

# Arizona Flycasters Club

# R E E L L I N E S

Established 1963

We Support Catch and Release

August 2006



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FEDERATION OF  
FLY FISHERS



Next Meeting:  
Fly Fishing Arizona's  
Famous Tailwater,  
Lee's Ferry  
with  
Jim Sampson

Thursday,  
August 10th  
7:00 PM

## President's Riffles

Brian Mazoyer Mazbrian@cox.net

In my article last month I talked a bit about passing on traditions and giving back to the club. The July meeting was a perfect example of this. We had many of the club's best fly tiers teaching not only techniques for tying Arizona flies but even more importantly, how to fish them successfully. I want to thank all the tiers, and especially Nancy Vance for all her time and effort in bringing all of us together for this great evening of instruction and education!

Right along with education, conservation is a very important part of our club's activities. Over the past several years there have been many fires including the Rodeo/Chediski, Brins in Oak Creek Canyon and others, as well as other natural disasters that have affected the places we fish and go to for recreation. As devastating as these fires and disasters have been there is always hope to restore what has been lost and to regain a usable environment for fishing and recreation.

Your club is directly involved with many of these recovery activities including habitat restoration and removal of bull thistle weeds in Canyon Creek and an upcoming habitat restoration project with Arizona Game and Fish in Apache Lake. I would encourage you to become involved in these efforts. A great example is this month's outing: you can help to eradicate crawfish, pull noxious weeds and fish at the same time!

If you have questions about the conservation efforts of our club please speak with Dick Kennedy, our conservation chairman. He can assist you with getting involved in any of the projects we are working on.

I am on the lookout for pictures from outings, classes or any other club events. If you take any pictures please e-mail them to me at the address above so I can use them at the meeting slide shows and archive them with the club.

As always, I hope to have the opportunity to fish with you soon!



Jan Girard shows off the catch at last year's Crawfish Extravaganza.

AFC member, Jim Sampson, will be presenting a program on the fishery at Lee's Ferry. There will be an overview of a recent trip to the Ferry, including fishing conditions throughout the seasons, techniques needed to fish this unique tailwater, flies, rigging and a history of the fishery.

For those of you who don't know Jim, he is an avid fly fisherman and an accomplished fly tier. A teacher by profession, he works part-time at the Scottsdale Orvis Store in the fly fishing department, of course!

Lee's Ferry has been known as one of the premiere fishing destinations in the world, so come and learn what is going on with this famous stretch of water and some of the secrets of how to fish it.

-Nancy Vance

**Upcoming  
Three Month  
Calendar**

<b>August</b>	10th	Thursday	General Meeting
	12-13	Sat - Sun	Bull Thistle/Crawfish Extravaganza
	19-20	Sat - Sun	Gila/Apache Trout Workday*
	22nd	Tuesday	Intermediate Fly Tying
<b>September</b>	Mondays + Wednesdays		Fly Tying Classes
	14th	Thursday	General Meeting
	16-17	Sat - Sun	Gila/Apache Trout Workday*
	23-24	Sat - Sun	Woods Canyon Lake
	30	Saturday	Casting Clinic
<b>October</b>	7th	Saturday	Gila/Apache Trout Workday*
	16-18	Mon-Wed	Net Building Classes
	21-22	Sat - Sun	Hawley Lake

\* With Old Pueblo TU - see the June issue of Reel Lines. Contact Dick Kennedy for info.

**Coming Soon:**

AFC members, it's that time again so mark your calendars. Our fall beginning fly tying classes kick off Wednesday, September 6th at the Sunnyslope Community center and will continue through Sept. 27th. All classes start at 7pm on all Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the month.

**Fall Fly Tying  
Classes!**

Scheduled to be tied this year are the Sunrise Special, Antron foam ant, Denny's Seal Bugger, Bead head pheasant tail soft hackle, Stillwater nymph and the Griffith's gnat. All members are invited even if you have attended previous classes. As usual, all materials and equipment is furnished at no charge by Arizona Flycasters Club. See you there!

