



NEWSLETTER

wmflyfishingclub.com

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PRESIDENTS COLUMN – As we go into Fall, we've had some decent rains and cooler temperatures. These should lead to some good fall fishing. The news reports that we have received 7 + inches of rain this year with more forecast for September. Hopefully our local waters are benefiting from the rains.

Your BOD is working on a "Fly Fishing Expo" for 2027. There is a lot of time and effort going into this project and we will call on you all for specific help in several areas. More to come on this as we complete the planning phase.

It was so great to see Kitty back amongst us and looking so good. She is an amazing asset to our club and continues to be involved with our activities.

I had planned to go to Montana for a couple of weeks in September to fish with a good friend out of Missoula, but, as life deals us some difficult times, I have had to postpone my trip until next year. I am looking forward to exploring and fishing our area, until the forecasted snow flies, if they indeed do come, fingers crossed for a good snowfall winter.

A reminder that our October meeting had to be rescheduled to Oct. 29th due a temporary closure of the Nature Center.

Also, our Fall streamside project on Silver Creek is scheduled for Sept. 22nd at 0900. I have been asked to coordinate the project with TU, Payson Fly Casters and AZGFD due to the Payson FC project coordinator is out of the country fishing. I will have a sign-up sheet at our Sept. 16th meeting.

Until then, Tight Lines

Mike Whitney – Your President

Meeting—September 16

Held at White Mountain Nature Center

425 S. Woodland Rd. Lakeside 5:30 raffle and chatting

SPEAKERS: Steve Berry, Destinations Fly Fishing

"All the Possibilities"

Still doing card raffles on a rod and reel

Destinations Fly Fishing, Steve Berry

ALL THE POSSIBILITIES



Fly fishing has been Steve's passion for over 28 years. He is a licensed State of Arizona fishing guide and has over 20 years specializing in hosted fly fishing trips. Although it wasn't until his late 20's when he first touched a fly rod, the path to learning and exploring so many aspects of fly fishing was like watching one of the many Fast and Furious movies. An Arizona native, Steve quickly became immersed in the Arizona fly fishing community by joining the Desert Fly Casters. Working his way up through the club, he became the president in a few short years. Meeting helpful fly-fishing friends, it wasn't long before he was working part-time in valley fly shops, speaking around the state, teaching schools and ultimately hosting group trips throughout the Southwest and around the world. Moving on to the next level, Steve began expanding his relationships with lodges, outfitters and guides around the world, taking clients to some of the best fly

-fishing destinations. Unwilling to rest on success, using his experience from years of fly-fishing travel and establishing himself as a well-respected member of the fly-fishing industry, Destinations Fly Fish became a reality. Today as the Owner/Operator of Destinations Fly Fish, Steve continues to push fly fishing travel to the next level. Clients always at the front of mind, Steve remains on the hunt for that next great trip location. When he is not hosting trips, you'll find him teaching fly-fishing classes, doing speaking engagements, or helping at local club or fly shop events. He also takes the time to help teach fly fishing at Boy Scout camp every summer.



Gary Miller and Mike Whitney presented a certificate to Candy Brazil at Hon-Dah for all her support of our banquets. The Casino has been gracious hosts, we appreciate them.

REMEMBER: SIGN UP TO HELP
WITH SILVER CREEK—
SEPTEMBER 22. SIGN UP SHEET
AVAILABLE AT THE SEPTEMBER
16TH CLUB MEETING.

FISHING ETIQUETTE

Jim Strogon—August 28, 2026 (New journalist to WMFF, thanks Jim)

I had a fun but strange day on the Lower Salt River. I had planned an early start because I knew that I would have to contend with paddle boarders and kayakers.

The first unusual occurrence was a flotilla of US Forest Service folks on kayaks with many filled trash bags. They had started at the put-in point just upstream and were picking up trash from the river bottom, bushes and reeds along the river, and along the shore as they moved downstream. I thanked the folks picking up trash near me, and lamented the mindset of so many users of the river to litter in such a beautiful recreational area.

I fished a little while longer and then the peace of the river was interrupted by something that I had never seen on the Salt River - two sheriff's airboats that roared upstream. They had apparently planned that the large pool that I was fishing just above Blue Point Bridge was the perfect place to film sheriff's department scuba divers in the Salt River. It was very interesting watching them work, and I truly appreciate the training and resources they deploy to help folks on the river, but the waves and the resulting muddied water made the sight fishing I was doing pretty tough. Fortunately, I was about done for the day as they roared back downstream and even more kayakers floated by.

Both of these incidents got me thinking about some basic fishing etiquette that I have taught my kids and grandkids. While it is important for kids to have fun when they fish, it is an ideal time for adults to help them learn about their responsibilities as anglers.

