



The May 2018 NEWSLETTER



Northern Arizona Flycasters
An active member club of the World Wide organization
“Fly Fishers International”
“Conservation, Restoration, and Education through Fly Fishing”

We support active involvement in coldwater fisheries conservation. We work to insure that Arizona’s habitat is not degraded and in the development and maintenance of fly fishing opportunities.

We support the practice of “catch and release”, the use of barbless hooks, and quick and harmless release practices. Fish should never be kept out of the water for over 60 seconds.

Northern Arizona Flycasters meets the first Wednesday of the month at the Arizona Game and Fish Regional office at 3500 S. Lake Mary Road, Flagstaff. Meetings start at 7 PM with a board meeting at 6 PM.
The meetings are free and the public is invited.

PRESIDENT’S DRIFT – J Shambaja

It is official, another first day of Spring has passed and Easter weekend is upon us. So, time to cure the cabin fever and mark your calendars with fly fishing events. Please, save these dates if you want to improve your fishing skills, meet new people, work on conservation or enjoy the camaraderie at scenic Arizona fishing environments.

Saturday, April 7, Fly Fishing Lees Ferry event. If you have been intimidated by this big western river or never fished this river, now is your chance to apply what you have learned from our friendly members. NAF and TU members will be at the walk-in section of Lees Ferry for enjoyable fly fishing.

Thursday, April 12, 9:00a.m. – 4:30 p.m. for education and social. The Native and Wild Trout Conference is recommended by Northern Arizona Flycasters! Meet individuals interested in networking and developing future plans for native and wild coldwater species in our desert southwest. This event is Sponsored by AZGFD and AZ TU State Council. Registration and information at www.az-tu.com. Registration must be completed by April 9th. Attendance is free, visit Trout Unlimited (T.U) at www.az-tu.com to sign-up for this conference.

Saturday, date to be announced for Fly Fishing and Conservation event. Our friends at Game and Fish have been busy stocking Tiger, Brown and Rainbow Trout at JD Dam pond. Fishing reports have been good plus there is opportunity to catch and release a very large Brown Trout. Last year about this time we had reports of fish pushing 30 inches. And, on the last JD Dam club outing, yours truly netted a fat 15-inch brown trout. We will walk the pond perimeter fence and make repairs as necessary. Our friends at Kaibab National Forest will be assisting us with the fence repair task. So, bring your work boots and wading boots to make a day of it.

Wednesday, June 6 at 5PM for a purely social event. Please attend the NAF/Grand Canyon Trout Unlimited hosted dinner to honor our friends at Arizona Game and Fish Department. Having places to fish in Arizona is special and when you consider what these employees are able to accomplish in this arid climate it is remarkable; for example, employees worked tirelessly for years to successfully bring Gila Trout back to the West Fork of Oak Creek. This will be an RSVP June event with details to follow in the future.

At last month's joint NAF/TU meeting we held a special raffle to begin the journey to raise revenue for the creation of the Paul Weitz Memorial College Scholarship fund. NAF Board of Director, Brad Bradley, was able to acquire through the support of Findlay Toyota - Flagstaff some great fly boxes that were stuffed full of flies' courtesy of Montana Fly Company. And thanks to the generous contributions of those in attendance and of our sponsors we now have an NAF line item budget for this scholarship. If you missed this raffle don't despair, I understand that Brad is working on another raffle perhaps a fly fishing trip is being worked on. So, to get in on the fun of raising revenue for this scholarship, plan on attending the monthly meetings and visit our web site.

Looking for an opportunity to help bring additional interest to Northern Arizona Flycasters? Board of Directors Denise Dean and Tom Hudnall are working with a local sporting goods retailer to host a fly fishing interest booth. This spring we intend to offer fly casting demonstrations, market club membership and offer scholarship raffle tickets as well as offer fly fishing gear. Your interest can be recorded on our web site at the contact-us page or directly contacting Denise, Tom or myself.

