's a 10 pounder!"

The fish dove again and darted to the right, then to the left. Jenkins put his trolling motor on high and began to chase the fish.

"We finally got on top of it and I was extra careful to not get the line fouled up in anything," he said. "We saw the leader coming up and we saw the fish, Mike netted it and got it in the boat. Jenkins, who owns and operates A-1 Auto Repair in Apache Junction, AZ, has caught some big fish before but this was a doozy.

Jenkins and Selvage didn't weigh or measure the fish in the boat as they were more concerned with taking care of the fish. The fish weighed digitally at 16.57 pounds. Their goal was to win the tournament but also to keep this fish alive and back in the water. Jenkins said he had a lot of fun.

(Though this wasn't a fly fishing story, it told me we should be taking a few more trips to Roosevelt Lake to fish.)

The Best Flies for 2025 –

The "best" fly rod of all time is subjective, but many legendary rods are consistently mentioned, such as the Winston IM6 for its revolutionary use of graphite, the Sage LL for its dry-fly performance, and modern all-around rods like the Sage R8 Core. Other top contenders include the G. Loomis GLX for power and distance, and the Scott Centric for its all-around performance. Ultimately, the best rod depends on the angler's casting style and the type of fishing they do.

Winston IM6: This rod, developed in the late 1980s, was a major turning point for graphite fly rods, proving they could be both durable and high performing. (continued on page 4)



Trophy bass caught on Roosevelt Lake-2025

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.

**November 21st Outing—Reservation Lake
Meet at the White Mt. Nature Center
parking lot at 7 a.m.
Carpool and remember to get
Reservation License and boat sticker**

Payson Fly Fishing Club (We are all invited)

Tom Herman will be leaving the Victory Lane Oil Change parking lot at **12:15** Monday, November 3 to attend the open house at the Tonto Creek Hatchery. If you are interested in carpooling, please meet Tom at the Victory Lane Oil Change parking lot.

From Bryce Sisson:

I have been asked to host a tour of Tonto Creek Hatchery or Senator Wendy Rogers on Monday, November 3rd at 12:15. I was asked to invite any of our hatchery partners or constituents to attend the tour as well. If any of you are available to attend the tour, we would love to have you as our guests. Please let me know if you can make it so that I can update the Game and Fish Department's Director and our Legislative Liaison.

I think just being here and showing support for the hatchery and the work that we do would be great. We're trying to receive funding to support a major renovation and modernization of the hatchery. The more people that show up to support the hatchery the better.

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From Jim Gougour: Good morning all, As you know, the Department is a self-funded agency however, the budget is required, by statute, to be approved via the Arizona State appropriation process. The Department has been increasing appropriation requests each year from the legislators to repair and upgrade the six hatcheries across the state. For FY27, the request is for \$11 million with \$10 million requested for Tonto Creek Hatchery. It is imperative that these funds be approved and the Department and Commission are already working with legislators to provide as much information to them before the next session begins in January. A very important part of the message is public engagement. When the public overwhelmingly supports a legislative initiative, it typically is approved. On Monday, November 3rd, we have a unique opportunity to send this message to legislative district representative. Senator Wendy Rogers will be visiting the Tonto Creek Hatchery for a tour and information gathering visit. Leaders from the Department will be on hand to lead the conversation and provide details of the budget request. The second piece is demonstrating the support from the public. The MSA, Payson Fly Casters and others are invited (requested) to join the Department in meeting Senator Rogers to discuss the importance and impacts of trout fishing and the hatcheries to our communities. The Senator is scheduled to arrive at Payson Airport at 12:30 PM on November 3rd. GF personnel will meet her and provide transportation to the hatchery. She will be at the hatchery around 1:00 PM and her visit is currently planned for about one hour. We are asking for your members to attend and provide the public input. Feel free to call if you have any questions.

The Best FI Rods for 2025 – (continued from page 2)

Sage LL: Produced during the same era as Winston IM6, the LL is still considered a phenomenal dry-fly rod by many anglers

G. Loomis GLX: The GLX introduced a new graphite recipe that provided incredible distance and power, and it remains a favorite for anglers who can handle its unique casting feel.

Modern High-Performance rods:

Sage R8Core: A recent award-winner, this rod is highly versatile, excelling at both distance and feel, and can handle various fishing techniques like nymphing and casting streamers.

Scott Centric: This rod was noted for being incredibly accurate and responsive, with the ability to cast accurately with less energy and better line control at a distance compared to other rods in its class.

Orvis Helios: Often mentioned alongside the Scott Centric, this rod is known for its fast action and accuracy.

Orvis Clearwater: Praised as excellent value, this rod provides award-winning performance at an affordable price point and is suitable for freshwater trout and bass fishing.

Outdoor Life – Top fly rods in 2025

Sage R8 Core (overall); Douglas Sky G (best of 2025 test), Douglas DXF Gen 2 (best value, and the Orvis Clearwater (best budget). For trout fishing, the Scott Centric and Orvis Helios were highlighted as top choices, and the Orvis Superfine is recommended for small streams.



START EARLY



White Mountain Fly Fishing Club Board—2025-2026

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