



The March 2019 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 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 PM.
The meetings are free and the public is invited.

PRESIDENT’S DRIFT – J Shambaja

President Jack

At our March meeting we will show a documentary on pioneer fly fisherman Joe Brooks; bring your day planner for scheduling fishing rendezvous with other club members. In February we jointly held with Grand Canyon TU, a Pizza and Pint Night, our members enjoyed a good time just before the Flagstaff record snow fall. Plus, a club fishing outing to Silver Creek occurred in February. If you missed our February meeting, the guest speaker was excellent. Speaker Pat Blankenship is the current owner of the Conejos River Anglers Fly shop and lodge. Pat also talked about activities for non-anglers so the Conejos River in Colorado should be included on your list of locations to try. We want to see you this month!

Major announcement for the **10th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference**. Our friends at the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona Trout Unlimited Council have invited us to attend the Native and Wild Trout Conference on April 11th from 9:00a.m. to 4:30p.m. at the Arizona Game and Fish Department Headquarters, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix.

Guest speaker include individuals involved in conservation, native and wild trout recovery in Arizona and New Mexico. The conference is recommended for individuals interested in meeting, networking, and developing future plans for native and wild cold water species in our region. Expect to meet individuals from AZ Game and Fish, US Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service, Arizona Flycasters, Desert Fly Casters, Trout Unlimited, White Mountain Lakes Foundation and other organizations from Arizona and New Mexico. Like the very successful event in April 2018 which gathered over 155 individuals from more than 50 agencies and organizations, this conference has many wide-ranging issues and presenters.

In addition to keynote presentations from Ty Gray, Director - AZGFD, and Chris Wood, CEO and President of Trout Unlimited, presentations will include: Southwest Native Trout Strategy Projects, Native Trout Conservation in the Southwest, Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) plans, *Lees Ferry/Comprehensive Fish Management Plan*, Tonto Forest Plan, Citizen Science: Stream and Temperature Monitoring, Native and Wild Trout Recovery Programs and others. Best of all the **conference is free** and attendees are invited to attend a free BBQ dinner following the conference. **Registration and information can be found at www.az-tu.com**. However, **Registration** for the free conference and free dinner must be completed by **April 8th**. But don't wait until the deadline, register now.

Jointly with GCTU we have been offering beginning fly cast instructions; the focus is on equipment, types of flies and basic presentation cast. And last month Presidents Drift column included a book recommendation "A Guide's Guide to Fly Fishing Mistakes" written by Sara Low. Ms. Low's book is about common fly-fishing problems and most importantly easy to understand "**how to correct them**". In follow-up, here are this month's recommendations to expand your skills and enjoyment. First is a DVD titled "Casts that Catch Fish". Watching this DVD is like

taking a one-on-one fly casting workshop with Fly Fishers International Master Casting Instructor. Each cast is demonstrated, explained step by step in common language, filming is major studio professional with assistance of slow motion and graphical overlay. The fly line is extremely bright with great contrast, even my tired eyes can follow the fly line. Plus, the sound track is excellent, it rocks.

Okay, ideas on where to go to test your new-found skills? Well, we are nearing Spring and it's time to plan your fly fishing trips. Please consider going to **Lees Ferry in Marble Canyon** on the enchanting Colorado River. It is only a few hours' drive to the destination. Long time club member Terry Gunn and his experienced guides can share their knowledge of this local water, it is a gem. Start planning your trip by visiting Terry's web site, just google for Lees Ferry Anglers Fly Shop and Guide Service. Suspect you will have an experience of a life time.

The Lees Ferry location is also the perfect beginning and ending location for a trout tour expedition into the Golden Triangle of the greater Yellowstone region. Thus, my final recommendation is another book, "Fly Fishing the greater Yellowstone Backcountry". This book is authored by Bruce Staples with input from numerous regional legends such as Mike Lawson, Dave Brackett and Doug Gibson. GCTU President Neil has an August outing to this region of Wyoming. And I am hoping to return to the Eastern Idaho portion of the Golden Triangle; so, talk to us about these locations.

Please let me or any of our Board of Directors know how we can improve our club with events, training, socials, conservation projects, fishing trips. We take requests! Laura has asked me to remind everyone to renew your membership, please join us again in 2019. You can bring your fee to the club meeting where Laura LaBranche will assist with the renewal or a new membership, or you can mail your check to P.O. Box 2924, Flagstaff, AZ 86003. And at the Wednesday club meeting please see Tom regarding NAF raffle tickets. We are raffling a complete matched set: beginner fly rod, matched reel loaded with line and a travel case; this Ross equipment is ready to fish.

NAF President Jack

Go Represent Your Water

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

This is one of five casting tips from the Orvis site. Go there to see the other tips and videos.

Top 5 Fly-Casting Mistakes and How to Correct Them

Author [Orvis Staff](#) Posted on [August 16, 2018](#) Categories [Fly Fishing](#)

Written by: Zach Matthews

Front and Back Casts Out of Plane

An angler once asked me to diagnose the reason why he could never get his cast out beyond forty feet, even though he knew how to double haul. We went to a field, laid a long rope on the grass in a straight line, and I stood in front of him at seventy feet while he casted straight at me. Within seconds I knew the problem.

The angler's backcast was out of plane with the forecast, meaning his backcast loop was shooting out to the side (by a significant amount). Out of plane casts sloppily spray force all over the place, swinging the rod sideways like a golf club, instead of loading it in a straight, clean bend, like a bow and arrow.

I asked the angler to open his stance up so he could turn his head behind him, and focus on keeping the backcast loop directly over the rope, which made a nice straight line into the distance. He did so, and on his very next cast he shot his yarn fly right over my shoulder, adding thirty feet to his cast with one simple change.

Out-of-plane casts are easy to diagnose because they cause the fly to kick sideways when the casts turns over. If your fly is consistently landing with a 90-degree bend in your leader, your casts are out of plane. Turn your head and pick out a spot

directly behind you, opposite your target, and line up the front and back casts. This fix is usually as simple as recognizing the issue, and most anglers can correct it right away.

NAF EVENTS SCHEDULE

March 6- Monthly meeting 7:00 Arizona Game and Fish office, we will show a documentary on pioneer fly fisherman Joe Brooks.

April 11- Native and Wild Trout Conference on April 11th from 9:00a.m. to 4:30p.m. at the Arizona Game and Fish Department Headquarters, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix

Under discussion by board

Assist FS and AG&F with preparing trees for placement in Kinnikinick Lake- Now scheduled for 2019.

Fishing outings to the Williams 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	Jack Shambaugh
Vice-President	Mike Clementino
Secretary	Mac McIlwaine
Treasurer	Denise Dean

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