Looking for a different approach, here is another opportunity to give back to the community, we are looking for a few folks to help with the June Sixth Purely Social Event. Can you entertain with music, cowboy poetry, illusionist or help with food preparations then please contact the planning committee or our web site at the contact-us page? Our planning committee consist of Board of Directors Denise Dean, Tom Hudnall, Ray Wolosz and Gary Tallman. Interested in joining the NAF Board of Directors, please contact me as we would enjoy having you guide our activities.

Cordially, President Jack

NAF needs your involvement and there are many volunteer venues available such as fishing trips, conservation, writing about club activities, and fund raising. Remember, NAF raises funds

to support conservation efforts; we are a non-profit organization. You can sign-up to volunteer on our web site.

<http://nazflycasters.com/volunteer/>

Do you have trout enthusiasm or just want to grow your personality or stretch yourself out of your comfort zone then we need your talents? Our Club is looking for someone to assist with Guest Speaker Bureau work. This is a great position as it works in coordination with Steve La Falce and has the responsible for finding and scheduling guest speakers to our regular monthly meetings. This position is a cornerstone to engaging future members and keeping current members interested! And this is an opportunity to get to know Steve on a working basis and become familiar with the knowledgeable speakers.

EDUCATION

Tips for Safe Wading

Written by Mac Huff

These tips for safe wading will make your fishing a lot more fun — and could save your life!

Minimum beginnings. Felt soles are minimum wading equipment on your shoes in rocky rivers. Studs and cleats will increase the security of your shoes on rocky surfaces.

Try it! A wading staff is an indispensable piece of equipment when wading conditions are difficult, giving you a vital, third point of support. The third point of support will make all wading easier by letting you maintain two points of contact while one foot is making a stride. A wading staff may make the difference between staying dry and falling in, and lowers your anxiety level during difficult wading.

Give 'em a belt. A wading belt is mandatory when using waders. It will slow the flow of water into the legs and boots of your waders and make escape from the river easier. When I fall in, my legs and feet usually remain dry until I get into shallow water and stand up to walk out. I have learned, even as uncomfortable as it is in icy water, to stay horizontal as I approach shore and drain the water out of the tops of my waders before I stand up. My arms are already soaked and will probably require dry garments, but if I drain the water out of the waders and keep my pants and socks dry I can finish my day of fishing in comfort.

Go slow. This has broader implications than you may think. It obviously includes being careful while wading, but also encompasses taking time to evaluate current conditions and particularly to evaluate conditions when you are visiting unfamiliar rivers or locations. When entering the river and moving through the water, make your moves slow and controlled to minimize the risk of falling. With experience "slow" will become much quicker, but wading is always slower than traveling on dry land and as the hazards become greater your approach demands greater caution.

Stand firm. Create a wide base to stand on when you are on a slippery surface. Widen your stance so your feet are shoulder-width apart; flex your knees to lower your center of gravity. When I enter a river or stream I automatically shift into a stance with my feet slightly wider than my hips and with my knees flexed. As the wading gets deeper and more difficult, my knee flex

increases just as athletes sink deeper into their stances to achieve greater agility. Learn to slide your feet and, as with other athletic activities, never cross your feet. This stance will seem foreign and awkward in the beginning, but practice will make it feel natural - besides, you will have great reinforcement to use this advice when you fall in because your feet are close together or you lose your balance with your feet crossed.

The mechanism that usually makes you fall is having your foot slip under you, or toward the center of your body. By having your feet wide apart your slipping foot tends to shift your center of balance to the opposite foot. With wading experience and practice you will probably find that you are able to wade faster by taking advantage of this phenomenon. In "easy" wading situations you will, in effect, "skate" across the bottom, allowing your boot to slide into a secure position by sliding outward and forcing your weight onto your other, secure foot, followed, at roughly a slow walking speed, by the next successive step.

Foot placement and balance are other important and critical elements of safe wading. Typically, your foothold will not be flat and uniform, like a floor, so you must adjust your foot position. Your foot must be turned inward or outward, as well as up or down, to fit the foothold. Precise foot placement is essential to safe wading. Most of the time the foot must be placed precisely in a small area.

