



The October 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.

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 :

I will be hosting the Northern Arizona Flycasters Zoom Meeting October 7. Jim Stroger, (Gila Trout Chapter of TU/Payson Flycasters' Club) will provide information on the story of bringing Gila trout to the East Verde River that includes how they are raised at the Canyon Creek Hatchery, the addition of several stream improvement devices in the East Verde River, and willow planting near the improvements.

These Gilas in the hatchery act like wild fish, which requires specialized care in raising them. The advantage to this special care is a fish that is immediately well suited to inhabit a stream and assume wild tendencies. Learn about the types of water that seem to hold these fish, flies that have consistently produced well for him, and techniques that you might want to try. Many of these fish have traveled great distances from their stocking points, which bodes well for their ability to make the East Verde River their home for years to come, and even reproduce in the stream, if they are released or remain uncaught by anglers. He will also share information about

a research project that is tracking these fish to learn about their movement and angler success with the East Verde Gilas.

See my email for the login information and link. Plan on trying to log in at least 10 minutes early. I will open the meeting [at 6:45](#).

I look forward to seeing all of you

Copy of invitation email

Charles Simpson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NAF Monthly Meeting
Time: Oct 7, 2020 07:00 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88041456444?pwd=eGhadGNZZ0RnMXNGYzI2c1crclhIQTO9>

Meeting ID: 880 4145 6444
Passcode: 004571
One tap mobile
+12532158782,,88041456444#,,,,,0#,,004571# US (Tacoma)
+13462487799,,88041456444#,,,,,0#,,004571# US (Houston)

Dial by your location
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 880 4145 6444
Passcode: 004571
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ky1S76hl>

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

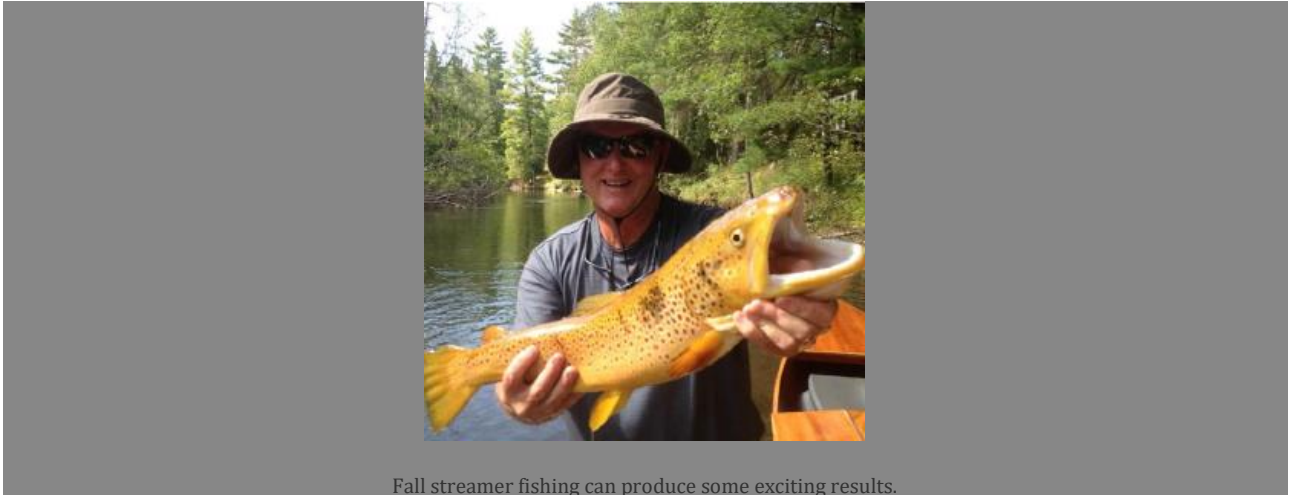
support conservation efforts; we are a non-profit organization. You can sign-up to volunteer on our web site. <http://nazflycasters.com/volunteer/>

EDUCATION

FALL STREAMER FISHING IS HERE!

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

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|----------------|-----------------|
| President | Charles Simpson |
| Vice-President | Tom Hudnall |
| Secretary | Mac McIlwaine |
| Treasurer | Denise Dean |

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