



## ***The February 2022 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 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.**

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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.

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### **PRESIDENT’S DRIFT :**

We have another great program to look forward to this month. Our very own "Mac" McIlwein will present on his trips to the Aleutian Islands to fish for char, contend with bears, and endure isolation in this corner of the world. It will be held Wednesday, February 2nd, 7:00 pm at the Fish and Game Offices. Don't miss it.

To help our membership, please remember to renew for the year 2022. Membership fees help with mandatory insurance, travel expenses for guest speakers, raffle items, and minor club expenses.

Remember to check your Arizona fishing license renewal date for 2022!

Information on Northern Arizona Fly Casters events, instruction, and fish stories can be found at several locations:

Facebook search under Northern Arizona Fly Casters.  
AZ Daily Sun, web edition, under Events.  
Website:<https://nazflycasters.com>

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/>

## **EDUCATION – Fly Fishing Silver Creek Arizona**

Looking for a place to fish for large trout that is not too far away and is warmer than it is in Flagstaff? Try Silver Creek. It can be done, there and back in a long day or you can stay over in Show Low for a night.

Silver Creek is a clear, spring creek that is stocked with some huge, trophy size rainbow trout and the state of Arizona's fish, the Apache Trout. The stream is stocked from the Silver Creek Hatchery located upstream Silver Creek. Brood stock from the hatchery is also stocked on occasions. These trout may be as large as 25 inches. This stream is located near Show Low, in the White Mountains. It is "catch and release" only and barbless hooks are required from October 1 through March 31.

The stream is at a high elevation and approximately two miles long. It has plenty of undercut banks but also some pool, runs and riffles. The Arizona Game and Fish Department owns the land.

Silver Creek is very silty and ranges from difficult to impossible to wade. The stream can be fished from the banks. The stream meanders back and forth through open meadows.

Many anglers are not aware that the native Apache trout is Arizona's state fish. It is listed under the Endangered Species Act, but anglers can fish for it in some waters. Silver Creek is one of them along with the Little Colorado River in the Greer Valley and the East and West Forks of Black River. The White Mountains of Arizona is the only place in the World where you can fish for the pure strain Apache trout.

Apache trout may become the first native fish in the United States to come off the endangered species list. This is all due to the excellent efforts made by the White Mountain Apache tribe, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service, and many angling organizations. Silver Creek Hatchery is located east of Show Low about 5 miles on Highway 60. Turn north off 60 onto Bourdon Ranch Road for five miles to Hatchery Way Road. Turn east on Hatchery Way Road for 1/2 mile to the facility.

### Fishing Report:

01/23/22 A fly shop in the area indicates that conditions are good and they continue to get good reports from customers -two this past week. The local shop recommends the following gear:

#### Recommended Tackle & Gear

**Fly Line:**

4, 5 or 6 weight

**Leaders:**

Dry fly: 9 to 12 ft., 5 or 6X Nymphing:

7 1/2 ft., 3 or 4X, Streamers 0-2X

**Tippets:**

Dry fly: 5 or 6X, Nymphing: 3 or 4X,

Streamer 0-2X

### **NAF EVENTS SCHEDULE**

#### **Under discussion by board**

Fishing outings to local lakes

Fly casting sessions on a regular basis.

**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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