In addition, I find that placing my foot in a secure foothold among cobbles or boulders is most secure when I stand on my arch, rather than the ball of my foot. Visualize that you are securing your foot in the junction between rocks so the boot heel holds the foot from sliding forward and the curve of the arch holds the foot from sliding back.

Find the low places. In the water, when you can't see where your feet are landing let gravity help. Slide your feet into position and work them into the valleys between rocks and cobbles, rather than standing on rounded top of slippery rocks.

Step sideways. In shallow water, less than knee deep, you may be able to walk "normally" with a modified, wide stance. As water gets deeper and footing becomes obscured by water depth or turbidity sidestepping will maintain a wide, stable base. NEVER cross your feet while stepping! When I am exploring the bottom with this sidestep method, most of my weight is on my stationary foot, which helps prevent me from falling by either tripping forward over a high rock or slipping spread-eagle over the far edge of a smooth rock ahead of me. The idea is to not commit to the moving foot until you know you can stand on it. Typically, when I'm using this stride I'm in fishing water, so it is an easy method to move and cover water. In these difficult conditions if my next move is 30 feet or more I will wade back to shore, walk down the bank, and then back out into the water.

Go with the flow. This recommendation is aimed primarily at efforts to cross a stream. It's easier and safer to move at a slight downstream angle with the current than move directly across or against the current. There is often a trick to finding the balance between shallow water with fast current and deeper water with a slower current. Either situation can be disastrous, knocking you down and sweeping you into faster, deeper water, so test the current as you proceed. This is the perfect place to use a wading staff. If you don't carry one, it might be worthwhile to use a streamside stick.

While fishing you will often want to move upstream. Take advantage of slower current while fishing upstream. Move through shallower water or use current breaks behind boulders.

There will be times when you must move against the current to cross or get out of your location. Don't let yourself wade down a gravel bar above deep water to discover that you have to wade back against a current that is too strong to move against! Sometimes apparently moderate currents can be treacherous when the water gets well above your knees, and wading that was easy with the current becomes seemingly impossible when trying to move back against it. Always approach moving water with a great deal of caution until you know your capabilities.

Move ahead. Try to make your movements sideways or forward. Your balance and recovery are better in these directions, where you can see well. If you hook your heel while backing up, your chance of falling increases dramatically. If you must back up, rather than turn around, feel behind you with the lead foot (usually your downstream foot), set it securely and bring the other foot into position. Hooking your heel is often the problem that tips you over while backing up in a stream, but any slip is more hazardous while trying to move backwards. Getting into a predicament that requires you to back up is a situation where you would trade your fly rod and all your flies for a wading staff.

The most treacherous bottom type is bedrock. These are areas with large surfaces of solid rock that have been polished smooth by eons of water erosion. The obvious problem is the large slippery surface. While cobbles are equally slippery, your foot can soon find a joint between rocks for a foothold, but on the large, flat surface of polished bedrock there is no redemption for a misplaced step. Even with careful sidesteps, if your foot slips it may skate so far out that you lose your balance and fall

Final safety considerations. A personal floatation device is necessary for waders that can't swim and may be a good investment for anyone in big rivers and cold water. Both CO2 inflatable suspenders and solid, kapok-filled vests can be found in stores selling whitewater gear. A whistle is one of a mountaineer's 10 essentials and is an excellent safety item for waders to carry for emergency location.

NAF EVENTS SCHEDULE

Items under discussion by board

Assist FS and AG&F with preparing trees for placement in Kinnikinick Lake- Now scheduled for 2018.

Lees Ferry – Marble Canyon walk-in river section. Our experienced club members will be sharing their secrets – how to fish this river section for water conditions and the fishing techniques utilized. Come; be educated about this area, fish hooks will be used during the training as we intend to catch fish.

Fishing outings to the Williams lakes

Fly casting sessions on a regular basis.

The Board welcomes suggestions from members.

There will additional events so watch this space

NAF CLUB OFFICERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Jack Shambaugh
Vice-President	Mike Clementino
Secretary	Mac McIlwaine
Treasurer	Denise Dean

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