I have had the pleasure and honor of teaching the 4th and 5th graders at Julia Randall Elementary School (JRE) in the after school fly fishing program for ten years. We catch a lot of fish in that program and a component that is very important to me is helping the kids learn about fishing etiquette and giving back.

Over the years, the kids in the after school fly fishers program have been involved in conservation projects to build fish structures to improve fish habitat in Green Valley Lake. These structures are placed in the lake well past their casting range, but the students understand the importance of helping the fish even if they can't catch them there.

Taking care of the outdoor places we enjoy is important to most sportsmen. So when the JRE fly fishing sessions start up at Green Valley Lake each semester, we often talk about how we can make our fishing experience better for ourselves and others. The kids understand that we should never litter. In fact they often pick up trash left by other anglers around the lake when we fish. The kids are always on the lookout for discarded fishing line. They know how dangerous fishing line is especially to water birds, turtles and other lake inhabitants.

We talk a lot about respecting the wildlife and giving space to waterfowl that might be resting on shore at a spot that the kids really want to fish. They know to give the birds a wide berth and to plan on coming back to fish that area after the ducks have left. If ducks swim by as we fish, the kids are very careful and either stop fishing or cast well away from the ducks.

As beginners, the first fly cast that the kids learn is the roll cast. This is the easiest cast to master and has the advantage of not putting the fly line behind you where it can tangle or catch something behind you. This is particularly important when people and dogs are walking behind us when we fish. As the kids develop their casting skills and begin to make overhead casts, they are reminded that it is their responsibility to look behind them before casting to be sure that no one is in range of their backcast.

There are sometimes ten to fifteen kids fishing along the bank during the after school sessions, so another aspect of their instruction is to understand personal fishing space. Fortunately, their roll casts are not very long, so the arc of their personal fishing space still allows several kids to fish along the bank quite effectively.

They also know to give other anglers plenty of room that may have set up along the bank before we arrived. We discuss how we must give spinning and spin cast anglers a much bigger arc of space because they can cast farther.

Dock fishing is another area that requires some special instruction. Often, fishing can be quite good on a dock, but there simply is not enough room for more than a few fly fishing kids to fish it safely. They know to walk carefully and quietly on a dock, to be respectful of other anglers that might already be fishing there, and to be willing to move off the dock even if the fishing is good when another one of our fly fishing groups is ready for their turn on the dock.

FISHING ETIQUETTE—by Jim Stroger

It is never too early to help kids understand fishing etiquette. When one of my grandkids was about five years old, I set him up on the dock away from other anglers and had instructed him not to cast in an area that overlapped with the other fishers. Ayden started catching fish after fish with his mealworm under a bobber and was having a ball. As I helped his older brother with a fish, a teenager farther down the dock who wasn't having any luck started casting in Ayden's spot. Immediately, Ayden spoke right up and reminded the teenager that this was his spot and that he shouldn't cast where he was fishing.

I don't have the opportunity to take the JRE kids stream fishing, but my grandkids are quite well-versed in stream fishing etiquette. They know that there are a few simple strategies to employ to respect others on the stream. The easiest way is to find a different place to fish farther away from an angler that is at least several pools away.

Another approach is to engage the angler in conversation while standing well away from the stream to avoid accidentally disturbing the fish. See if he plans to be at the spot for a while or is going to be headed upstream or downstream. Let the other angler know that you will be headed in the opposite direction and wish him luck.

These conversations have often really paid off for me. Most fly fishers are very willing to share what pattern or technique is working for them, and you might be handed one of these flies if you don't have one in your fly box simply by showing some fishing courtesy.

My grandkids and the JRE students know about catch and release, daily bag limits, and if they are ten years old or older that it is their responsibility to have a fishing license. They appreciate that their license money contributes to help stock waters that we like to fish.

I love taking kids fishing. I encourage you to take a son, daughter or grandkid fishing, and help them experience the joy of fishing and learn what they can do to make it better for all anglers.



Rim Country Middle Schoolers learning how to put fish structures together as part of the After School Fly Fishing Program.

Rim Country Middle School students doing final assembly of fish structures at the lake.



4th and 5th graders from Julia Randall Elementary School in the After School Fly Fishing Program had fun building these fish structures



Payson Water Department deploying one of several fish structures assembled by the After School Fly Fishing Program into Green Valley Lake.

PUERTO PENASCO (RP) INFORMATION 2026

Drive time - About 4 hours from the Phoenix Metro area.

Safety - Considered safe for American tourists. Border - expect to stop and have your vehicle inspected. Good idea not to have new items like electronics, power tools boxed up you could have to pay an import tax. Buy your groceries in Mexico. The road from Lukeville is generally good black top, (sometimes pot holes) It's about an hour drive from border to RP. People drive fast on this section of road.

