



## *The November 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.**

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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.

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### **PRESIDENT’S DRIFT :**

The weather has changed and we are experiencing fall conditions. Expect the unexpected- sunshine, rain, wind, and snowfall or an unpleasant mixture of weather.

For our monthly zoom presentation, Jim Stroger, back by popular demand, will be sharing his expertise on fly fishing Silver Creek, AZ.

Silver Creek

Have you ever wanted to fish Silver Creek outside of Show Low for Apache trout and BIG rainbow trout?

Jim Stroger will share information about Silver Creek that will help newcomers be successful. Silver Creek is largely a slow moving stream with steep banks that requires some planning by anglers to determine where to cast from to successfully net a large fish that can be quickly released. That is a nice problem to have.

The Catch and Release season runs from October 1st through March 31st, so this presentation will help you get set for some great fishing before the trout have seen everyone's flies multiple times.

Learn where to fish, some useful strategies and equipment, and take a look at some flies that work.

If you fish Silver Creek regularly, Jim hopes that you will share advice with Club members during the meeting.

The monthly meeting for November will take place on **Wednesday, 04 November at 7:30 pm. Please note the time change.** Jim Stroger will share his expertise on Silver Creek, AZ. I will re-send the invite prior to the start of the meeting.

The meeting is on Zoom. Here is a copy of the invitation

Charles Simpson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Just copy and paste this line to your address box to get to the meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82644026191?pwd=TVRTeEtudXFFSjYyZkl2and1U3VWdz09>

## **FLY FISHING ON SILVER CREEK, AZ**

Topic: Northern Arizona Flycasters Monthly Meeting

Time: Nov 4, 2020 07:30 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82644026191?pwd=TVRTeEtudXFFSjYyZkl2and1U3VWdz09>

Meeting ID: 826 4402 6191

Passcode: 225879

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,82644026191#,,,,,0#,,225879# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,82644026191#,,,,,0#,,225879# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 826 4402 6191

Passcode: 225879

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kd7Sm2KzD2>

If any member has a topic they would like to present, or see presented, please contact me via email: [cps1022@msn.com](mailto:cps1022@msn.com).

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**

### **Earn Money by Fishing Lees Ferry**

#### **The Threat**

The Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam is home to native fish species like flannelmouth and blue suckers. Two endangered fish species, razorback sucker and humpback chub, can also be found in the Marble and Grand Canyon stretches of the river. Native fish are highly susceptible to predation by fish eating predators like brown trout. As brown trout grow, they begin to feed heavily on other fish species. As sub-adults and adults brown trout are 17-times more likely to eat other fish than are rainbow trout. The increase in number of brown trout in Glen Canyon has raised concerns for fish managers. As the Glen Canyon brown trout population grows, they could migrate downstream and pose an immediate threat to native fish species like the endangered humpback chub. Brown trout are also able to thrive in warmer river water than rainbow trout and are better adapted to hunting other fish in the murky river water of the Colorado River when the Paria River and side canyons are flowing.



Get these Brown Trout out of the Colorado River from Glen Canyon Dam to the Paria River Riffle. If they can't play nice with the endangered native fish, we aren't going to play nice with them.

Aristidis Harris

### **Why Your Help is Needed**

In 2019 the National Park Service completed a plan for non-native fish management from the dam to Lees Ferry and on through Grand Canyon National Park. We identified specific tools for managing non-native brown trout with much public and partner input.

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is in a unique position to be able to have the public help manage brown trout through an Incentivized Harvest program and the offering of a reward as opposed to contracted or federal removal programs. The initial research into the use of this tool is designed to last 3 to 4 years at which time the program will be evaluated for its effectiveness. It is not designed to *eliminate* brown trout, but to reduce their numbers to pre-2014 levels. Effective harvest and management of brown trout numbers through the Incentivized Harvest program may avoid the need to implement other removal measures along this segment of the Colorado River in the future.

