



The October 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

First grab your pencil and calendar.

Go Fishing:

September has rocketed right along, much like the rest of this fishing season we are not sure where all the time goes! All in all, there may be no life better spent than on the water watching the seasons change year in and year out while chasing trout with a flyrod. Before too long, the snow will fly like it does here every winter and you’ll be wishing for just one more day on the water. Autumn has arrived in Arizona’s Colorado Plateau in all its splendor. Aspens are turning yellow, Elk are bugling, and our first snow has coated the San Francisco Peaks. It’s a spectacular time to be exploring our region with a fly rod. Cooler weather has activated our fall fisheries, many of which have been dormant during the warmer summer months. Some of the most beautiful days, and exciting fishing of the season are yet to come. So, get out and get your fix while the gettin’ is still good.

A multitude of good fishing options exist right now, and depending on the weather conditions, there are a variety of fly games to be played. Bright sunny, Indian Summer conditions will produce some of the most jaw-dropping, inspirational, reconsider your priorities and adjust your life plan panoramas you will ever see. They will also prompt the last terrestrial afternoons of the season with hoppers and flying ants making one last go at it before the hard frosts do them in for the season. Stormy days will trigger thick afternoon emergences of fall hatches, as well as arouse brown trout into their fall routine of migration and aggression. Regardless of conditions, there is some good fishing going on somewhere these days, though it's critical to consider the weather and conditions when planning your day. Bring your fly gear, Gore-Tex, an extra layer, some hand warmers, a thermos of coffee, your stocking hat and then go enjoy life!

Announcements:

Okay, now the important NAF club announcements so mark your calendar.

Our October guest speaker is Scott Gamble, DVM; Dr. Gamble is a cold-water conservationist, an animal lover and has a special appreciation for dogs. Dr. Gamble will present a unique perspective of the great Alaskan race, Iditarod which combines humans and dogs in their match-up against American's last frontier and its elements.

For those that missed our last Pint Night, we now have another opportunity! Mark your calendar October 23rd at 6PM, bring your appetite as appetizers will be provided. Plan to meet us at Grimaldi's Pizzeria, 601 E Piccadilly Drive Ste 55, Flagstaff; Grimaldi's is accessed off Butler Avenue. Please bring your friends and remember visitors are welcome, this is a great opportunity to meet new people, plan a fishing trip and engage in camaraderie.

The January club meeting has been moved to January 8th, that is the second Wednesday. The first Wednesday of January is the first day of the new year, 2020!

We are in the planning stage for our Christmas Party, details to be announced in the future.

Unfortunately, the NAF is not immunized from the Nationwide decline of Americans volunteering on a regular basis their time and money to either participate in charitable causes or social organizations. The decline is pervasive, thirty-one states have experienced a decline in volunteering over the last decade; not one state saw an increase in participation rates. Consider your free time options, you can watch annoyed talking heads and blathering politicians talk irrational nonsense all of which leaves you empty and angered. Or you can serve on the NAF Board of Directors sharing laughter, friendship, participating in conservation and yes sometimes, the enjoyment of fly fishing. Want more joy in your life, then good news, we are currently seeking nomination of individuals to serve on the NAF Board of Directors. Please attend our October 2 Board of Directors meeting at 6PM to obtain nomination to the NAF Directors. Then next meeting date, at our annual meeting scheduled for November with election of new Board of Directors and

officers in the following meeting, you can begin experiencing more fun. We have vacancy on both the Board and Officers so, now is the time for your involvement in a worthwhile pursuit.

I will leave you with powerful words from the Director of Arizona's Game and Fish Department, Ty Gray, "It is much simpler for us to take folks who are exactly like us fishing. They are more likely to want to continue with it, because they have similar values and interests as we do. What is more difficult, and even more important for the future of fishing, is to also find ways to help others who might never consider fishing as a worthwhile pursuit. We need to help them find interest and joy in fishing in a way that is meaningful to them." And as said by Matt Dunfee, Wildlife Management Institute, "Get someone to love fishing as much as you do, who doesn't look like you."

Tight Lines,

President Jack.

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

By [Ted Leeson](#) *Field and Stream*

August 25, 2017

Pride, as the preacher says, goeth before the fall. I've seen it in others and it's happened to me—after a summer spent dialing in the trout streams, you know what you're about. Life is good. Then the maple leaves turn, the bluebird days give way to freakish weather swings, and your fishing, like the geese, heads south. Autumn trout streams still offer opportunity, but fall is a season of change. And if you want to catch fish, you have to change with it. Here's what to expect on fall trout water, along with strategies to meet the season.

