



The December 2022 NEWSLETTER

Northern Arizona Flycasters
An active member club of the World Wide organization
“Fly Fishers International”
“Conservation, Restoration, and Education through Fly Fishing”
<http://nazflycasters.com>

We support active involvement in cold water 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 6:00 PM.
The meetings are free and the public is invited.

PRESIDENT’S DRIFT :

Prepare for cold weather, fly fishing. Or one could visit a warmer climate. Use the winter months to inspect equipment, tie flies, and plan your 2023 fishing adventures. Pacific Northwest fly fishers in Washington and Oregon are very active in the winter. Look for sunlit areas on your favorite mountain streams in the winter.

Northern Arizona Fly Casters programs for January and February 2023:

January 4, 2023:

Fly fishing for Utah Cutthroat Trout-Gavin Furguson

February 1, 2023:

Executive Director of the **Oak Creek Watershed Council, Jonathan Lutz.** The Oak Creek Watershed council is dedicated to protecting one of the few remaining natural streams in the Southwest.

Facebook search under Northern Arizona Fly Casters.

AZ Daily Sun, web edition, under Events.

Website:<https://nazflycasters.com>

EDUCATION –

AZGFD offers top winter fishing destinations in Arizona

PHOENIX — Arizona is home to 128 lakes and five major rivers. With cooler weather comes some unique opportunities for anglers who are looking to cast a line during the winter months.

“Arizona has some of the best fishing, from the Colorado River to the White Mountains and everywhere in between,” said Andy Clark, statewide sportfish program supervisor for the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD). “Winter months in our state make Arizona a whole new destination for anglers.”

AZGFD has identified the best locations for anglers this winter:

Colorado River below Davis Dam

This portion of the lower Colorado River in Bullhead City offers some of the best rainbow trout fishing in Arizona, as well as a chance to catch some hearty striped bass. Trout stockings, which resumed in the fall, will continue through March. Anglers have some of the best luck catching trout on mealworms, nightcrawlers and PowerBait.

Lower Salt River

The Lower Salt River allows anglers to fish for trout in the desert, a rare opportunity so close to the Phoenix metro area. The river is stocked with trout throughout the winter months, offering excellent shoreline fishing. Anglers have some of the best luck with nightcrawlers, small spinners, Kastmasters and flies. Bass and sunfish also can be caught in some of the deeper holes.

Dead Horse Ranch State Park lagoons

Just outside of Cottonwood in north-central Arizona, Dead Horse Lake offers some of the best catch rates for rainbow trout and is stocked throughout the winter months. Anglers have some of the best luck on a variety of PowerBait colors, homemade dough baits and spinners. Fly fishermen also report great success.

Alamo Lake

Largemouth bass at Alamo are less active in the winter; however, the lake is known for some of the best crappie fishing in the state during the winter months. Minnows work well for crappie, along with crappie tubes, spoons and jigs for the more experienced angler. Remember, use light line and lightweight spinning tackle to maximize the enjoyment of catching these scrappy fighters.

Lake Havasu

Consistently ranked as one of the top bass fishing destinations in the nation, Lake Havasu offers anglers great opportunities to catch both largemouth and smallmouth bass. In the fall, tournament anglers caught several bass, with the largest weighing in at 5.65 pounds. Havasu is also home to some monster redear sunfish, including the world-record 5.8-pound redear that was taken from the lake in February 2014.

Patagonia Lake

Anglers often catch crappie, bass, bluegill, catfish and especially trout this time of year. Patagonia is considered a hidden treasure of southeastern Arizona, about an hour and a half south of Tucson. The lake was just stocked with trout in early December. Anglers have some of the best luck with nightcrawlers and a variety of PowerBait colors and spinners.

To buy a fishing license, visit www.azgfd.com/License.

An Arizona fishing license is good for 365 days from the date of purchase and helps to conserve and protect wildlife in Arizona for current and future generations. To learn more about fishing in Arizona, including the latest fishing report, forecast, regulations and stocking schedule, visit www.azgfd.com/fishing.

NAF EVENTS SCHEDULE

January 4, 2023:

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Under discussion by board

Fishing outings to local lakes

Fly casting sessions on a regular basis.

Work project with game and fish

The Board welcomes suggestions from members.

NAF CLUB OFFICERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Charles Simpson
Vice-President	Tom Hudnall
Secretary	Mac McIlwaine
Treasurer	Denise Dean

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