



The June 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.

Remember--Instead of a regular meeting we will host a BBQ to say thanks to the Flagstaff Game and Fish Team. BBQ to start at 5pm at Game and Fish. For those coming we would like you to bring a dessert all other food will be provided. Please RSVP to Denise Dean at dean7044@gmail.com.

PRESIDENT’S DRIFT – J Shambaja

Starting June, I will be on Trout Bumming Tour; Mike and other Board members will be handling club duties during my absence. The tour agenda calls for Idaho, Wyoming and Montana focusing upon drainage systems associated with Yellowstone and Teton NP. So, if you will be in this region please contact me at shambaja@msn.com and together let’s enjoy these remarkable waters. My base camp is located in Ashton, Idaho; enjoy your summer with tight lines.

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

Secrets of Fishing Terrestrial Flies

Written by Tom Rosenbauer Orvis.com

Do trout prefer terrestrials to aquatic insects? It's said that trout like the taste of ants, but I'm leery of anyone who claims to know about the taste preferences of the American public or Labrador retrievers, much less silly little fish. However, it has been proven that adult trout are good at judging the relative caloric value of prey and balancing their energy expenditures with energy inputs. A size 14 beetle would seem to have a lot more "meat" than a size 14 mayfly, and a big grasshopper must provide more calories than anything except a big minnow or crayfish.

If you fish small streams, terrestrials are even more important than in larger rivers. A trout's diet in some small streams is made up almost entirely of terrestrials, as these smaller waters don't have large expanses of insect-producing riffles. This may be why such so-called "attractor" flies like Humpys and Royal Wulffs are so effective in small streams—both flies, from a trout's-eye view underneath, look suspiciously like beetles or other land-bred insects. And an Elk-Hair Caddis looks very much like a tiny early-season grasshopper. But, you say, these flies have wings. So do beetles, bugs, katydids, and many ants!

Unlike fish responding to a hatch, trout can be eating terrestrials and you'll never notice. One reason is that they might see a beetle only once or twice an hour, and the chances of you looking at exactly the right spot aren't good. An even more important reason is that when trout eat low-floating terrestrial insects, there is hardly ever a splash. Sometimes you see a subtle ring on the water, sometimes a black snout poking above the surface, and sometimes you see a hopper just disappear into a hole in the water with no visible sign of a rise. Best places to try a terrestrial fly are where riffles deepen into a dark slot (especially near a deep bank but not necessarily), in concave impressions along a bank that form small bays, and along undercut banks, especially ones that flow through meadows.

Finally, one of the most deadly midsummer rigs I've ever used is a tiny nymph tied as a dropper to the bend of the hook of a beetle or hopper. Tie a size 14 beetle or ant to a 12-foot 5X leader. Knot an eight-inch piece of 6X Mirage tippet to the bend of the hook of the beetle with a clinch knot, then tie a size

18 Pheasant Tail Nymph to the end of the 6X tippet. You'll catch about half of your fish on the beetle, and on the other 50% you hook on the nymph, the beetle makes a damn good but subtle strike indicator.

Tips for Fishing Terrestrials

- Be just as stealthy as with any other kind of dry-fly fishing, but some times a fly that lands with a distinct plop will catch their attention. To do this without splashing line and leader on the water as well, point your wrist slightly below the horizontal at the end of the cast. Practice this before you try it on live fish!
- Don't ignore the center of the river with terrestrials. Most ants and beetles fall into the water along the bank, but the current eventually draws them to the center of the river. A Skilton's Quick Sight Ant or Quick Sight Beetle is often deadly fished in fast riffles.
- An occasional twitch can be effective, but don't overdo it, as it's more likely to put a fish down than a fly carefully dead-drifted over its head. Try casting downstream with some slack in your leader, then make the fly twitch just a fraction of an inch with your rod tip. Immediately drop the rod tip so the fly drifts naturally after the twitch.
- Many terrestrials sink after hitting the water. Try a Hard-Body Ant, or a floating beetle or hopper with a small piece of Sink Putty eight inches above the fly. This arrangement is best fished with a strike indicator. This is a deadly secret that a couple of my fishing buddies use for their hole card when nothing else works.
- Terrestrials are more productive on windy days and from late morning through evening, when terrestrial insects are active and more likely to fall into a river.
- Trout eating hoppers will often follow a fly downstream for 10 or 20 feet before either eating the fly or refusing it. Don't pick up to make another cast too early, even if the fly is dragging because a trout may still be tagging the fly. And they sometimes take a hopper fly when it's dragging.

Best Terrestrial Flies

You don't need a broad selection of terrestrials. Fish are seldom selective to a certain kind of beetle or ant. I would, however, carry a broad range in sizes, as the trout seem to prefer smaller or larger flies on a given day or in a certain river. I have no idea how to predict what size they might like. If the water is high or fast, lean to the bigger sizes to get their attention, and if it's low and clear, pick a smaller pattern to avoid spooking them. Other than those guidelines, you're on your own.

- Schroeder's Hi-Vis Hopper. It's surprising how subtle a rise to a hopper can be. If you can't see your fly you might miss the big snout inhaling it in fast water. Ed Schroeder's brilliant pattern has a great profile and you can always follow it on the water.
- Quick Sight Beetle. This is my personal go-to fly when nothing is rising. I've had great days with this fly at home in Vermont and in Montana. It is always in my vest, no matter what time of year. Developed by one of the masters of Pennsylvania spring creek fishing, Bill Skilton.
- Travis Para-Ant. As with hoppers, if you can't see your fly you'll miss a lot of rises. Most ant patterns are nearly impossible to see, even at 20 feet. This one, by gifted Montana fly tier Tom Travis, has a great ant profile and high visibility.
- Terrestrial Selection. This is a selection of the most popular patterns and sizes we sell, so you can go with my picks or what several thousand other fishermen like.

NAF EVENTS SCHEDULE

Flagstaff

June 6th - Instead of regular meeting we will host a BBQ to say thanks to the Flagstaff Game and Fish Team. BBQ to start at 5pm at Game and Fish. For those coming we would like you to bring a dessert all other food will be provided. Please RSVP to Denise Dean at dean7044@gmail.com.

Prescott

June 12th -- The guest Speaker will be Jim Tilley giving a presentation on fishing Alaska. 5pm Lamb Chevy upstairs conference room.

Fly Tying Sessions

The fly tying sessions at the Sportsman Warehouse will be put on hold during the summer months. During the August and September monthly meetings we will hold hands on events which will include fly tying so bring your equipment to those meetings.

Items under discussion by board

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

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

Northern Arizona Flycasters
PO Box 2924
Flagstaff, Arizona 86003
Website- www.nazflycasters.org