Freestone Streams & Headwaters

On these higher-gradient, boulder-strewn waters, the trout are concentrated into fewer spots by a flow volume at or near the annual minimum and warm, clear water that's low in dissolved oxygen. On summerlike days, head straight to the pockets. The turbulence produced by in-stream boulders gives the trout fresh air in the water. Fish the froth with a high-floating, buggy dry: a size 14 or 16 Deer Hair Caddis or small Stimulator. Approach the water directly downstream and use short, precise drifts to cover the riffled apron of water behind the boulders, as well as the bubble lines and the foamy water alongside chutes.

When autumn days feel more like winter, go subsurface. Hare's Ears, Pheasant Tails, Princes, beadhead or weighted, do well. In the shrunken currents of fall, fishing without a strike indicator gives more precise control in the narrow drift lanes. But this requires that you get close to the fish. Look for pocket-water seams, slots, and current tongues that run knee-deep or better. The surface chop will help mask your approach, but keep low, move slowly, and use the cover of boulders and brush for concealment.



An angler stalks the bank of McCoy Spring Creek in Montana. Brian Grossenbacher

Rig a pair of nymphs about 8 to 12 inches apart, and position yourself about a rod length across from the target water and slightly downstream. Flip the flies upstream at a 45-degree angle, and raise the rod to remove any slack. With the rod tip high, lead the flies downstream on a barely taut line. Focus on the leader where it enters the water; if it pauses or twitches,

strike instantly. If you have time to think Was that a hit? it's already too late.

The bigger pools that paid off earlier can still be good bets, but years ago on an autumn trip, an expert fly angler gave me a bit of advice: Instead of concentrating on the head and gut of the pool—prime summer water—look to the edges and tailouts. Aquatic forage is skimpy in fall, and the trout rely more on terrestrial insects that fall to the water from surrounding vegetation. Fish will feed along shady banks or take up stations at the tail, where the narrowing current funnels food to them. A flying ant or beetle imitation is a good choice, but on these smooth, clear waters, stealth means more than pattern.

Prespawn brook trout will congregate in these same tailouts and attack a streamer swung down and across in front of them. In this shallow water, you're best off with an unweighted feather-wing or bucktail pattern like a Hornberg or Black Nose Dace.



Angler Rance Rathie nears the end of his battle with a brown trout. Brian Grossenbacher

Spring Creeks

Here, the prevailing fact of fall is vegetation, lots of it, in the water and on the bank. After a summer's worth of growth, beds of aquatic plants spread in thick mats on the surface. Fish holding alongside or between islands of weeds or in shallow channels through the salad are supernaturally wary. Avoid wading if at all possible and stalk from the bank. Crouch. Creep. Crawl. Slither on your belly like a reptile. Do whatever it takes to get directly across from, or slightly below, the fish. Cast from a kneeling or sitting position.

Long, drag-free drifts are neither feasible nor necessary over shallow-lying fish holding around the weeds. A trout sees the surface of the water in a circular window centered above its head; the radius of the circle is roughly equal to the depth of the fish. A trout holding a foot down won't see your dry fly until it's 12 inches away. Drop the fly at the upstream edge of this window, laying your line directly atop any intervening vegetation. Let the fly float past the downstream edge of the window before picking it up—very quietly. If a hatch is in progress, it's likely bluewing olives. Fish a size 18 Parachute BWO or emerger pattern. When nothing's hatching, choose a Parachute Adams or Crowe Beetle in the same size; small hook gaps are less likely to snag on vegetation when you pick up the fly for another cast.

Bankside weeds and grasses have also reached their maximum height and droop over the bank low to the water, forming archlike tunnels that give trout shade and cover. To fish these prime runs, look for an entrance to the tunnel. Stay as far downstream from the opening as you can while still being able to pinpoint it with a cast. Drop a size 14 Elk Hair Caddis or ant pattern a few inches from the bank, and let it snake down the tunnel. Your view may be screened, so strike at any disturbance.

NAF EVENTS SCHEDULE

Oct. 2 guest speaker is Scott Gamble, DVM

Pint night October 23rd at 6PM, bring your appetite as appetizers will be provided. Plan to meet us at Grimaldi's Pizzeria, 601 E Piccadilly Drive Ste 55, 6 PM.

December Christmas Party – In the planning stage

The January club meeting has been moved to January 8th

Under discussion by board

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

Northern Arizona Flycasters
PO Box 2924
Flagstaff, Arizona 86003
Website- www.nazflycasters.org