*Bill Vance*

**Education  
Committee  
News**

**Intermediate Fly Tying Class - Aug. 22, 2006**

"To dye or not to dye" will be covered in some detail in this last Intermediate class before we start our fall Basic Fly Tying Class in September. In addition we will also learn to "customize" dubbing.

This class will be held at the Sunnyslope Community Center from 7 - 9 PM.

We will use some of the customized dubbing to tie flies that work well in the White Mountain lakes. Bring some plastic sandwich bags to take home your own customized dubbing and new colored materials.

There will also be some gifts of fly tying materials that are often used in AZ flies.

The club will supply all the materials and will have fly tying equipment for those in need. If you have any questions give Ron Robinson at call at 602.867.8820.

*Ron Robinson*

robinsonrs@cox.net



Clipart courtesy FCIT

**A Warm Welcome to our Newest Members:**

Kyle & Karen Evers  
Phoenix

Lee Anderson  
Scottsdale

Thomas Hott  
Scottsdale

Hank Szopinski  
Scottsdale

Steven Winn  
Mesa

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## Midges

Text and  
Illustrations by  
Jerry Hobbs

Third in a series

Those of us who have fished the San Juan know all about midges, right? Those little insects you can hardly see because they are so small (sizes 20 to 26)?



Larva

In some waters midges account for 3/4ths of the diet of the fish population. They are so small (usually 1/4 to 3/8<sup>th</sup> inch) their hatches are easily overlooked by anglers, and many fly tiers are intimidated by their small size, thinking they would be harder to tie than they actually are.

Midges hatch year-round, every day, unless the lake or stream is frozen over. In the winter months they might be the only food available to fish.

If you fish Lee's Ferry, the San Juan, even Alaska waters, midge patterns from size 14 to 24 are necessary (mostly size 20 and smaller), if you want to catch fish.

Midges are true flies in the Order Diptera- having only 2 wings. They are in the Family of *Chironomids*, a term you will hear often. They undergo complete metamorphosis; egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Fish prey on all forms.

Midge larvae are very slender with a uniform profile- no well-defined head or appendages. They live in silty bottoms or under rocks.



Pupa

Pupae are darker, shorter and squatter than the larvae. Inside the case are the developing wings. They wiggle as they rise slowly toward the surface, with the help of trapped air bubbles under the skin. The wings become more prominent and they hang in the surface film where they are helpless while they emerge as adults and then fly away.

Good patterns for midge larvae include: Andy Kim's "Yong Blood" and Bear Goode's "Sparkle Larva". To imitate the pupa use Andy Kim's "Yong Special", the Black Beauty, Beadhead Zebra Midge, and the Brassie. For emergers use Rim Chung's RS2 or a WD40.

Midge adults often form mating clusters on the water's surface, and can be fished with a Griffith's Gnat, Black Gnat, Adams, Blue-Winged Olive, or a Mosquito pattern, all in a size 12 or 14.



Adult

To fish larval patterns you must get the fly at or near the bottom; pupa patterns need to be fished in a jerky, slow retrieve, which imitates their rise to the surface. Emerger and adult patterns should be fished in the surface film with a dry fly or an emerger pattern.

Good luck!

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## July's Program

Nancy Vance

... appears to have been very successful. We had some of the club's best tiers tying essential Arizona flies. I would like to acknowledge those members for their time and effort. Thanks to Ed Rife, Dennis Lockett, Bob Rudzinski, Art Thomas, Jim Sampson, Ron Robinson, Brian Mazoyer and Bill Vance. Members like these are what make our club so great.

A club of any kind is only as good as its members, and we have some folks who are always willing to help out. Hopefully, this will be a great example to the rest of us to volunteer for a committee, help out on a conservation project, become a board member, etc. Each of us has something to offer. **Get Involved. The rewards are worth the time spent!**

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## Net Class

Ron Rosenlof

The December class will be changed to October 16, 17, and 18. Sign up for this class will be at the September and October meeting. This is a beginning class and intended for members that have not yet built a net. The beginning class fee is \$15.00 for members.

