



Arizona Flycasters Club

June Newsletter



A message from our President

Moving Forward

During Covid, thanks to David Mayl and Bill Laudenschlager, we were able to continue delivering Education Classes and Program Speakers via Zoom.

Of course we have been missing Outings and General Meetings, but that is changing now.

General Meetings: We had a very successful “Social” meeting in May with 43 members in attendance. We will try and have more of these in July and August, perhaps in different locations around the Valley. Since the Senior Center is still closed, we will be moving our next General Meeting to the American Italian Club in September. Due to their busy schedule it will have to be a Tuesday night.

Outings: We are gradually getting back in that business with events scheduled for June, July, and October. I have received a long list of Outing suggestions from Roger Cahoon, Jim Rondoni, Doug Benford, Dick Kennedy, and Bill Larson. I will host a meeting in early July and with the help of those gentlemen and some others we will try to lay out a plan for the next 18 months.

Our Club currently has 226 dues-paying members. With a group that large there are a variety of interests as to location and budget for our activities. Therefore our goal will be to schedule a range of Outings that appeal to all members. We may need to have two Outings some months in order to meet that goal but the Board will need some help to make that happen. Be prepared to volunteer some time to help us be a better club.

Communications: The Club has had to make some changes in this arena as numerous messages are required every month to keep members informed. Many thanks go to Phillip Bianco who has stepped up as our new Communications Director. He has done a great job trying to catch up with a moving train while communicating in a quality fashion.



AFC Website: The biggest change has recently taken place on the website. Most of you know the site did not have current information and many of you told the Board of your frustrations trying to find what you needed. One of our members – Steve Thoeny – volunteered to take on this challenge. Steve has spent many hours making an attractive, easy to use site that does have our recent activities listed. While its still a work-in-progress, I hope you will see the difference.

Please note the option to see pictures of AFC events. Steve has donated his personal site – dryfly.photos – to mange our photographs. More on that to come.

Thanks for being a member of AFC. Pauline and I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Gene Hechler
President
Az Flycasters Club

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming AFC Events!

Arizona Flycasters Club June Zoom Meeting!

**Thursday June 10, 2021
7:00 - 8:00 PM**

Our Topic Will Be:

"Stream Improvements and Fishing the Upper Verde River"

**with Special Guest:
Jim Stroger**

Zoom Info

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82292171882?
pwd=ajFKUXlwRGk5L1g4S29EUTQzSjJOUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82292171882?pwd=ajFKUXlwRGk5L1g4S29EUTQzSjJOUT09)**

**ID 82292171882
Pass code 021126**

Stream Improvements and Fishing the Upper East Verde River

Jim Stroger will be sharing many of his favorite locations along the Upper East Verde River (UEVR), and some go-to flies.

If you haven't fished the Upper East Verde River in the Washington Park area, you are in for a treat!

This small stream is home to a wild rainbow trout population which can reach lengths of nine or ten inches. However, it is much more common to catch these

beautiful fish in the four to seven inch range.

The stream is fun to fish throughout the year, but it's appearance and fishing conditions can vary depending on winter snowmelt. Jim will talk about fishing under different conditions for these wary, wild fish.

The UEVR is less than 40 minutes from Payson. It is a great stream to have in mind to extend your fun if you are already coming up to fish the East Verde River or Tonto Creek.

Jim will also be showing photos of the the stream improvement work completed recently by AZGFD, USFS, Natural Channel Design and volunteers. The stream improvement work enhanced a section of about 200 feet of the creek that spills over a sold rock shelf and provided no useful substrate for bug life or holding cover for trout. This work will make a favorite pull-out along the UEVR even better.

Learn where it is on June 10th.

Jim Strogon Bio

Jim Strogon is a regular contributor to the *Payson Roundup* daily newspaper.

His column, called "Life on the Fly", provides fishing advice for lakes and streams throughout the Rim Country.

He is also a contributing author to the Fishing Arizona's High Country book published by the Payson Roundup and has written articles for American Fly Fishing magazine, TROUT magazine, and the tu.org blog.



Since retiring, Jim has put to use the knowledge gained from over fifty years of fly fishing, his MS degree in Fisheries Biology, and his experience as a former elementary and middle school teacher and elementary school principal to teach fly fishing classes for adults, and students, in an after school fly fishing instruction at Julia Randall Elementary School and Rim Country Middle School.

He received the AZGFD Commission Educator of the Year Award in 2019 and the 2020 Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Award for Outstanding Citizen Wildlife Contributor of the Year.

Arizona Flycasters Club Education

FLY CASTING CLASS

Saturday June 12, 2021

8:00 AM - 10:00AM

**Granada Park
6505 North 20th Street**

Please bring:

- 5 or 6 wt fly rod with floating line.
- 2x or 3x leader.
- Water, a hat , sunglasses and sunscreen.



AFC will have fly rods and reels if you do not bring one or would like to try a different rod.

Colorado South Platte River Fly Fishing Trip

- 8 Anglers Only!
- 3 full days of fly fishing
- Wednesday 28 July – Friday 30 July
- Guides provided by Anglers Covey in Colorado Springs.
- Approximately \$700 per angler *lodging and travel not included.
- Nearest Airport is Colorado Springs
- Lodging in Woodland Park at Bristlecone Lodge (\$160 a night *multiple other hotels and cabins in the local area).



South Platte River and Rainbow Falls Mountain Trout

To sign up for trip contact:
Brady Busby
brady.busby.hw@gmail.com

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