



## *The February 2023 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>  
**POB 50517 Parks, AZ 86018**

**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 :**

For Wednesday, 01 February 2023

Reminders:

Club Dues-

\$40.00 Family

\$30.00 Individual

\$10.00 Student

Reminder, our Post Office Box has changed.

**New Post Office Box is: POB 50517 Parks, AZ 86018**

AZ Fishing License-Check your renewal date

Upcoming Presentations:

01 February 2023- Diversify your fishing Upper Lake Mary-Pike with the Fly Rod

01 March 2023 NAF Gear Sale

05 April 2023 Mark Alexander Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance

03 May 2023 Oak Creek Watershed Council

I hope everyone is doing well with our winter weather. With luck, help from Mother Nature, and AZGF we might be fishing in Lower Lake Mary this year. This can be an excellent fishery as well as an area to watch Osprey and Bald Eagles. Nothing like being surprised by a large bird of prey hitting the water. Prepare for variable fishing weather-snow, sleet, rain, wind, or a beautiful, sunny day.

Facebook search under Northern Arizona Fly Casters.

AZ Daily Sun, web edition, under Events.

Website:<https://nazflycasters.com>

## EDUCATION –

# Oak Creek Trout Fishing

Although Slide Rock State Park is more of a water recreation location, great trout fishing can be experienced upstream of the park within one of Arizona's most scenic locales. Healthy wild brown *and* rainbow trout populations are seasonally supplemented with stocked trout by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Trophy fish of both trout species are caught in this stretch of Oak Creek with regularity, especially in the more remote sections of the creek north of Slide Rock and south of the West Fork confluence.

While fishing is not permitted within the swimming areas of Slide Rock, a short hike upstream will lead anglers into vast pools, undercut banks, and gentle riffles that trout love. Fish in an upstream direction since typical trout behavior dictates that they are looking upstream while they wait for their next meal. By approaching from downstream, you have the opportunity to approach unnoticed, cast beyond where the trout are hiding, and present your bait or lure in a natural fashion. Both brown and rainbow trout can be caught on a variety of flies and lures, although the browns typically are very particular about which bait options they choose to strike.

The wild browns in Oak Creek seem particularly fond of a well-placed fly; in fact, most of the larger specimens are reported to have been taken this way. A variety of nymphs and leeches work well here, as do numerous floating flies. Bring a variety and match the insects seen landing on the water. Effectively matching your fly with what the trout are actually feeding on is a great way to increase your likelihood of success!

We want nothing more than for you and your family to enjoy Slide Rock State Park and the associated areas as much as possible. In order to conserve this valuable area resource, we ask that catch and release is practiced in this section of Oak Creek to allow the trout population an opportunity to become even more robust with time.

### *Trout Stocking Schedule*

Although trout are not specifically stocked in the Slide Rock section of Oak Creek, they are placed upstream of the park for anglers to catch on a regular basis. Please refer to the trout stocking schedule for general stocking dates. Keep in mind that trout are stocked at some point during the week of the date posted and may not be stocked on the exact date as seen below. All stocked trout are supplied by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

### *Oak Creek (Upstream of Slide Rock)*

March 1, 15 | April 5, 12, 26 | May 3, 17, 24 | June 7, 14, 28 | July 12, 26 | August 9, 23, 30 | September 13

Looking for a great way to increase your catch rate? [Sign up for our newsletter](#) and receive tons of great fishing info like tips, tactics, and hot fishing spots!

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Visit our [Fishing in Arizona](#) page to learn more about fishing opportunities throughout the state park system.

A valid Arizona fishing license is required for anglers 10 years and older. Arizona fishing licenses are available on the [Arizona Game and Fish website](#), and a variety of authorized license dealers throughout the state. Before your trip, take a look at the current [AZGFD fishing report](#) to increase your chance of success.

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*Please review the [Park Rules](#) before visiting.*

## Park and Facility Hours

Last entry one hour prior to closing, swim area closes one hour prior to closing.

### **Friday before Memorial Day - Labor Day**

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

### **Tuesday after Labor Day - November 30**

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**December 1 - January 31**

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**February 1 - Thursday before Memorial Day**

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Holiday Hours**

**Thanksgiving:** 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve:** 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Christmas:** Closed

## Park Entrance Fee

**Friday before Memorial Day - Labor Day**

Per vehicle (1-4 adults): \$20.00 Monday - Thursday

Per vehicle (1-4 adults): \$30.00 Friday - Sunday, holiday Mondays

**Tuesday after Labor Day - October 31**

Per vehicle (1-4 adults): \$20.00

**November - February**

Per vehicle (1-4 adults): \$10.00

**March 1 - Thursday before Memorial Day**

Per vehicle (1-4 adults): \$20.00

\*Motorcycle: Entry fee is 50 percent of the per vehicle fee

Additional Adult: \$5.00

*Pay fast with Visa or MasterCard. Cash users must have exact change.*

## **NAF EVENTS SCHEDULE**

Programs:

01 February 2023- Diversify your fishing Upper Lake Mary-Pike with the Fly Rod

01 March 2023 NAF Gear Sale

05 April 2023 Mark Alexander Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance

03 May2023 Oak Creek Watershed Council

**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

Northern Arizona Flycasters  
PO Box 2924  
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Website- [www.nazflycasters.org](http://www.nazflycasters.org)