# Fly of the Month: WD-40

*John Van Derhoof*

This pattern has been around since the '80s and because of its popularity it has proffered more variations than you could shake a stick at. What is being presented to you is the original pattern as best as I can determine and it still, according to many, is one of the best. You can add a bit of flash to the body or the wing case through the use of Krystal Flash or similar materials or add some weight and impart a jigging action by adding a bead head. Still other variations include adding a wing—in particular a short, upright emerging wing.

It is a good idea to carry the fly in several different colors to match local conditions including tan, black, pink, red and gray beyond the olive shown here. Vary the sizes to include a range of #16 down to #20.

Fishing it dead drift with an indicator or a dropper dry fly is my favorite method of using the WD-40. Be sure to complete your drift and allow the imitation to rise through the water column like an emerging insect or you will be missing about 40% of your strikes. Continue to retrieve the fly slowly for a short distance before your next presentation and drift. Fishing the WD-40 in this fashion is a great way to spend the day.



## Materials For Tying the WD-40:

**Hook:** Midge emerger style such as a Tiemco #2487 in sizes #16-20

**Thread:** Olive 6/0 or 8/0

**Tail:** Wood duck flank fibers (hence the 'WD')

**Body:** Thread

**Thorax:** Muskrat dubbing including the guard hairs

**Wing case:** Wood duck flank fibers

**Head:** Same as body or black

## Instructions for Tying the WD-40:

1. The WD-40 is a simple fly to tie and very effective fly to use. Start by placing your hook in the vise in the standard fashion. Attach your tying thread to the hook just behind the headspace and evenly wind down the shank to a point where the thread is directly over the point of the barb. Remove a clump of about 4 to 8 fibers, depending on the size of the fly, from a wood duck flank feather. Tie them in so that they extend beyond the bend and are about the length of the shank. Do not trim the butt ends as they will be used for the wing case.
2. Smoothly wind the body using your tying thread. I like to spin the thread counterclockwise every 8 to 10 wraps to keep it flat and untwisted. The body should be a thin, smooth, slightly cigar shaped and extend about one-half to two-thirds the length of the shank.
3. Before you proceed to the dubbing fold back the butts of the tail and add any additional wood duck fibers you need in order to create the size of the wing case that you want. Your thread should now be at the beginning of the thorax.
4. Thickly apply muskrat dubbing, including the guard hairs, to your thread to form the thorax. For an even shaggier appearance you can use a dubbing loop. Wind the dubbing forward to the headspace evenly, avoiding overlap that could weaken the fly, and tie off at the headspace.
5. Pull the wood duck fibers forward over the top of the thorax giving them a slight twist to help keep them together. Tie the fibers down securely with a few thread wraps. Form a small, neat head and whip finish. Using your bodkin pick out the underside of the thorax creating a hair and dubbing hackle and your WD-40 is complete.

**This  
Month's  
Outing:  
Crawfish  
Extravaganza!**

August 12th-13th

Roger Cahoon

A good way to beat the dog days of summer is to plan on attending the August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Crawfish Outing. The club will be staying at Colcord camp ground on the edge of the rim which is only a short drive from Phoenix so if camping doesn't fit into your plans this makes a great day drive. Members will begin setting traps on Friday and continue to harvest crawfish up to the potluck at which time the feasting will begin.

Also this weekend the club will be going down to Canyon Creek to help Patti Fenner from the Tonto National Forest remove bull thistle from around the creek bank. This is a very important task as bull thistle is an invasive noxious weed that threatens the health of the creek. If you plan on helping with this project you will need to bring gloves, shovel and pruners. If that sounds like work, I assure you it really isn't. What it is is a good way to spend a nice afternoon involved in an important conservation project. If you are planning to come up just for the day, we will be going down to the creek around 8:30 - 9:00. And don't forget to bring your rods, as there will be time to try your luck at catching a brown trout.