### **How to Participate**

The incentivized harvest begins on November 11, 2020. For the next 3 to 4 years, eligible anglers will be offered a reward of \$25 per Brown Trout over 6 inches in length removed from the Colorado River between Glen Canyon Dam and the mouth of the Paria River. This reward may vary with the seasons or be adjusted annually, but will typically be in the \$25-\$33 dollar range.

- All [Arizona fishing regulations](#) must be followed:

- Everyone 10 years of age and older must have a valid Arizona fishing license.
- All brown trout must be harvested legally per current Arizona Game & Fish Department guidelines. This includes using barbless hooks and lures, and no live bait.
- Rainbow trout limits still apply. Know the difference between Brown trout and Rainbow trout. Hooked rainbow trout should be carefully handled and immediately released once the rainbow trout limit is reached.
- Pick up the official data card and small bag at the Lees Ferry boat ramp, the Lees Ferry fish cleaning station located near the long-term parking area, or at the Navajo Bridge Interpretation Center collection area.
- Register for the harvest by turning in brown trout heads and entrails in the large bags also provided at the same locations along with a filled-out data card placed in each large bag.
- Only heads from Brown Trout 6-inches or greater will be counted.
  - Fishing officials can determine body length from head size for 6-inch fish. They can also determine, whether the fish were locally caught, and the difference between brown and rainbow trout. Please only turn in fish from the identified fishing area.
- Harvested fish and data cards should be turned in at the collection station located at the Navajo Bridge Interpretive Center. A freezer is available for depositing your catch.
- All brown trout harvested will be tallied at the end of each month. Checks for the rewards (currently \$25 per head) will be mailed to the name and address presented on the data card.
- Our friends and partners at [Glen Canyon Conservancy](#) will manage the storage of fish heads and distribution of monthly rewards.
- NPS employees are not eligible to participate.

*For More Information Contact:*

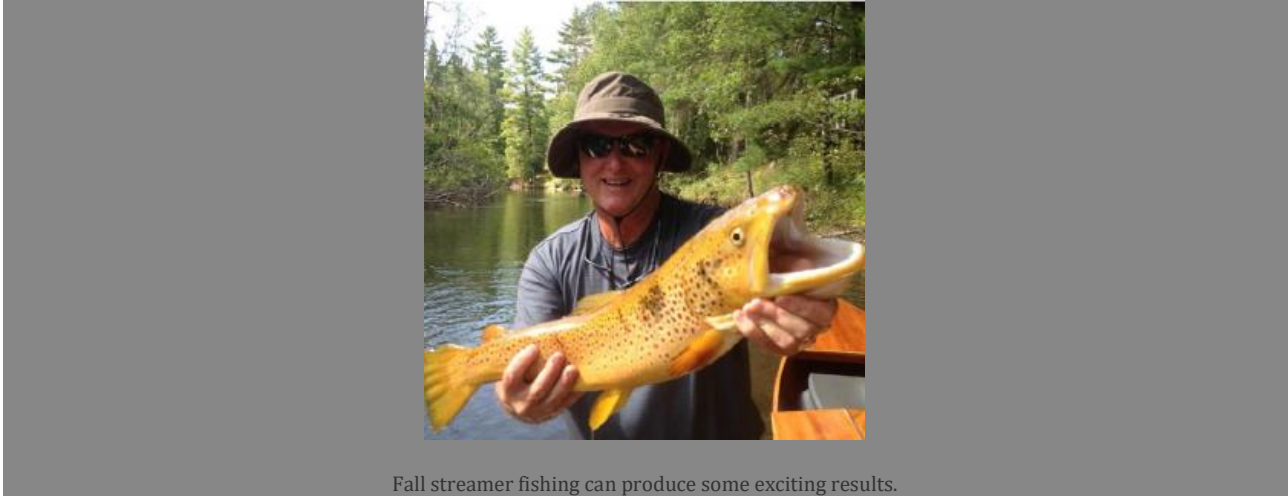
[Jeff Arnold](#), Fisheries Biologist, National Park Service (928) 608-6504

[Scott Rogers](#), Aquatic Program Manager, Arizona Game and Fish Department (928) 214-1245

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September 30, 2019 • [Forum](#)

Summer hatches are a distant memory, and the weather is turning colder. As the water cools, the sun gets lower in the sky, and the hours of daylight shorten, brown trout and brook trout put on their brilliant spawning colors and get aggressive as they build their spawning redds and begin the spawning ritual.



