



## *The July 2020 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.**

---

Northern Arizona Flycasters meets the first Wednesday of the month (Meetings currently on hold) 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 :**

The Northern Arizona Flycasters club (NAF) takes great pride in presenting outdoor programs, the AZGF Summer BB-Q, and Christmas Party as part of our regular monthly meetings. Unfortunately the COVID-19 Pandemic has required us to cancel several monthly meetings for the year 2020. At this time, I am not able to predict when or how we will be able to meet as a group for the remainder of this year.

I communicated with the NAF board members via email this week regarding the difficult, but necessary cancellation of our meetings and social functions. In appreciation of our club members, the NAF board has authorized free (automatic) NAF membership renewal for the year 2021. The auto-renewal will apply to members who have paid their dues for the year 2020. Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time.

Casey Simpson

---

Every club member is important to the wellbeing of our club and to our local fisheries.

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

# Summer Fishing Forecast: North Central region

BY [FISHAZ](#) · JUNE 10, 2019



*Trout fishing has been hot at Ashurst Lake, and that should continue through the early summer.*

## Ashurst Lake

**Rating:** Hot

Fishing at Ashurst will be good for large holdover trout through at least July especially following a cold spring. Anglers can catch nice-size holdover rainbow trout on lures such as Rooster Tails, Joe's Flies and small spoons. Fly anglers should be successful using woolly buggers and bead-head prince nymphs. Folks using flies and lures might also catch a nice brown trout.

For anglers using bait, try fishing worms under a bobber until the water temperatures start to warm up. PowerBait fished on the bottom should also work. Garlic PowerBait seems to out-fish unscented bait.

## Cataract Lake

**Rating:** Poor

Fishing at Cataract will be slow until the water warms up in May.

## City Reservoir

**Rating:** Good

City is being stocked with trout and catfish. Fishing will be good using standard trout methods.

## Dead Horse Lagoons

**Fishing rating:** Fair to good

Largemouth bass fishing is great here. Try using plastics in the morning or evening for bass. Target the bass near the submerged vegetation, which is spread all over the lagoons. If you are using a small boat or float tube, fish the edges of the islands. Channel catfish were stocked in May and will be stocked again in June. Catfish can be easily caught on the standard catfish baits, anchovies, hot dog, mackerel, shrimp, etc. This is a great place to take kids to catch small bluegill. They are numerous, but mostly small. There is an entrance fee at Dead Horse Ranch State Park which is currently \$7 per vehicle (1-4 adults) and \$3 for an individual (walk in/bicycle) and the hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Seasonal hours may apply and will be posted at the entrance.

# Dogtown Lake

**Rating:** Good

Fishing at Dogtown is good. During the summer the trout will hit the traditional trout baits Fishing for bass and crappie will pick up as the water warms this summer.

Anglers can catch nice-size holdover rainbow trout on lures such as Rooster Tails, Joe's Flies and small spoons. Fly anglers should be successful using woolly buggers and bead-head prince nymphs. Folks using flies and lures might also catch a nice brown trout.

For folks using bait I would try fishing garlic "flavored" PowerBait in a variety of colors.

# Frances Short Pond

**Rating:** Good

Frances Short is a great place to take young anglers to catch lots of crappie, bluegill and catfish during the summer. A small piece of worm fished under a bobber will catch the crappie and sunfish while hot dogs work for the catfish.



*Goldwater Lake (from July, 2018)*

## Kaibab Lake

**Rating:** Good

Kaibab Lake is full. Kaibab has been stocked with several loads of bigger trout so folks will be catching then this summer.

Anglers can catch rainbow trout on lures such as Rooster Tails, Joe's Flies and small spoons. Fly anglers should be successful using woolly buggers and bead-head prince nymphs.

For folks using bait I would try fishing garlic "flavored" PowerBait in a variety of colors especially once the water warms up.

## Verde River (throughout Verde Valley)

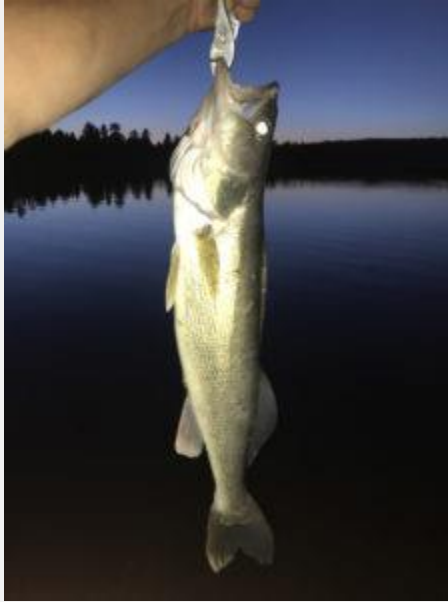
**Rating:** Fair

The summer forecast for the Verde is grim. With the warm dry winter, it is possible the National Forest closures due to extreme fire danger may occur and may make it difficult to access the river. Verde River cities like Cottonwood and Camp Verde will likely allow access.

## Lower Lake Mary

**Rating:** Hot

Lower Lake went from being dry during the fall to about 3/4 full. Fishing will be picking up as the lake shrinks. The good news is even if you're not catching fish at the lake, they are always growing bigger. With the cooler-than-normal spring, the fish will be more active this summer. We stocked several loads of larger trout this year, so don't be surprised if you catch some bigger fish. For fly and lure anglers, try leech-pattern flies and spinners. Bait anglers will do well using worms under a bobber early and PowerBait during the day.



*Walleye fishing has been good at Upper Mary.*

## Upper Lake Mary

**Rating:** Fair

Since January, the lake has went from less than 20% of capacity to full. Anglers have been catching lots of walleye all spring on worms. Expect this to continue.

## Whitehorse Lake

**Rating:** Unknown.

We have not received reports from Whitehorse. The lake is fishable and there is only crappie, bass and bluegill. Trout will not be stocked in Whitehorse due to water quality.

## Oak Creek

**Rating:** Good

Fly anglers and folks using lures can catch some nice-sized brown trout on Oak Creek with some big browns being caught, especially in the area around Grasshopper Point. Try woolly buggers or spinners. Look for our Oak Creek pamphlet that includes exact, G.P.S. positions of stocking locations available at regional offices.

The stockings of rainbow trout occur weekly. Areas stocked depend on accessibility to the creek and parking availability for the stocking truck. Bait anglers should drift salmon eggs or worms below a bobber with the current. Anglers drifting flies under a bobber can also catch rainbows.

Remember the reach of the creek between Call of the Canyon Crossing (West Fork parking lot) and Junipine Resort is open to catch-and-release fishing only using flies and lures with a single barbless hook.

This reach is not stocked and has some nice brown trout in it.

## J.D. Dam

**Rating:** Fair

JD is full and was restocked last fall and this spring with tiger trout. Remember regulations on J.D are flies and lures only with single barbless hooks all fish must be immediately released. This lake is managed as a catch-and-release fishery.

You can't catch if your line is not in the water. Get out and enjoy.

### **NAF EVENTS SCHEDULE**

On hold due to the X#%&\*@x Virus.

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

Fishing outings to local 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	Charles Simpson
Vice-President	Tom Hudnall
Secretary	Mac McIlwaine

Treasurer                      Denise Dean

Northern Arizona Flycasters  
PO Box 2924  
Flagstaff, Arizona 86003  
Website- [www.nazflycasters.org](http://www.nazflycasters.org)