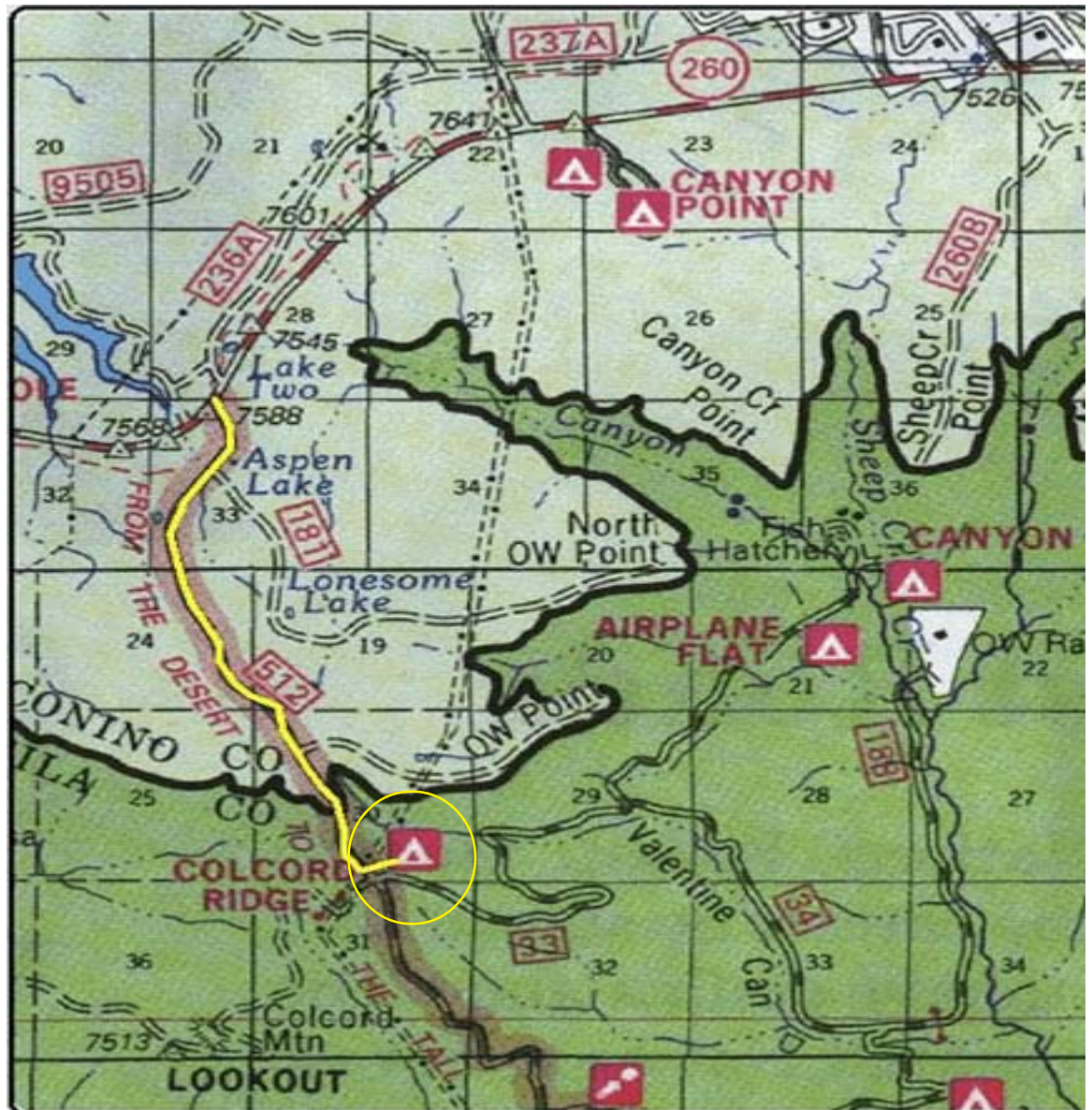
To get to Colcord Campground, take 260 East out of Payson and go about 32 miles to the Young Road (State Route 288). Turn right and go 3 miles to the campground located on the left side of the road. Watch for the A.F.C. signs. The camp hosts for the weekend will be Richard and Jan Girard who did a fantastic job last year. The potluck will be at around 3:00pm as always. Bring a dish to enjoy with the crawfish (main, side, dessert). I hope to see lots of members participate as these two conservation projects are very important and will be a nice way to spend the weekend.

