

NEWSLETTER

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Presidents Column

"Tight Lines"

I was glad to see some rain this past week, although not enough to make any difference in our current conditions.

Your board has been very busy gathering and listing your donations for our upcoming banquet, getting flyers and tickets printed. Thank you to all who contributed to this point. We have asked those of you who tie flies to please tie 6 of your favorite flies to fill fly boxes for the banquet silent auction and raffles. I have got to take some time to tie up a couple of patterns of my favorite lake and river flies.

We are going to need your assistance at the July and August meetings to assist Gary Miller with the meeting raffles and merchandise sales.

We have gained several new members, and we all need to welcome them to our club and answer any questions or concerns they may have.

We are starting our fly-tying classes on Saturday, July 12 with 4 consecutive Saturdays. I hope to have a second round starting in November with 4 consecutive classes. These are being held at the Show Low library.

Take care,

Mike Whitney, President



July WMF meeting

Program: Ryan Follmuth, AZGFD &

Garrett Fabian, Silver Creek Fishery

"The Conditions of our Waters and Local Fish Populations"

Held at White Mountain Nature Center

425 S. Woodland Rd. Lakeside

July 16th, 5:30 Raffle and chatting

Continuing Raffle—Fundraiser—Rod and Reel

JULY PROGRAM: “Conditions of Waters & Fish Populations”

Ryan Follmuth, AZGFD & Garrett Fabian, Silver Creek Hatchery

Ryan Follmuth-Ryan is currently the Aquatic Wildlife Program Manager in the Pinetop Region for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. He has worked for the department for 12 years and has had four different positions over that time, first based in Phoenix, then Yuma and now Pinetop. He oversees a staff of 3 full time employees and 3-5 interns each year to accomplish fisheries management goals and objectives for both sportfish (both native and introduced) and non-sportfish native fish populations. He is passionate about fisheries and fishing all over the country but particularly loves western U.S. fishing for trout in the



Garrett Fabian-Garrett has nearly 26 years. He has ties from intern to Wildlife Jack area to fish culturist to his current position as the Silver Creek Hatchery Manager. Currently Silver Creek Hatchery raises Apache Trout for the summer recreational stocking season and then Rainbow Trout for the Silver Creek C&R season. Garrett enjoys all forms of outdoor recreation, especially fishing and backpack coues deer hunting.

worked for AZGFD for served in multiple capacities Manager in the Happy



**VETERANS OCTOBER
FISHING SOUTH END**



**KAYLA at SILVER
CREEK**

“Warm water temperatures are tough on trout.” Payson Roundup by Jim Stroger

While Valley residents enjoy coming up to the relatively cooler temperatures of the Rim Country and the White Mountains, it is still pretty warm here in the pines for much of the day. As the air temperature rises, so does the water temperature, which is bad news for trout.

Trout are cold water loving fish that stress as water temperatures approach 70 degrees, and it's lethal to them beyond that. Higher water temperatures, and the resulting lower dissolved oxygen levels harmful to trout and often associated with higher temperatures, impact the ability of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to stock trout. These tougher conditions for trout should also cause anglers to change our fishing habits.

The lower snowfall and reduced snow melt this spring left most of the streams and lakes much shallower than normal at the start of the fishing season. Things have only gotten worse as the summer continues to heat up. When AZGFD stocks streams and lakes, they check water temperature, dissolved oxygen levels, and other water chemistry to be sure that the fish they plan to stock will do well in the receiving waters. They anticipated the higher summer water temperatures and began stocking streams and lakes earlier in the season, knowing that there could be weeks during the summer that it will be too warm to stock.

Be sure to check the stocking schedule for streams and lakes that you like to fish to see what the latest information is on those waters at azgfd.gov, but be aware that even if it indicates that a stocking is planned, if conditions are not adequate, the fish will not be stocked.

Hatchery staff, who have invested well over a year in the care, feeding, and well-being of the fish they plan to stock in our lakes and streams, also have to consider the water temperature that the fish are in as they are transported from the hatchery. These facilities are near the headwaters and springs that deliver colder water to the trout in the hatcheries. Stocking locations may be significantly warmer, and the shock posed by a 10 degree or more difference between the hatchery truck and the stream or lake could be too much for the trout to take.

There are ways that anglers can protect the trout during warming water temperatures too. I carry a stream thermometer on my lanyard for summer trout fishing. If you have a thermometer and want to fish for trout, know that as water temperatures get into the 65-66 degree range, it is best to fish early in the morning when the water will be the coolest.

Look for trout during the summer in streams in deeper pools, or in the shade of undercut banks, boulders, or brush. As water temperatures approach 70 degrees, they are more concerned about finding the coolest water possible, and less likely to be interested in eating. Trout in lakes are going to seek the cooler temperatures that deep water provides, so are less likely to be encountered near shore.

Once the temperatures reach 67 degrees, I suggest you stop fishing for trout and shift to fishing for warm-water fish like bass, bluegills, and crappies that are very cooperative in the summer water temperatures in many of our lakes.

I stop fishing for trout when the water gets to 65 degrees. I generally don't keep the trout that I fish for most of the year, but I am sensitive to the fact that even having the trout on the line causes additional stress when the water is warmer. If I battle a trout for any length of time during the summer, I will keep the fish rather than risk releasing it and being uncertain of what the additional stress may have caused it. Remember that the daily bag limit is four trout in most waters (continued pg 4)

And that you should plan on keeping the first four trout you catch.

If you are targeting Gila and Apache trout in the designated catch and release recovery streams, which are often rather small and shallow, it is best to avoid fishing for these trout during the warm summer months.

Our fishing licenses pay for this very valuable resource of stocked trout, and the Department does an outstanding job of providing high-quality trout for our fishing enjoyment as long as conditions in our streams and lakes allow it.

Please consider water temperatures when fishing for trout, and if it gets too warm, give bass, crappies, and bluegills a try.
by Jim Stroger



Water Wheel of East Verde—

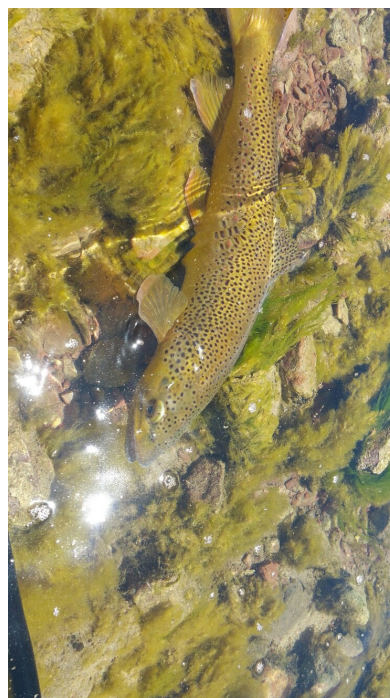


Tonto Creek deep hole



Jon Wallace, Beaverhead, MT

Grasshopper on the Green River



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.

No planned outing in July (We need an outing chair) HELP!!

OUR BANQUET TICKETS ARE HERE!!! SEE BOARD member

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 (Chuck Aldini, Scott & Margie Dennis, 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