



The June 2021 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 Zoom](#)) 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 :

This is an exciting time of year! You are about to be rewarded for the work and expense of planning your fishing trip. On a recent two-night camping trip to Lee's Ferry, I ran into a few challenges. Fortunately, I also landed some nice rainbows.

The solar aerator purchased by NAF for the AZGF Hatchery at Page Springs arrived in good order. Thank you all! AZGF hope to have it installed by the end of June.

vr Casey

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/>

Volunteer Opportunity

Hello all,

My name is Conor Sweetman and I am a manager at Sportsman's Warehouse here in Flagstaff. You are receiving this email because you are an individual, group or head of a group that has strong interests and passion in outdoor, conservation and environmentalism related arenas. Sportsman's Warehouse is organizing a community clean up at Ashurst Lake near Flagstaff on Saturday June 26th and we are extending this invitation to you all and the groups you are a part of.

If anyone is interested in assisting with this clean up, please email back this address (individually please) with your intent to assist, group name (if applicable) and rough head count if you know. This is a great volunteer opportunity to extend to your members to get them some volunteer hours and to better our beautiful water resources here in northern Arizona.

Recently, Ashurst has been given the nickname "trash-hurst" due to the level of waste left behind from campers, fishers and other recreationists. The clean up will start at approximately 9 a.m. and last until 1 p.m., or until we feel that the area has been sufficiently cleaned up. Water, snacks, volunteer shirts, trash bags, gloves and related supplies will be provided by Sportsman's Warehouse on site for the cleanup. We do need a firm headcount by June 12 for planning purposes and for an accurate number shirts to order. And as it late June, sunscreen is highly, highly recommended!

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to email me or Jenni Rigo (jrigo@sportsmans.com) or to give me a call at 928-536-2300 or my cell phone is 520-204-4873.

I look forward to hearing back from you all about this awesome opportunity to help conserve and protect our natural resources. There will be more official promotional material coming soon to help promote this event with your groups and related networks! Until then, Jenni and I are open to any questions.

Respectfully,

James Conor Sweetman

Sportsman's Warehouse, #239

Softgoods Manager

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(928) 526-2300 or 23906

EDUCATION – Water flow Predictions for Colorado River

Stream flow data doesn't look too bad at the moment. According to [the U.S. Geological Survey](#), the percent of the upper part of the basin observing near normal flow conditions has actually increased from 21 percent to 42 percent. But don't let that deceive you. Late in the water season, streams often appear to be doing better than they actually are. So, what's happening?

Back at the beginning of March, flows were ranking in the bottom 10th percentile. More recently, flows have bumped up and slightly improved. But this bump is mainly due to an early rise toward the peak. That early rise has been kicked off by early melting of the snow. The "improvement" is only an artifact of the early snow melt and will not be sustained.

The water stored in reservoirs is akin to the output of a group project, contingent on the performance of its contributors. Since snow quantities, soil moisture and streams underachieved, reservoirs also end up with a low grade.

According to the April 1 water supply forecast, published by the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, all of the Colorado River Basin will experience below-average water supply.

Across the Lower Colorado River, water supply accumulations began in January and most of the snow has completely melted. For the Lower Basin and southern half of the Upper Basin, water supplies are expected to be below 50 percent of average. Lake Powell inflows are forecast at 38 percent of average, a deficit of almost 4 million acre-feet! For perspective, current levels are already 6 million acre-feet below what they should be right now. Further north, the forecast is marginally better, with water supply expected to be between 50 and 70 percent.

These low forecasts are largely based on less than stellar snowpack conditions, but dry soil moisture conditions at the beginning of the season are also considered. According to Cody Moser of the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, antecedent soil moisture conditions can make a 5 to 10 percent difference in predicted runoff.

Lake Powell, which represents the majority of the Upper Colorado River Basin's water supply, has still not recovered from the drought in the early 2000s. It takes more hits from each new drought. The system had a nice recovery from the 2018 drought, but still hasn't made up lost ground from another drought in 2012-2013. Unfortunately, we'll put 2021 down as another year to further deplete this system.

Becky Bolinger is the assistant state climatologist for Colorado and a research scientist at Colorado State University.

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.

Zoom meetings

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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