**Big Lake Review:**

Big Lake was well attended with 33 members. Unfortunately, due to the hot dry year we have had, the fishing at both Big Lake and Crescent Lake has suffered.

Members decided to try their luck at Reservation Lake which produced some nice fish.

Thanks to Bill and Nancy Vance for a job well done as Camp Hosts.



**2006  
AFC  
Board  
of Directors**

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Donna Walkuski .....	<i>Newsletter</i> .....	602.956.4878	....	dtw@deru.com

**Conservation  
News**

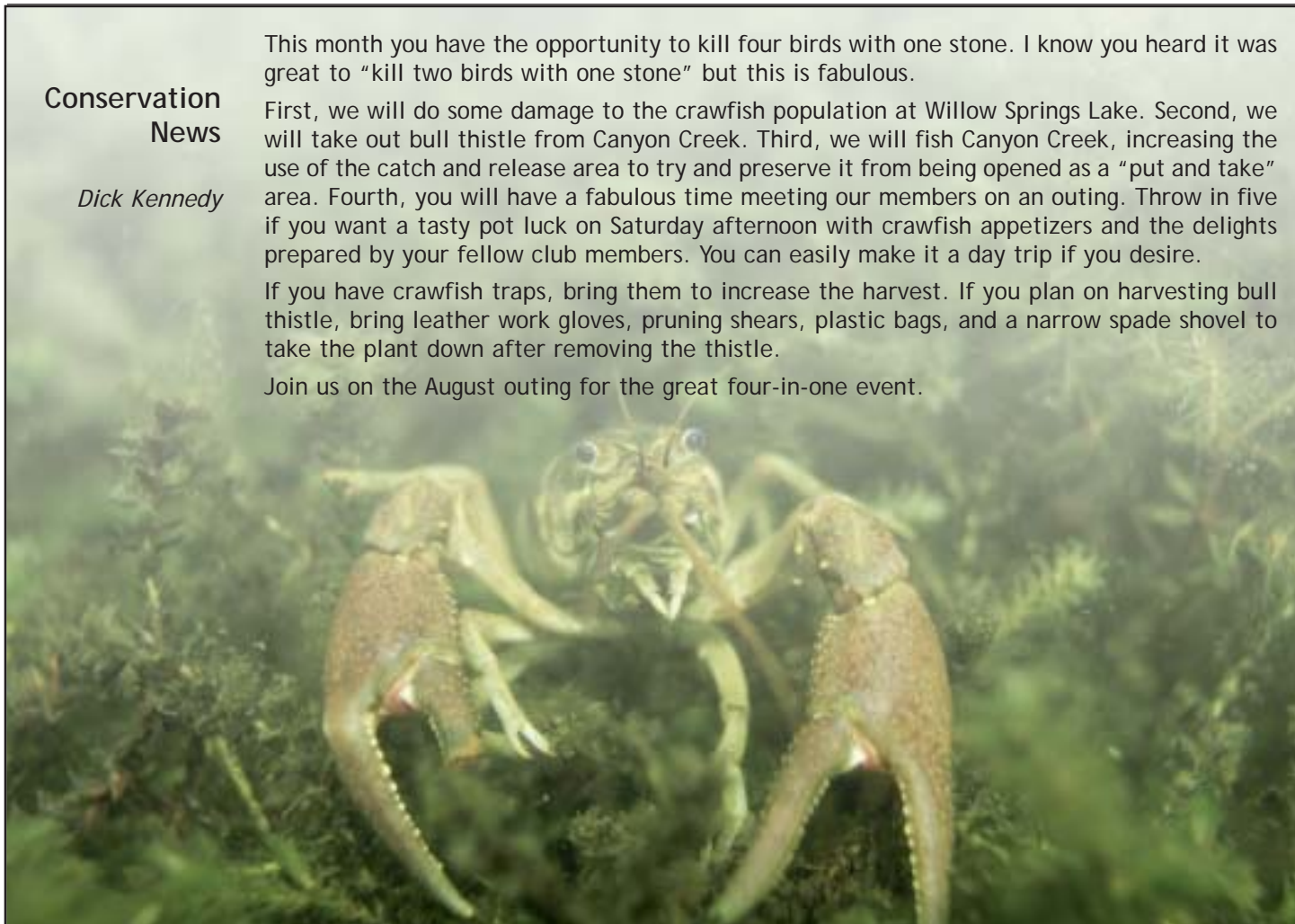
*Dick Kennedy*

This month you have the opportunity to kill four birds with one stone. I know you heard it was great to “kill two birds with one stone” but this is fabulous.

First, we will do some damage to the crawfish population at Willow Springs Lake. Second, we will take out bull thistle from Canyon Creek. Third, we will fish Canyon Creek, increasing the use of the catch and release area to try and preserve it from being opened as a “put and take” area. Fourth, you will have a fabulous time meeting our members on an outing. Throw in five if you want a tasty pot luck on Saturday afternoon with crawfish appetizers and the delights prepared by your fellow club members. You can easily make it a day trip if you desire.

If you have crawfish traps, bring them to increase the harvest. If you plan on harvesting bull thistle, bring leather work gloves, pruning shears, plastic bags, and a narrow spade shovel to take the plant down after removing the thistle.

Join us on the August outing for the great four-in-one event.