Fall streamer fishing can produce some exciting results.

Watching over their redds turns them into protective predators who will eat anything that gets too close. Throwing streamers and stripping or swinging them across the river becomes the preferred tactic to fool some of the largest fish of the year.

Here are some tactics that may help you make your Fall streamer fishing more productive. First, since today's modern streamers are often large, articulated, and usually very wind-resistant, the recommended line weights increase from the typical trout weight of 5 weight, to 6 weight, 7 weight, and even 8 weight rods and lines. This makes picking up submerged leaders and lines, carrying large water-logged flies through the air, and turning them over much easier. My preferred outfit is a 9 foot 6 weight that has a saltwater handle with a large full wells grip. The larger grip takes considerable pressure off of my forearm while making hundreds of casts. This helps prevent fatigue or even tendinitis in my forearm and elbow. I use a large arbor reel that will pick up line quickly when a big fish runs right back at me. And, I fish a Class V sink-tip line to sink quickly and stay down while I strip my fly across the stream. In water that is only 2-3 feet deep, a floating line will suffice with a long leader. However, when the water is deeper than 3 feet, a 7-15 foot Class V tip with a short 3-4 foot leader will keep the fly down on the bottom for more strips and thus in front of the fish. Normally, I fish a sink-tip line when I intend to fish streamers for an entire day. Larger rivers are best fished with longer sinking sections such as 20-30 foot tips. They are



more difficult to dredge up from below the surface to make the next cast, but they get deeper and cover more water at a greater depth for larger rivers. The most common is the Orvis Depth Charge in a 200 grain for a 6wt., 250 grain for a 7wt., or a 300 grain for an 8 weight rod.

Covering the river with a streamer means fishing downstream. Make a cast to one side of the river as close to the bank as possible and as the line draws tight and begins to drag, bring it across the river with short, intermittent strips. Vary the length and timing of the strips. After stripping in to within 20 feet, take a few steps downstream, pick up the line, and cast again to the bank. Outside banks are deepest, so stay on the inside of the turns and cast to the outside, deepest sections, and



keep moving downstream. Keep your rod tip close to the water so you can set the hook quickly, and keep moving downstream covering as much water as you can.

In the store, the most common streamer question I get is, "What streamer should I use?" The answer I give the customer is this, "Have white, yellow, olive, and black streamers with you and change color every 15 minutes until you get a take. Then stay with it for at least 30 minutes." Sunlight and water clarity make flies more or less visible and certain colors will show up better and more attractive than others given the conditions. That's why low light early mornings and late evenings are so



effective. In my opinion, color is more important than pattern. As my tennis coach taught me, always change a losing game and never change a winning game. Successful streamer fishing uses the same logic.

Casting large, wind resistant, heavy, water-logged flies also requires a little preparation. Throwing tight loops is not the best method of casting these flies. Gravity makes these heavy flies drop quickly and tight loops can cause them to collide with the rod. So, open your loop and slow your stroke down to allow enough time for the fly to travel through the air and lay out fully before moving your rod tip in the opposite direction. If you're making long casts, remember to aim high to your target and add a slow, deliberate, smooth single haul on the delivery cast.

There you go. It's streamer time. The air is cooling, daylight is dwindling, and fish are going to gravel. Grab your big stick, pick some big flies, and head to the river.

*Dave Leonhard is owner of Streamside Orvis, Orvis Michigan Flyfishing Schools, director of instruction of the Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing School, and a Master Casting Instructor for Fly Fishers International.*

## **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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