Money - Dollars work Pesos are more economical to use. I pick up pesos from my local bank a few days before my trip. Not every business accepts credit cards. You can get Pesos at a local ATM.

Eats - everything from a taco cart to a Food Network kind of place. DFC favorite restaurants - Capone's, La Curva, el Captain, Salt & Lime, Oyster Bar, and the BBQ House are only a few of the many places to eat. Kaffeehaus best breakfast.

Lodging - Playa de Oro RV Park camping, they rent trailers, Costal Elegante across from Manny's is new and nice, the Baja is old with out many amenities but it's cheap. Many options for lodging check on line. You may want to pack a folding chair for events at PDO.

Places to Fish - Mirador Beach at RV Park. First and Second Estuary, Cholla Bay, all have their moments. Plenty of room 50 miles of beach from Cholla Bay to the Second estuary. Catch of the day - Cabrilla, Trigger, Orange Mouth Corvina, Pompano, Parrot, Grouper, Flounder, Bonefish, and Grunt are common, I have landed over 40 species.

Basic gear - 6-8 weight fly rods, sinking lines (will improve your catching) a # 4 Clouser is a good place to start your fly collection.

Assorted colors. Stripping gloves, fishing hat, shirt sunglasses, Swim trunks, lots of sun block.

Contact - Vince Deadmond vincehasgonefishing@outlook.com 480 818 1796.

“If we are to benefit from the use of our natural resources, we must be willing to act to preserve them.

"SILVER CREEK CLEANUP PROJECT"

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

TIME: 0900

LOCATION": SILVER CREEK HATCHERY, SHOW LOW, AZ

See Attached Flyer

I will have a sign-up sheet at our September 16th meeting,

OR. you can respond to this email with your name, email contact and phone number and I will put you on the sign-up.

ALSO, please sign up at the address on the poster as the AZGF Dept gets funds for their hatchery management based on "Volunteer Hours" put in by WMFFC, Payson Flycasters, AZTU and AZGF Dept. volunteers.

This is a project we get involved with twice a year (Spring and Fall).

Let's show a good turnout for this project,

Thank You,

Mike Whitney - Your President - WMFFC

"If we are to benefit from the use of our natural resources, we must be willing to act to preserve them"

"Tight Lines"

Please look this link up—your president asked me to put this in all newsletters.

<https://freeemergencycontactcard.com/>



August 2026 meeting—Mike Whitney and Andy Rybolt along with Larry Kivela talked about their Green River trip in April.



Nice to have young people get interested in fly fishing—student from U of A.

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.

STRUCTURES IMPROVE FISHING—Jim Stroger Sometimes the habitat and cover for fish in lakes and streams could use some enhancement. The AZGFD has done a fantastic job adding both the artificial and natural structures to lakes and streams. You may not even know the structures are there, but the fish do.

On Roosevelt Lake, AZGFD has built and deployed over 1300 fish structures that benefit bass, crappies, bluegills, and catfish-especially when low lake levels reduce shoreline habitat. Many anglers focus on these structures when they fish Roosevelt.

The Department has installed structures in Bartlett Lake, Canyon Lake and Saguaro Lake. In addition, they have placed clumps of recycled Christmas trees in Bartlett and Saguaro Lakes. The Department recently added several structures to Show Low Lake to improve fishing.

Rim Country streams have also benefited from stream improvement work, including structures in Haigler Creek, Canyon Creek, Tonto Creek, Christopher Creek, the East Verde and Upper East Verde River. Some are built utilizing large boulders, many are constructed from logs, while others rely on cobble, grass, and willow saplings.

Canyon Creek is a prime example, with structures helping repair the devastation caused by the Rodeo-Chediski in 2002. Even today, the stream is severely impacted by floods from the footprint or that fire that tear up banks from further erosion. Their design slows the water along the bank and allows vegetation to grow while reducing sedimentation in the creek.

Some of the improvements narrow the creek to provide deeper runs attractive to fish while keeping water cooler. Others create deeper pools to provide more cover.....This behind the scenes work by AZGFD makes a huge difference for fish and improves fishing for anglers.

White Mountain Fly Fishing Club Board—2025-2026

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
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Board Member at Large:	Andy Rybolt	(541) 281-2011
Board Member at Large:	Gary Miller	(602) 478-0883
Board Member at Large:	Margie Dennis	(602) 203-6414
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IT Chairman	Ken Auga	(480) 593-3095
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Newsletter Chairman/Website:	Kitty Wiemelt	(480) 329-6996
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IFFF Representative:	Gary Hall	(480) 510-7381
AZG&F Liaison	Larry Kivela	(480) 695-5162
Inventory Chairman	Scott Dennis	(602) 339-7518