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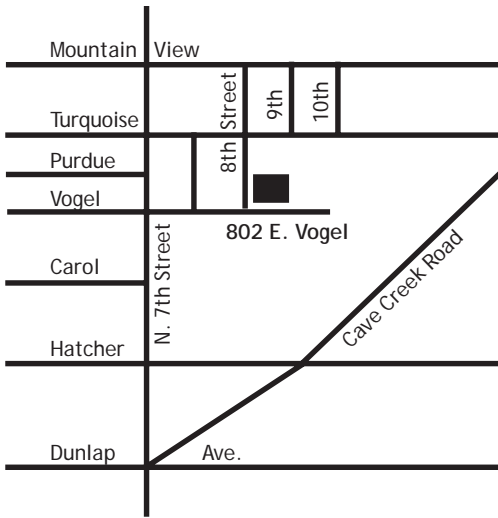
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Arizona Flycasters Club meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at the Sunnyslope Community Center. The Annual Banquet is held in the month of February. Watch for further details.

The Arizona Flycasters Club newsletter is published by the Arizona Flycasters Club and is distributed to its members and advertisers. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the club. Advertisements are placed as a means of conveying the message of the advertisers. The AFC does not necessarily endorse the advertisers' products or services.

## Application for Annual Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Annual family membership = \$30

Send check or money order to:



### Arizona Flycasters Club

P.O. Box 47357

Phoenix, AZ 85068-7357

Be an active member and volunteer for a committee.

Please indicate all those which interest you:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership       | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outings          | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs     |
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### Arizona Flycasters Club

P.O. Box 47357

Phoenix, AZ 85068-7357

<http://www.azflycasters.org>



Next Meeting:  
**Fly Fishing Arizona's  
 Famous Tailwater,  
 Lee's Ferry**  
 with  
**Jim Sampson**  
 Thursday,  
 August 10th  
 7:00 PM

This space reserved for your name and address.  
 Don't Miss Out-  
**Join Today!**