



The March 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.

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.

PRESIDENT’S DRIFT :

The sun is arriving and snowfall is beginning to fill our local lakes. As we all know, our region fishes well from the end of February through early summer. Remember, it is still winter so be on the lookout for hazardous weather and conditions. An early season trip to Kaibab Lake is always fun-chilly, but fun.

Vice President Tom Hudnall has been in touch with the AZGF and Kaibab National Forest regarding necessary field work at J.D. Dam. If we have a weather opening in April, we will get to work. Locate your work gloves and boots. Looking forward to an exciting Spring!

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 – Spring Fly Fishing: Tips & Tricks for Landing Your Dream Trout

March 5, 2020 | By Carter Reschke

For many fly fishers, spring is synonymous with the start of another exciting trout season. Here are our favorite tips to make sure you land your dream trout.

There's no doubt that spring is a fun time to fly fish. Spring means gradually warming rivers and increasingly active trout. It can be one of the most exciting times of the year to fly fish, but you need to know how to approach trout in spring.

Changing water flows, temperatures, and hatches can dictate your spring success. And knowing how to effectively adapt to the volatility of spring fly fishing conditions is the key. Here are our favorite ways to increase your chances of catching a big one on the water this spring.

Don't Forget Winter Tactics

Just because the weather is getting nicer doesn't mean you have to ditch all the tactics that worked so well for you during the winter. No matter how anxious you might be to throw on some dry flies, winter tactics can often be the most effective way to catch big trout in spring (particularly in the earlier few months of the season).

What do we mean by winter tactics, exactly? First, slow presentations are key. Water temperatures are usually quite cold at the beginning of spring, so a slower presentation of your streamer or nymph can be the secret to get those big fish to bite.

Keeping your flies and presentation deep in the water column is also an effective tactic in early spring. When water temperatures are cool and there's limited dry fly action, fish tend to stick near the bottom of the river. Setting your nymphing rig just a foot or two deeper could result in a blockbuster day!

Keep a Close Eye on Water Temperatures

Water temperatures are more variable in spring than at any other time of year. Unstable weather, heavy rainfall, and snowmelt are all factors that will dictate the temperature of your river.

If water temperatures are creeping above 50 degrees Fahrenheit, you can expect most trout to start to exhibit summertime behavior. The fish will be more active, feeding closer to the surface of the water column, and they'll start to move into oxygenated riffles to feed aggressively.

If water temperatures are still in the 30s or 40s, most trout will still be sluggish and hesitant to move much for food. In these cases, keep your presentations on the edge of slower water, where trout will most likely be hiding.

Give Fish a Flashy Presentation

When water levels are high and muddy due to spring rain and runoff, show fish as much flash as possible. Tim Romano of [Field & Stream](#) recommends that anglers go for bugs that are bright and a little gaudy so fish can differentiate them in the sea of murk.

Romano is spot-on: A bright, flashy fly can often make the difference between getting skunked and catching the fish of a lifetime. Don't be afraid to fish flies that are flashier than you would fish otherwise. When water flows are high and muddy, you've got nothing to lose; many times, all you have to do is make sure the trout can see your fly!

Go Big or Go Home

Fishing big flies in the spring relies on the same logic that's applied when you fish flashy flies. You want to make sure trout see your presentation, and big flies are one of the best ways to do that!

If you traditionally would fish a size 18 or 20 pheasant tail, try a 12 or 14 this spring. It just might help you land your dream trout. However, this is a rule that should only be applied if the river you're fishing is higher and muddier than usual. If it's low and clear (rare for spring but still possible), keep your presentation small and light.

You'll need to assess the situation before you decide to supersize your fly, but you'll see success if the conditions are right.

Try Your Local Tailwater

Unfortunately, not everyone has a local tailwater fishery. If you do get the opportunity to fish one in the spring, though, consider yourself lucky. Tailwaters often fish better than

any other rivers in the spring, as their dam-regulated flows are less variable than the volatile levels of surrounding rivers.

Tailwaters will also typically have excellent dry fly hatches in the early spring while other rivers are just starting to defrost. Mayflies, midges, and blue-winged olives dominate early-spring tailwater hatches in much of the United States.

No matter where you live, successful spring fishing relies on your ability to adapt to changing conditions. If you've got the ambition to search for big trout this spring, success will certainly follow.

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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